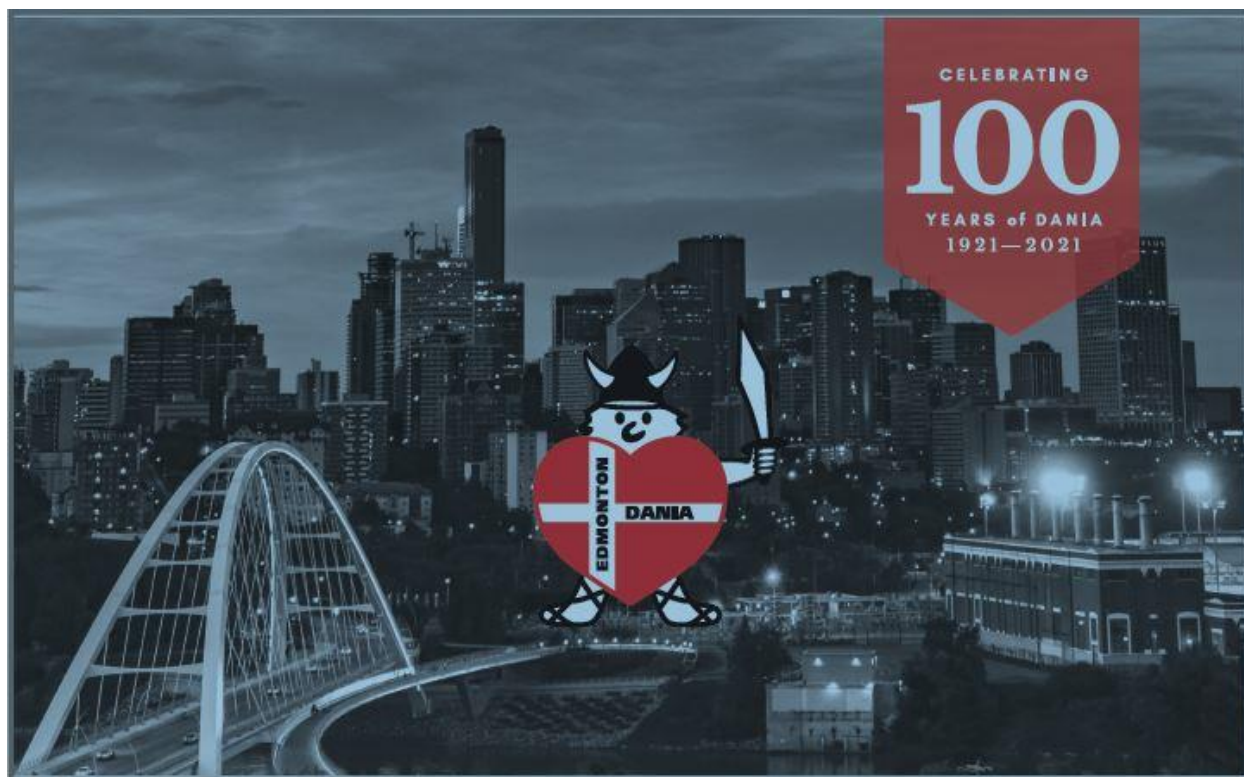




2021 HERITAGE BOOK



The Danish Canadian Society DANIA, Edmonton 1921-2021

FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA



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

DANISH CANADIAN CONFERENCE

**Nanaimo, B.C.
May 20-23, 2021
Postponed**

**The Danish Canadian Society
DANIA, Edmonton 1921-2021**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



2021 Heritage Book

Danish Canadian Conference (Postponed)
Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. May 20-23, 2021

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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 – 2021

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	



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GREETINGS



Ottawa, June 2021

Warm congratulations to all of you on the 40th anniversary of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada as well as to the Danish Canadian Society “Dania” in Edmonton on your 100th anniversary!

It is important to celebrate such achievements and anniversaries even though the Covid-19 pandemic continues to be difficult for us all in 2021. Your federation has managed to nurture the strong bonds and relations between Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark even if you could not travel and meet in person. Also in such times, the work of the over 30 member organizations across Canada is important in promoting the heritage of Danes in Canada and building bridges between our two countries and cultures.

Despite the hardship, the pandemic has also had a silver lining. This has been an opportunity for the world to reset and focus on human resilience. Not only do we have a stronger sense of community, we have also advanced in science, technology and business opportunities. These are key focus areas for Denmark and areas where we have a strong foundation for a fruitful cooperation with Canada.

This year also marks the beginning of the centennial of the Danish explorer Knud Rasmussen’s 5th Thule Expedition, the most ambitious of his seven expeditions, which took three years and carried him 6,000 km by dogsled across Greenland, Canada, Alaska and Siberia. The expedition placed Denmark at the forefront of Arctic exploration and worldwide Inuit cultural studies. As Arctic states, Canada and the Kingdom of Denmark have a long and shared history and together we are stewards of the region and promoters of a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future for the Arctic.

Hopefully we can soon begin to look towards a brighter future when we will be able to gather and socialize with family and friends again. We can also start making plans for 2022. After a year’s delay, I look forward to the launch of the joint Nordic cultural initiative *Nordic Bridges*. The support of the Nordic Council of Ministers makes it possible to bring cultural events to Canada and enhance the strong foundation for Canadian and Nordic cooperation from coast-to-coast-to-coast. Programming partners have been announced on <http://nordicbridges.ca> and I invite you to follow along.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you in Nanaimo next year.



Hanne Fugl Eskjær
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark

GREETINGS



Greetings from the Honorary Consul of Denmark for Edmonton

May 19, 2021

Warm greetings: from the Honorary Consul of Denmark in Edmonton and Calgary. I'd like to congratulate the Edmonton Danish Canadian Society (Dania) on its 100th Anniversary!

Since inception in 1921 your work has been so important to promote and preserve Danish heritage, culture and traditions in Canada. Your hard work strengthens and encourages the strong bond and relations between Canada and the the Kingdom of Denmark. The strong values found in our Danish heritage is a model of the determination of those who have gone before us and so very important to Dania's history and valuable contributions in the future.

I commend and thank you for all of the contributions in the past by your many members and to the future and continuing to strengthen relations between Canada and Denmark.

I am looking forward to your continued success.

Robert A. Seidel, Q.C.

Honorary Consul, Denmark

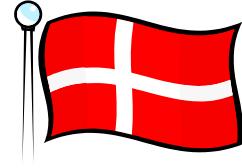
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(780) 429-6847

Royal Danish Consulate – Calgary
Livingston Place
1000 – 250 2nd St. SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0C1
(403) 776-8800

GREETINGS



Alberta Association of Danish Canadian
Organizations



Dear DANIA,

Wow! One hundred years! What an accomplishment!

On behalf of the other organizations in the Alberta Region I'd like to pass on my heartfelt congratulations to you as you reach this incredible milestone.

Although we can't meet in person to help you celebrate, we're there in spirit and if you listen carefully, you'll be able to hear "Skaal" from across the province as we raise our glasses to honour DANIA our senior member.

Larry Kjearsgaard,
President

GREETINGS



Dear Members and Friends,

October 2021

Nanaimo, gateway to the *Wild West Coast* on beautiful Vancouver Island, British Columbia, is calling you!

I am delighted to advise that the **Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club** will be hosting the Federation of Danish Association's 40th AGM and Conference in Nanaimo, B.C. on May 26 through May 29, 2023. As you know, we tried in 2020 and then again in 2021 and with the current pandemic situation, we are forced to cancel any thoughts of hosting a meeting here in 2022, so we will keep our fingers crossed that our plans will go ahead in 2023.

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

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

Mark your calendar now for May 26 – 29, 2023. Nanaimo is the gateway to Vancouver Island's "*Wild West Coast*" so join us for an exciting conference and plan on spending a few extra days before or after the conference to explore all that Vancouver Island has to offer!

On behalf of the Members and Board of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, we invite you to join us for a visit you'll not soon forget.

Tommy Anders Hedekær

President and Chair of the 2023 AGM Host Committee

"Vikings on the Island: We Came, We Saw, We Stayed!"

"Vikinger på Øen: De Kom, De Så, De Blev!"

O Canada

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

Canadä

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



DENMARK
DANMARK

DANISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

DER ER ET YNDIGT LAND

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

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



FEDERATION



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

Danish Federation Song



Membership Organizations Across Canada
For Preservation of Danish Heritage

Mel. Som en rejselysten flå

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

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

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

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

Inger K. W. Andersen
Kingston, 1983

FEDERATION



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

Board of Directors 2020 - 2021

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National Secretary	Mrs. Aase Christensen, Guelph, Ontario
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FEDERATION



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2. Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, Inc.
3. The Danish Club of Montreal
4. The Danish Club of Ottawa
5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto
6. Danish Women's Association, Toronto
7. Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Toronto
8. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch
9. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch
10. Pass Lake Historical Society

11. The Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg
12. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary
13. Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary
14. 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, Edmonton

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

32. Danish Canadian American Friendship Association, Strib, Denmark
33. Danes Worldwide, Copenhagen
34. Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg
35. Danish American Heritage Society, Minneapolis, MN
36. Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa

FEDERATION



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

Annual Report

2020 - 2021

This 2020 - 2021 annual report differs substantially from other yearly reports in that we have not been able to meet in person during the past year due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The Danish Canadian Conferences and Heritage Seminars, both scheduled to take place in Nanaimo for May of 2020 and 2021 were cancelled and now postponed to May 2022. The Board of Directors Meetings and the September 26, 2020 Annual General Meeting were held via Zoom.

We continue to have 36 member organizations. We regret to report that the Danish Community Centre of British Columbia was disbanded. We welcomed the Scandinavian Cultural Society of Burnaby as a new member organization. The executive was re-elected for the coming year with Rolf Christensen (President), Ed Kuhlman (Vice-President), Aase Christensen (National Secretary) and Sune Overgaard (National Treasurer).

A 2020 Heritage Book was published with many thanks to Ed Kuhlman as the Editor. The cover article featured Knud Rasmussen and the Fifth Thule Expedition, written by Kenn Harper, who later wrote a similar article in DANES, published by Danes Worldwide. The Danish Federation will be publishing a 2021 Heritage book, featuring the Danish Canadian Society DANIA in Edmonton celebrating its centennial this year, thus being the oldest Danish social club in Canada.

The Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee have filed their Final Report which has been circulated to the membership. Many thanks go out to the Jens Munk Steering Committee members for their excellent work in bringing awareness of Jens Munk's search for the Northwest Passage four hundred years ago. Above all thank you to Carl Sorensen who chaired the Committee.

In 2020 the Danish Federation established the Knud Rasmussen Committee, which was only able to meet twice in person prior to the onset of the pandemic. The Danish Federation is thrilled to soon be launching a 192-page book entitled *Knud Rasmussen – Ambassador on Dog Sled*, written by Knud Michelsen of Copenhagen, and edited by Karen Marie Andersen of Surrey. This book tells of Knud Rasmussen's life and focusses on the Fifth Thule Expedition, a remarkable journey across Arctic North America from 1921 to 1924.

A sincere congratulations to the organizations which celebrate anniversaries this year: Dania in Edmonton (100); The Danish Brotherhood (90); Dania Home (80); The Danish Sisterhood (50); The Manitoba Club (40); as well as Danish House Society (25).

Rolf Buschardt Christensen,
President

FEDERATION



THE ONTARIO REGION
of
THE FEDERATION OF DANISH
ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA



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

PRESIDENT:
Eva Terp
Tel: 416 493 1594; Email: terpeva@bell.net



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matters
most
in your
world...



DANIA Edmonton 1921-2021

Claus Jacobsen, Lili Nielsen, Lis Walker and Rolf Buschardt Christensen

This year The Danish Canadian Society DANIA in Edmonton can celebrate its 100th anniversary. It was started by a small group of Danish immigrants in November 1921. Unfortunately, DANIA became inactive during the Second World War and was only revived in 1953. During the war Danes in Edmonton could meet at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, which all through the war-years struggled to



*Pete Anderson (Peter Andersen)
came to Edmonton in 1891*

survive, like so many other organizations in Canada. Carl Gundersen, who later was appointed Danish Vice Consul for Edmonton, held the Danish flag high during the war as he headed the Edmonton branch of the Danish Relief Fund, collecting money for the war effort. After 1953 DANIA became highly active. Regrettably, the activities of DANIA today are paralyzed by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, but DANIA's milestone will be marked, and later properly celebrated.

The venerable Danish Society DANIA was formed in a house on 95 Street North and Jasper Avenue in late November 1921 by a dozen Danish immigrants who wanted to maintain and preserve their Danish culture and heritage. The idea of forming a Danish club had been proposed by Niels Christensen, who unfortunately already passed away in 1924.

His wife, Marie, was also a charter member. Other founding members were Jens Jensen and his wife Ingrid Augusta Jensen, Chris and Dora Skov, Mr. Henningsen, Mrs. Jacobsen, Lauritz and Jensine Jensen, Karl and Maja Hansen, Soren Madsen, Oskar and Kristine Jacobsen and Mrs. F. Frederiksen. At the founding meeting Jens Jensen was elected president and Niels Christensen was elected secretary. The first event they organized, and very quickly, was a Danish Christmas Party, held already in December 1921. It was celebrated in grand style in the basement of the new and impressive McLeod Building, a nine-storey brick and terra cotta building on 100 Street, built in the Chicago School style.

DANIA was the first Danish organization to be created in Edmonton, despite the fact that the first Danish immigrants had already settled in the area thirty years previously. For instance, Claus Peter Andersen, in Canada known as Pete Anderson, had immigrated to Canada in 1888, and had settled in Edmonton in 1891, where he eventually established a highly successful brickyard, becoming a wealthy and respected businessman.

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The first president of DANIA, Jens Jensen, had settled in Edmonton in 1910. He had been born in Copenhagen on March 16, 1863. He had apprenticed as a carpenter and immigrated to Canada in 1903. He had arrived at St. John, N.B. from Liverpool on the CPR's *SS Lake Champlain* in November 1903. He worked in various places in eastern Canada and even made a detour into the United States. He also worked on the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway between Edmonton and Prince Rupert on the Pacific coast. He worked in the high north, and later for the City of Edmonton.



Chris and Dora Skov were founders of DANIA in 1921

He was married to Ingrid Augusta Jensen, who was born in Sweden on August 2, 1876. She had come to Canada in 1903. They had one daughter, Louisa. In the 1930s Jens and his wife operated a Room and Boarding House out of their home on 96 Street. Jens Jensen was called a true pioneer and was later made an honorary member of DANIA. He passed away in Edmonton on April 22, 1939.



L to R: Anders Rafn, Carl Gundersen and Christian Marker were presidents of DANIA, Christian Emil Christensen was Danish Vice Consul in Edmonton from 1931 to 1945

Two other founders of DANIA were Chris and Dora Skov, both of whom were present at DANIA's 60th anniversary celebration in 1981. Chris was born in Øster Brønderslev, Børglum, on December 13, 1890, to Jensine and Kristian Kristensen, and baptised Peder Kristian Kristensen. Before leaving Denmark in 1916 he changed his last name to Hjulskov. In April 1916, during the First World War, Peder Kristian Hjulskov landed in New York City and then travelled across the continent to Edmonton. Here he signed up with the 49th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served in Europe. Upon being demobilized in Canada after the war, he returned to Denmark where he married Theodora, who had been born in 1897. In June 1920 Chris and Dora sailed on the CPR's *SS Metagama* from Liverpool to Quebec City. They then took the train across Canada to Edmonton, where they settled. At some point thereafter they changed their last name from Hjulskov to Skov. Chris passed away in 1984, and Dora died in 1991. Both are buried in the Westlawn Memorial Gardens, Edmonton.

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On June 5, 1922, DANIA celebrated Grundlovsdag, the Danish Constitution Day, with a picnic, much like in Denmark. The men wore suits, ties and hats, while the ladies wore dresses, many of them white. Flags were hoisted and the assembled crowd undoubtedly sang one of the many popular Danish national songs, as is the tradition in Denmark on Constitution Day.

Unfortunately, the Minutes of the first twelve years have been lost, as has much other information relating to DANIA during this period. However, we know that the second president of DANIA was Marius Madsen. As well, we know that in 1924 DANIA participated with a float in the Klondike Days parade. This was followed by a Klondike Party. A reference has also been found to the holding of Danish Constitution Day in 1929. Moreover, the late Niels Christensen had for a long time been keen to see a Danish Consul appointed in Edmonton. Finally in 1929 the first Danish Vice Consul was chosen. Appointed was Mr. H. P. Madsen, who worked at the Edmonton City Dairy. Madsen only served as Danish Vice Consul for two years, and was then followed by Christian Emil Christensen, manager of the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool, who filled the position until the end of the Second World War.

President of DANIA in 1930 was Anders Kristian Rafn (1868-1946), who had come to Alberta in 1898. His wife, Helene, had arrived in Alberta in 1904. They farmed at Bon Accord. Anders, or Andrew as he called himself, was heavily involved with the Wheat Pool, the Alberta Dairy Pool, as well as the United Farmers of Alberta.

During the 1920s the Danish community in Edmonton grew, due to the fact that Canada had opened its doors to Danes, while the United States had imposed a quota on Danish immigrants. This changed dramatically with the onslaught of the Great Depression and its severe economic and social affects after the Wall Street crash in late 1929. Immigration from Denmark stopped as

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Canada closed its borders to immigration. In 1930, regardless of these developments, a small group of Danes in Edmonton founded Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church. Ansgar also has the distinction of being the first Danish congregation in Canada to receive a pastor from Dansk Kirke i Udlandet (The Danish Church Abroad). The construction of the present Ansgar Church



The first Danish Vice Consul in Edmonton, Mr. H.P Madsen, worked at the Edmonton City Dairy

dining room with Danish porcelain, embroidery, silverware etc. Mrs. Knud Møller demonstrated delicate Danish hand lace. The Danish Folk Dancers performed popular Danish folk dances such as tretur and trekant, a waltz as well as Berlinerkontra, a folk dance made up of long lines of couples.

Sadly, Bror B. Larsen and his wife returned to Denmark. The annual general meeting of DANIA was usually held in the fall. However, in January 1933 an extraordinary meeting was called. At this meeting a new dynamic board was elected consisting of Carl Gundersen, Jens Jensen, L.P. Juul and N.P. Michaelsen, respectively serving as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Elected as directors at large were Tage Møller, Mrs. P. Petersen and Mrs. L.P. Juul. It was decided that N.P. Michaelsen should get a fane (banner) from Denmark. The fane arrived in May in time to be consecrated at the Constitution Day picnic at Victoria Park on June 4, 1933.

DANIA president Carl Gundersen welcomed the assembled Constitution Day crowd, which included Vice Consul Christian Christensen, Jens Jensen, L.P. Juul, Anders and Helene Rafn, as well as N.P. Michaelsen, who had obtained the banner. First the assembled sang a song. Next, Edmonton Mayor Daniel Knott, a former labour activist, was given the podium, speaking beautifully about Denmark and the Danes. The mayor mentioned that Denmark is only a small country, yet Denmark was known and honoured, and Danes were welcome as immigrants, not least here in Canada. Then the assembled sang 'Der er et yndigt land'. Finally came the most important part of the program, the consecration of DANIA's new flag. Then after the formal consecration Consul Christensen spoke elegantly about the legend of the flag and how it had given King Valdemar and his small flock of warriors, courage and victory. This was followed by the singing of a couple of songs written for the occasion. This ended the formal part of the picnic, and the crowd now began to open their food baskets and pour the coffee. The weather had

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until then been great, but suddenly it began to rain, and it started to get cold. The rain stopped, but it remained cold. A little later it began to rain again, and the picnic ended somewhat abruptly.

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



Odin Kuntze, Editor of Danske Herold

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

was essential for Danes to communicate across Canada. In his article he therefore thanked Editor Odin Kuntze for his great contribution as a publisher, providing a platform to discuss the reasons for forming a national Danish organization, and for actively promoting it on his travels.

Less than three weeks later, 150 Danes assembled for a summer retreat at Wallace Beach, Nova Scotia, endorsed Peter Beck's proposal. The following resolution, here in translation, was unanimously adopted, "Danish men and women assembled July 16, 1933, for a summer party at Wallace, Nova Scotia, express their full support for the idea of creating a Danish Canadian Society in each Canadian province, joined together under a common authority. The aim must be loyalty to the new country, obeying its laws, and to promote the welfare of the Danish community in Canada, in part by supporting and assisting the work of the Danish Churches."

In response to Peter Beck's proposal and the Wallace Beach Resolution, Kuntze wrote a long article entitled "The Nova Scotia Danes support cooperation for the common good" in *Danske Herold* of July 25, 1933. Kuntze emphasized that, "The idea of a Danish Canadian Society came from the West, but the East dares the attempt." His article covered a lot of ground, but in short Kuntze believed that local branches of the Danish Canadian Society should be formed across

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Canada, which would then elect a national executive – much like the Brotherhood has lodges as well as a head office. Like Peter Beck, Kuntze underlined that the membership fee must be low, and he mentioned 25 øre, probably a typo, should undoubtedly be 25 cents. Kuntze also touched upon the need for an “alderdomshjem” or old folks’ homes, as they were known then. A more controversial point at the time was that Kuntze thought that the Danish Churches which belonged to the Synods in the United States should sever these ties and become Danish Canadian Synods.

The board of directors of DANIA plus some other interested people met in Edmonton on August 23, 1933, to discuss the creation of a Danish Canadian Society which would support members during illness, old age and death. It quickly became evident that the members of DANIA were in favour of the proposal, above all Carl Gundersen and L.P. Juul. They essentially agreed with the thoughts expressed at the Wallace meeting. Furthermore, it was decided to meet with Peter Beck in Olds.

At the end of the meeting a resolution was adopted, stating that they fully supported the proposal as DANIA had long felt such a society had been lacking. DANIA could endorse church, health insurance, funeral fund, and old age support; however DANIA felt that the question of church and insurance must be resolved separately. Moreover, sick and other help should be administered and provided by the local branches.

In the September 5th issue of *Danske Herold*, Mr. L.P. Juul wrote that the Danish Society DANIA in Edmonton had held a Board meeting to discuss the Wallace Beach resolution. On behalf of DANIA he wrote that the Society fully supports the ideas put forward at the meeting at Wallace Beach, as for a long time they too had felt the need for a national organization for all Danes in Canada. Unfortunately, Odin Kuntze became seriously sick before a founding meeting was held. He subsequently died, and so did his proposal.

In 1935 C.P. Marker became president of DANIA. Christian Peter Marker (1868-1949), a dairyman, had immigrated to Canada in 1890. The Dominion government sent him to Calgary in the Northwest Territories to establish dairies. When Alberta became a province in 1905 he was appointed Dairy Commissioner of Alberta, and he eventually moved to Edmonton, the capital of the new province. It is uncertain how long Marker served as president. In any case, the last person to serve as president before the society became inactive during the war was L.P. Juul.

Sadly, with the onslaught of the Second World War DANIA became dormant with no activities. While the outbreak of war in September 1939 was rightfully a major catastrophe, the occupation of Denmark on April 9, 1940, by German troops still came as a shock to the small Danish community in Edmonton. Immediately after the occupation Vice Consul Christian Emil Christensen wrote to Danish Consul General Georg Holler in Montreal, asking for instructions on how to deal with the situation and what line to take in case of questions from the Alberta government, journalists or the Danish community. Consul General Holler wrote back explaining he had received no instructions from Copenhagen. Moreover, Holler informed Christensen that the fundraising campaign among the Danes in Canada to collect money for a gift for King Christian X's 70th birthday on September 26, 1940, was being abandoned. Nevertheless, in Edmonton a special church service was held in September at the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church to celebrate the King's birthday, followed by a social get-together.

Carl Gundersen, who had been president of DANIA in 1933, could not stand by idly and do nothing. During the war he became active in the Danish Relief Fund. He was born in

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Copenhagen (Amager) in February 1882 and was baptized Carl Emil Buchreitz Gundersen. He immigrated to the United States in 1903 and in 1910 in Manhattan he married a Danish girl, Agnes, née Bengtson. In 1911 they moved to Canada and Carl had a remarkably successful career in Edmonton, working for the municipal government, serving on a school board, and acting as a justice of the peace. During the Second World War he chaired the Edmonton branch of the Danish Relief Fund. His secretary was K. Larsey and his treasurer Miss A. Fuglsang. They helped raise funds for Danish pilots in Britain's Royal Air Force. In 1944 DANIA donated \$50 to the Danish Relief Fund. Due to his outstanding engagements and services it was natural that he was appointed Danish Vice Consul in 1945 when Christian Christensen stepped down. After the war Gundersen received the King Christian X's Freedom Medal. He retired from the department of municipal affairs in 1948 after 25 years of service. Gundersen served as the consular representative of Denmark in Edmonton until he died in 1962.

DANIA is revived

The revival of DANIA and the creation of the Scandinavian Centre in Edmonton are very much two events that are intertwined. In one way it could be said that it began with Erik Pedersen launching a Danish language radio program on radio station CKUA AM and FM in 1952. It was actually a Scandinavian program with Oivind Madsen in charge of the Norwegian program and Ernst Almerling responsible for the Swedish program. They needed a listening public for their program which in turn could generate targeted commercials. The three disc jockeys also needed financial support to buy records. From Erik Pedersen's point of view he needed a Danish organization.



Erik Pedersen at radio station CKUA in Edmonton

Sigurd A. Sorenson of the Sons of Norway was a driving force in launching the Scandinavian Centre in Edmonton. At a meeting in October 1953 representatives of the five Nordic Countries met to discuss the feasibility of building a community centre to provide a home for the cultural and social needs of the Scandinavian community. As a result of this meeting a co-operative association was formed and registered on April 28, 1954, with Sigurd A. Sorenson as president, Mons Eliasson as vice-president, Margaret Eliasson as secretary and Jorgen Glerup as treasurer. Two other Danes involved in the founding of the Centre were Erik Pedersen and Chris Bentsen.

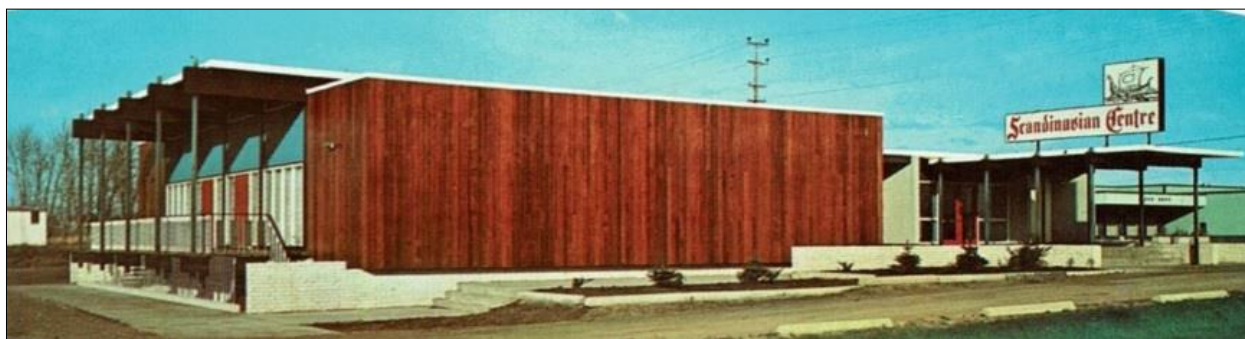
A fundraising campaign was begun to sell shares of \$50 each with an initial goal of raising \$250,000. Many locations were investigated, and many setbacks were encountered. It took a full ten years to realize the dream. A suitable property was eventually found at 142 Street and the Yellowhead Trail.

On Sunday, October 27, 1963, at 2:00 pm over 600 people attended the official sod turning ceremony for the Scandinavian Centre. The ceremony was conducted by Sigurd A. Sorenson. In attendance among many others were, the Hon. R. Reiersen, Minister of Labour, the Hon. L. C. Halmrast, Minister of Welfare and Mr. Knud Holm-Pedersen, Vice-Consul for Denmark.

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Construction of the centre began, and on June 20, 1964, the centre was officially opened with a Gala Banquet and Ball, attended by such dignitaries as Lieutenant-Governor John Percy Page, the Hon. Raymond Reiersen, MLA, the mayor of Edmonton and the various Scandinavian Consuls. Carl Elgstrand and his orchestra provided the music for the dance that followed. Admission to this formal banquet and ball, which was sold out, was \$5 per person. In short, in 1964 the Scandinavian Centre became the home of DANIA.

The Scandinavian Centre flourished in the capable hands of managers such as Gary Johnson and Thorvald Nielsen. The general public could rent the facilities for banquets, conventions, weddings and dances, with catering provided by first rate Scandinavian chefs. It was an exceedingly popular venue as it was tastefully and beautifully decorated. There was ample parking available, and the three banquet rooms could accommodate 75, 150 and 300 people.



The Scandinavian Centre, in Edmonton

To further promote the involvement of all the Scandinavians, it was decided to publish a newspaper and on November 1, 1958, the first *Scandinavian Centre News* was published, with Elsie Simmons as the first editor, followed by Eileen Peterson, who remained editor until its demise in 1988. Leslie Morris and Vera Nielsen served as business managers, later followed by Knud Holm-Pedersen. A page in the newspaper was called Danish Bulletin.

Meanwhile, other events were organized. Scandapades, a popular concert of Scandinavian talents was presented, first at the Jubilee Auditorium and later at the Centre. In June 1962 Vera Nielsen with Hans Kristensen in Copenhagen and Gunnar Kristensen in Kolding, ably organized the first charter flight from Edmonton to Copenhagen, using Wardair, an Edmonton-based airline.

In 1977 the City of Edmonton advised the Scandinavian Centre that their property would be required in order to build the Yellowhead Freeway along 125 Avenue. In July 1978 the City thus served notice of expropriation. In August 1979 the shareholders voted 38 to 12 in favour of relocation, and accepted an offer from the City of Edmonton to purchase the property for \$1,500,000. The assets within the building were sold and the Centre was demolished in September 1981. In the following years several attempts were made to build a new Scandinavian Centre, but without success.

DANIA

Kjeld Sondrup has written in Danish about the founding, or revival, of DANIA in the Danish Federation's 1987 Heritage Book. He and his wife, Inge, had arrived in Edmonton in 1952, and were living at the home of Vice Consul Carl Gundersen. Then one evening in September 1953,

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Erik Pedersen and Jørgen Holgersen dropped by and told them about the plan to revive DANIA. Kjeld and Inge Sondrup were interested and the Vice Consul very supportive. Consul Gundersen even offered some good advice on how to revive DANIA. Erik Pedersen and Jørgen Holgersen were pleased to hear how sympathetic they were to the idea. Above all because it was often hard to convince newly arrived Danes why they should become members of a Danish Club, particularly as many of them had not yet found employment. There were many things to discuss. One of them was how to get members. To attract as many as possible they decided on a membership fee of just one dollar.

For Erik Pedersen there was urgency in reviving DANIA. He along with Jørgen Holgersen and Jørgen's father, Kristian Holgersen, drove around to many old Danes in Edmonton encouraging them to join DANIA. An added advantage to joining DANIA was that it was a part of the



*Thorvald (Tom) Nielsen and Vera Nielsen
(‘Mor’ Danmark)*

Scandinavian Centre. The membership campaign went extremely well, and within about two weeks they had signed up 214 members. Now that DANIA had members the next matter was to arrange a general meeting to adopt bylaws and elect an executive. A General Meeting was held at the Masonic Temple and elected to the Board were President Walther Jensen, Vice-President Kjeld Sondrup, Treasurer Inge Sondrup and board member Jørgen Glerup, who was instrumental in starting the DANIA soccer club. Some of others present at the 1953 meeting were of course Danish Vice Consul Carl Gundersen as well as Christian Bentsen, who later became president.

The new board quickly decided to organize a social event so the members could get to know each other. They planned a dinner dance at the Ukrainian Hall on 96 Street with open-faced sandwiches and beer, followed by a dance with live music. The sandwiches were made by some of the ladies. It was a good start and a great success. It was followed up by a Carnival Party held at the Masonic Temple. The attendance was overwhelming, and everyone showed up wearing a costume. Judges were needed to judge the costumes. At the time SAS was introducing its first route over the North Pole and an aircraft had just landed in Edmonton. DANIA contacted the pilots who were staying in Edmonton for four days and asked if they would be judges. They said yes and that evening Vera Nielsen won the prize for Best Costume.

The first polar flight from Los Angeles to Copenhagen made stops in Edmonton and Thule, Greenland, and then landed in Copenhagen 28 hours after it had left Los Angeles. SAS used the new DC-6B aircraft, a special extended-range version of the Douglas DC6 aircraft, which boasted four powerful propellers.

On May 4, 1955, DANIA commemorated the tenth anniversary of the liberation of Denmark with a formal dinner and speeches. There was a full house. The Danish flag was prominently displayed behind the head table. The keynote speaker was Pastor Poul Overgaard-Thomsen, who

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had been pastor in Austria during the war. Also present was Vice Consul Carl Gundersen and other dignitaries.

In 1955 Thorvald Nielsen's wife, Vera, proposed starting a ladies auxiliary to support DANIA. The purpose would be to help DANIA raise money for projects. Thus in June 1955 Vera Nielsen called a meeting to establish Bikuben. Seven ladies showed up. Vera was elected president and served as such for two years. Then she was secretary from 1957 until 1969, when she again was elected president from 1969 to 1975. In 1975 Vera Nielsen was elected secretary/treasurer and served in this position until the books were closed and Bikuben was dissolved in June 1992.

Thorvald Nielsen also served as president of DANIA and later as president of the Scandinavian Centre, for five years. In 1956 the Danish Bulletin was established, in which Thorvald Nielsen wrote a column, either in Danish or in English, called Uncle Tom's Corner.

In 1957, Arthur Andersen became president of DANIA. He had a farm outside Edmonton. Many picnics were held on his property. While president he was also active in helping to launch the Scandinavian Centre. After a couple of years as President, Arthur Andersen passed away, only 60 years old. After Arthur Andersen, the next presidents who all served for just one year were Erik Nielsen, Jens Godbersen, Peder Sorensen, Svend Kristiansen and finally Carl Andersen, who was reported to be a good leader, but only served one term.



*DANIA commemorated the 10th anniversary of Denmark's liberation on May 4, 1955
R to L: Erik Pedersen, Carl Gundersen, Pastor Poul Overgaard-Thomsen,
Thorvald Nielsen, Inge & Kjeld Sondrup*

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In December 1963 the *Scandinavian Centre News* reported that DANIA held its Annual General Meeting on October 30, “with too few of its members present as usual.” A discussion was held regarding the annual Christmas Party for the children, as it has been a big expense in former years and the membership had declined the past year. However, it was decided that the new board of directors should use its own judgment, as to the best way for the club to celebrate Christmas. Then at its first meeting the board decided to hold the Christmas Party for members’ children only, but the following dance would be open to everyone. The DANIA membership fee was set at three dollars. Elected for the coming year were Peter Sorensen, Poul B. Larsen, Vera Nielsen and Svend Nielsen as respectively president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Appointed auditors were Thorvald Nielsen and Erling Sorensen.

In 1965 Carl Andersen was elected president of DANIA, receiving two more votes than Claus Jacobsen. Elected vice-president and secretary were respectively Claus Jacobsen and Vera Nielsen. It was also about this time that Vera and Thorvald Nielsen were made honorary members of DANIA. Within the Danish community Vera Nielsen became a legend, and was known as ‘Mor’ Danmark (Mother Denmark).

Carl Andersen only served one year as president, and was followed by Harold Kristensen. In 1967 when Harold Kristensen returned to Denmark, before his term was completed, Claus Jacobsen became president of DANIA, and served as such for over eight years. In about 1971 Claus Jacobsen also became president of the Scandinavian Centre. Moreover, he broadcast news about the Scandinavian Centre every Saturday morning on radio station CFCW 790, AM, which was based in Camrose.

In 1969 the Saint Hans celebration of Mid-Summer was held on Monday evening, June 23rd at the D.S. Ranch at Winterburn, located west of the Winterburn Store on Highway 16. There were refreshments and hot dogs as well as the singing of Danish songs around the bonfire, culminating with the traditional burning of the witch, which had been made by Claus Jacobsen. The successful event had been arranged by the society’s secretary Vera Nielsen.

In August 1969, from the 16th to the 23rd a Summer Camp for children was held at Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, organized jointly by Ansgar in Edmonton and the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary. The Summer Camp was led by Pastor Oskar Filtenborg of Ansgar.

Many of DANIA’s activities revolved around the Scandinavian Centre, with the annual crowning of the DANIA Queen and the Scandia Queen. The Centre also had Whist drives, a Danish library, Folk Dancers and the Edmonton Freja Handball Club, started in 1959, and the Danish Gymnastic Club, which had been started in the early 1950s and later became associated with DANIA. Moreover, DANIA produced a popular cookbook entitled “Danish Cooking with Flavour.” Each June DANIA would also organize a Saint Hans Fest to celebrate the summer solstice with a bonfire and the singing of Holger Drachmann’s beloved ‘*Vi elsker vort land*’, as is the tradition in Denmark.

On December 10, 1969, DANIA was incorporated in Alberta as a non-profit society. According to the bylaws adopted should DANIA at some point in the future be dissolved the remaining assets would be given to Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church.

In the November 1971 issue of the *Scandinavian Centre News* Claus Jacobsen wrote about the meeting held on October 12th in the Dania Room of the Scandinavian Centre to improve

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cooperation between the Scandinavian Centre Board of Directors and the executive of the five Scandinavian societies. Twenty-one executives attended the meeting. It appeared that some of the Sunday afternoon coffee parties had been successful, while others had had no participation at all. It was suggested that an ordinary weekday might be better for such coffee parties, or the members could hold a Combination Night where the five lodges and societies could share the profits or possible losses five ways. Others suggested that the Centre should be promoted more, above all in local newspapers, and on radio and television. It was also decided to speed up the renovations of the downstairs kitchen, in line with the Centre's upstairs kitchen which now met the requirements set by the Health Inspector.



The DANIA Soccer Team

At DANIA's annual general meeting on October 23, 1974, the following were elected, Claus Jacobsen, Sven Christensen, Lili Nielsen and Bendt Nielsen, as respectively president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Elected one of the three directors at large was Kirsten Lindegger, who later became president.

In December 1974, the *Scandinavian Centre News* announced that the traditional Danish Christmas Eve Services at Ansgar would be in English at 3 pm and in Danish at 4 pm, conducted by Pastor Holger Madsen. Moreover, DANIA's annual New Year's Dance would be held on January 4,

1975, in the Viking Room at the Scandinavian Centre. The herring and deluxe smørrebrød would be prepared by Lissi Jensen. Finally, the *Centre News* reported that in December 1975 the Dania Football Club (soccer) would be playing against Polonia, International and Thistle at the Kinsman Field House.

In 1981 DANIA received an invitation to join the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, a national umbrella organization being founded by Danish organizations across Canada. At its founding meeting in June 1981 Danish Consul Donn Larsen of Edmonton, who strongly supported the initiative, was made an Honorary Director of the Danish Federation. Moreover, Helge Juel Christensen wrote to Rolf Buschardt Christensen on behalf of DANIA saying DANIA wanted to join as a founding member. Attending the first Danish Canadian Conference, the following year in Vancouver, were on behalf of DANIA, President John Kristensen and Secretary Lili Nielsen.

Later in October 1981 DANIA celebrated its 60th anniversary. Claus Jacobsen, at the time vice president of DANIA wrote a short history of DANIA, which was published in *Modersmaalet*, Toronto, and later he produced a CD with the history of DANIA, based on his home movies and information obtained and compiled primarily by Vera Nielsen.

DANIA's annual general meeting was usually held in October. In 1983 Bodil Gray was elected president, Morten Sorensen vice president, Lili Nielsen secretary and Kirsten Andersen treasurer. Elected directors at large were Paul Zimmer, Claus Jacobsen and Kaare Lindboe.

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*1984 Board of Directors
L to R: Bitten Christensen, Kirsten Andersen, Lili Nielsen, Bodil Gray, Lis Christensen,
In front Kaare Lindboe and Bent Skousbol*

In 1983 the Danish Canadian Friendship Club of Edmonton was created on the initiative of Danish Consul Donn Larsen. He wanted Denmark represented at the exhibition Crafts of the World, which was being held in Edmonton for three weeks in July in connection with Universiade '83, where athletes from more than ninety countries would compete. Donn Larsen tried to get various Danes involved and succeeded in gathering a small group of enthusiastic supporters who were willing to staff a booth where the exhibited artisans ranged from Bjørn Wiinblad, Bing & Grøndahl, Georg Jensen silver and royal porcelain to locally made ceramics and hand-painted porcelain as well as lace and cross-stitch embroidery. It was during the planning of this that the idea of forming a new association in the city was born. Not only for Danes, but for other Canadians who may have an interest in learning about or maintaining a connection to Denmark and Danish culture. A meeting was called, and elected president was Ole Hansen. Helge Krogh, the representative of Dansk Samvirke, now Danes Worldwide, was elected vice president, while Donn Larsen was made Honorary Chairman. The Friendship Club existed for just over four years, after which interest waned and it was finally dissolved at the beginning of 1988.

For many years DANIA has participated in Heritage Days, a three-day festival honouring Alberta's cultural heritage and diversity. It is held over the Civic Holiday weekend in August at William Hawrelak Park and is one of the largest festivals of its kind in North America. The festival has often included more than 85 different cultures in over 60 tents, where people would present their community and culture. The pavilions feature food, entertainment, artwork, crafts and information about each of the various cultures. Already in 1984 the Scandinavian Heritage Society of Edmonton was incorporated to promote, coordinate and present the Scandinavian

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pavilions at the annual Heritage Festival. The event is a major undertaking for DANIA and two of the directors on the society's board serve as Heritage Directors.



Bent Bruhn, Valerie Sorensen and, Dennis Frandsen, in front Elene Christensen



*Bent Bruhn with winning fish
1984 Fishing Derby*

In October 1984 the annual general meeting of DANIA was held at the Saxony Motor Inn. Kaare Lindboe was elected president. Moreover it was unanimously agreed by the members to change the name of the society from The Danish Society DANIA to The Danish Canadian Society DANIA. Moreover, Secretary Lili Nielsen was given a certificate of appreciation for her fifteen years of service on the Board.

From its founding the members of DANIA loved to party, and there was usually a very good turnout at dinner dances. At the dance party at the Saxony Motor Inn in October 1984, the Good Neighbours band had no difficulty keeping the 161 guests out on the dance floor.

On May 24, 1985, DANIA president Kaare Lindboe attended the official opening of Ansgar Villa, a senior citizen high-rise with 176 one-bedroom suites. With the completion of Ansgar Villa a dream of Pastor Holger Madsen of Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church had come true. In 1983 DANIA had donated money to Erik Pedersen's radio program as well as to Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church to help finance the building of Ansgar Villa.



*Erik Pedersen speaking
DANIA's 70th anniversary 1991*

As president of DANIA in 1993 Svend B. Nielsen was contacted by the organizers of the Arctic Games, to be held in Slave Lake, Alberta, from March 6 to 13, 1994, asking if people from DANIA could attend and act as translators, as Greenland was participating in the Games. The contingent from Greenland consisted of about 80 people. Svend and Lili Nielsen and eight others, including Andy Kjeersgaard and Kenneth and Johanne Dam, volunteered and travelled to Slave Lake to help out. They found it a very interesting experience, with speeches, ceremonies and indigenous singers, and watching both traditional winter sports as well as indoor sports.

CELEBRATING



The head table at DANIA's 70th anniversary party in 1991

In 1994 DANIA co-hosted with Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church the first Danish Canadian Conference held in Edmonton. The hosts were Svend B. Nielsen, president of DANIA and Kenneth Dam, president of the church council. Most of the meetings took place at the Mayfield Inn on 109 Avenue, where the keynote speakers included Danish Ambassador Jørgen Behnke, Henning Bender from the Danish Emigration Archives in Aalborg and Prof. Chris Hale from the University of Alberta. A 366-page Heritage Book had been edited and produced by Lili and Svend B. Nielsen for the Conference. The book contained a wealth of information about Edmonton's Danish community. The organizers had chosen the theme "Our Future: Adapting to Change." In conjunction with the conference the Danish Federation held its annual general meeting, as did the Danish Canadian National Museum of Dickson. The conference ended with a service at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church and lunch at Ansgar Villa.



Danish Canadian Conference in Edmonton in 1994, with participants outside Ansgar Church

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In *The Danish Bulletin* in September 1998, President Kate Jensen wrote, “DANIA needs its members to attend the Annual General Meeting and yes, we need some of our members (young and old) to serve on the Board. I am afraid if the Annual Meetings continue with poor attendance DANIA will not survive. If we do not have a Board of Directors, we have no DANIA. In my mind this would be a tragedy, for I feel DANIA is a great club and I know I would personally miss all the functions and would miss seeing all the members.” After the Annual General Meeting the following year the new president of DANIA, Annette Mortensen, wrote in *The Danish Bulletin* that the turnout at the AGM was twenty-three, and that, “the meeting was full of comments and concerns about DANIA’s past and future.”

Without the Scandinavian Centre, Dania had to hold its functions at various community halls in Edmonton, including Kensington Hall, Hungarian Cultural Centre, Belvedere Community Centre and Calder Hall. Attendance at the dances was down and it was difficult to find a caterer to make open-faced sandwiches. For several of the dances, the Board members made the sandwiches. Eventually, DANIA was gratefully able to hire Gunhild Frandsen to make the sandwiches and when she was no longer able to, Finn Laugesen provided the sandwiches from 1998 until his retirement following the January 2012 dance. Unable to find any caterers in Edmonton to make open-faced sandwiches, DANIA was able to arrange for Peter Christensen of the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary to cater the dances. He personally drove up to Edmonton with the sandwiches and looked after the kitchen for the dinner service. Added to his menu was a warm sole filet topped with remoulade, which was a supreme hit with the dance attendees. In 2016 the Woller family took over the catering of the dances and they catered until the last Fastelavn dance in February 2020, just prior to the Covid-19 lockdown in March.



MC Svend B. Nielsen seeing Bent Skousbol handing over FANE to Vita Christensen of Ottawa in 2007, Ottawa being the next host



DANIA's Board of Directors, 1996

In February 1999 DANIA and the other Scandinavian organizations signed an agreement with the Dutch Canadian Club (DCC), whereby the Centre would subsidize the five Scandinavian groups for events held at the Dutch Canadian Centre, 13312 - 142 Street NW, Edmonton. In April 2002 at an AGM of the Scandinavian Centre Association, Frank Stolk, past president of the Dutch Canadian Club, made a presentation to the membership, asking for financial assistance in renovating their facilities. This agreement would provide additional amenities for the

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Scandinavians, such as a fully joint facility with storage, office space, meeting room and reduced rates for the building venues. On September 4, 2002, a Special Meeting of the Scandinavian Centre shareholders approved, in a vote of 76 to 4, the allocation of \$175,000 toward the upgrading of the Dutch Canadian Centre which included an addition to the Centre that is today known as the “Nordic Centre – Home of the Scandinavians”. With the agreement in place with the DCC, DANIA finally again had a home to hold its dances and the annual Family Christmas Party. DANIA’s annual meetings and smaller functions are held in the Nordic Room. The Edmonton Scandinavian Centre Association also holds a weekly seniors drop-in afternoon from 1 pm to 4 pm in the Nordic Room, where seniors enjoy playing cards and having coffee, refreshments as well as good conversation. There is also a boardroom to hold meetings, in addition to ample parking for all functions.



*Participants from Edmonton
at 2013 Danish Canadian Conference in Victoria*

During the 1980’s and 1990’s DANIA struggled with poor attendance at its functions. However, the 1999 agreement with the DCC provided more stability to hold functions and attendances gradually improved as young people began to accompany their parents to events and soon became involved in DANIA, including serving on the board of directors.



Lili Nielsen at Danish Pavilion at Heritage Days



Jens Woller leaning on bar at Heritage Days

In 2007 DANIA again hosted the Danish Federation’s annual conference. President of DANIA was Bent Skousbol, who welcomed all the delegates to the West Coast Plaza Hotel. The Conference theme was “Honouring our Traditions: Past, Present and Future”. The Heritage Book totalled 280 pages, with many of the articles submitted by Lili and Svend B. Nielsen. Including books sold at the Conference Svend B. Nielsen sold over 200 Heritage Books, a record which

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still stands. The Conference ended with a service at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, followed by a typical Danish lunch at the Dutch Canadian and Scandinavian Centre, where Finn Laugesen catered the best smørrebrød thinkable, accompanied by Faxe beer and Aalborg Akvavit. After the Conference a one-week Danish Heritage Seminar was held at Jasper Inn in Jasper, where the headmaster was Pastor Rikke Aagaard Nielsen from the Ansgar Church.

FISHING DERBY AND HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

The first Annual Fishing Derby was held at Pigeon Lake Provincial Park on May 25-27, 1984. Trophies were handed out to the largest fish caught in four categories: Men's – Bent Bruhn with a whopping 3 lb. 3 oz; Boy's – Dennis Frandsen who caught the largest fish in the whole competition weighing in at 3 lb. 10 ½ oz.; Girl's – Elene Christensen with a 1 lb. 8 oz. specimen. The ladies were not able to hook, snare or bag any fish so the winner was determined by the luck of the draw and Valerie Sorensen was the lucky winner. The Horseshoe Competition was won by Bent Bruhn and Bent Pedersen. In 1985 the Fishing Derby moved to Vasa Lodge, the Swedish campground at Pigeon Lake, and held on the weekend of June 8-9, 1985. Vasa Lodge had a nice hall where the participants could have a dance in the evening and partake in other fun activities. These activities included skits and a limbo contest to name a few. Over the years various fun events for the children were held including lawn darts, scavenger hunts and a self-made dress-up costume competition to name just a few.



Campout at Saint Hans with the burning of the witch, 2008

In 2008 the Fishing Derby was moved to Lessard Lake Outdoor Education Centre as DANIA had outgrown the space available at Vasa Lodge. The Lessard Lake facility provided a larger area for camping, as well as horseshoe pits, a few rustic cabins and a hall which could be used in

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inclement weather to get together to socialize and play games. However, there was really no lake for fishing and the event was re-named the Annual Camp-Out and Horseshoe Tournament. The Horseshoe Tournament was held on Saturday starting in the morning. Breaking for lunch, campers brought their food together to share at a long table in the middle of the camping area as well as a “skål” or two before returning to the horseshoe competition. A bonfire for making snobrød and to celebrate Mid-Summer with the burning of the witch was held on Saturday night. Commencing with the Camp-Out in June 2017, Pastor Lasse Hultberg held an outdoor service for the campers on Sunday morning with interesting topics such as King Harold Bluetooth and the history of Dannebrog when Danes celebrated the 800th anniversary of the Danish flag in 2019. The Camp-Out typically saw its share of rain and in 2011 it rained so much that the horseshoe tournament was cancelled, and most campers pulled out already Saturday. Disillusioned, member participation started to dwindle even though the weather improved over the next few years. The last Camp-Out was held at Lessard Lake in 2019, as in 2020 it had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

DANIA has held an annual Christmas Party for its members with varying activities over the years, which always included a visit from Santa Claus. In the earlier years Santa Claus would read stories to the children and bring a gift for each of them. Activities changed over the years as new board members came up

with innovative ideas. There were crafts to be made by the children, which they could take home, including a centre piece with a candle and decorations made with real greenery, Danish hearts and various crafts. A large Christmas tree with Danish decorations was always set up in the centre of the hall around which young and old would dance, while singing Danish and English Christmas songs and carols. Together with the contemporary pastor of Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, DANIA would also have a Saint Lucia Pageant, with the children dressed up in costumes and acting out the Christmas story as re-told by the Pastor. Æbleskiver were provided to all, while gløgg for the adults rounded out the afternoon.



Pastor Rikke Aagaard Nielsen of Ansgar, reading Christmas Story to the children, December 2006

FASTELAVN

In February 1985 DANIA held a “Come as you are or as you always wanted to be” dance. Lili Nielsen won first prize in the women’s category, Fred Wallis won first in the men’s, while Kirsten and Flemming Andersen were chosen the best dressed couple. The Fastelavn dance has evolved over the years and has now replaced the New Year dance, which traditionally was held in January. Attendance at the New Year dance gradually declined as the older generation was now skipping the cold Alberta winters and heading south for a holiday.

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ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

60th Anniversary

On October 24, 1981, Dania celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a dinner and dance held at the Capilano Motor Inn in Edmonton. 160 people attended the enjoyable evening with the Sound Merchants providing the dance music. The door prize, a trip to Denmark for one, was won by John Kristensen, who later that month was elected President of DANIA.

75th Anniversary

DANIA celebrated its 75th Anniversary on October 19, 1996, at the prestigious Petroleum Club in Edmonton. Dignitaries present included Edmonton Council member Larry Langley and his wife, Danish Consul Donn Larsen and his wife as well as Pastors Lars and Liselotte Basboll. MC for the event, with close to 100 people in attendance, was Pastor Lars.

90th Anniversary

In October 2011 DANIA celebrated its 90th Anniversary at the Dutch Canadian Centre. A record breaking 300 people were in attendance. Master of Ceremonies was Past President John Kristensen. Ole Larsen, Vice President of the Danish Federation at the time, provided a Faxe beer for everyone. The menu consisted of open-faced sandwiches, while the live music was provided by Jana and Danny from Calgary. It was noted that there were four generations who attended the party and DANIA's future was looking very bright. The following is an excerpt from an article written by Frank Stolk, President of the Dutch Canadian Club (Edmonton), published in the November edition of *the Dutch Touch*, the newsletter of the DCC:

Riek & I were invited to our friends the Danes last Saturday. Their organization, Dania, celebrated its 90th anniversary. I was asked to address their membership on behalf of the DCC. I told them that I was a little jealous that the hall was filled with families, young and old, 300 people in all. They are blowing us away when it comes to young memberships, grandchildren who want to hang out with their grandparents and parents. They are proud of their heritage. I'm puzzled why we can't seem to pull this off, we are just as proud and we have the same blood running through our veins (Viking-blood), so what is it that they do different? It is very simple, they invite their children and grandchildren to all their parties; they laugh and have a good time, they swap stories, and the kids love to hear them. It's that simple folks.

It has always been a struggle to get people to attend the Annual General Meetings. With dwindling attendance the chance of being elected to a board position is very good. This has scared many people and kept them from coming to the AGM. The low point came at the AGM held on October 29, 2013, when only three people other than the board, chairman and auditors were in attendance. Directors who had wanted to step down agreed to stay on and those who attended agreed to take on the vacant positions. The 2014 January dance and the Camp-Out and Horseshoe Tournament in June of 2014 saw lower numbers as well. Subsequently at the AGM held on October 16, 2014, DANIA was unable to constitute a full board and the members present voted to place all future DANIA functions on hold pending constitution of a full board. The board sent out an email blast to members and friends reporting the failure to constitute a full board. Luckily some people stepped up and on November 4, 2014, a full board was constituted.

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The next couple of years were challenging to say the least, as again attendance continued to dwindle. At the AGM on October 20, 2015, DANIA was once again unable to constitute a full board. All club events were cancelled, and it was decided to hold a continuation AGM on March 15, 2016, to determine if a full board could be constituted at that time. In the meantime,



Past President of DANIA, Jens Woller and current President Lis Walker, at 2019 Danish Canadian Conference in Winnipeg

say that thanks to this strong resolve, which has been passed on from generation to generation, DANIA has continued to serve the Danish community in Edmonton and surrounding area. With the relentless work and commitment of the newer generation, DANIA hopes to continue to serve the Danish community in Edmonton and surrounding area for many years to come.

President Lisa Christensen and Treasurer Lis Walker agreed to remain in a custodial capacity until a new board could be formed. Thankfully, at the continuation AGM on March 15, 2016, a full board could be formed.

After Lisa Christensen stepped down, Konrad Christensen became president, serving until Lis Walker was elected president in October 2018. Konrad and Lisa are second generation Danes, while Lis Walker is a first generation Dane. On DANIA's 2021-2022 Board of Directors are first and third generation Danes as well as someone married to a person of Danish background.

DANIA still exists due to the hard work and commitment of the older generation who realized the importance of keeping their rich heritage alive. DANIA is proud to

CELEBRATING

Presidents of DANIA, Edmonton, 1921-2021

1921- ?	Jens Jensen	1973-1974	Claus Jacobsen
	Marius Madsen	1974-1975	Claus Jacobsen
1930	Anders Rafn	1975-1976	Allan Sorensen
1932-1933	Bror B. Larsen	1976-1977	Peter Andersen
1933	Carl Gundersen	1977-1978	Peter Andersen
1935	Christian Marker	1978-1979	Kirsten Lindegger
1939	L.P. Juul	1979-1980	Kirsten Lindegger
1953-1954	Walter Jensen	1980-1981	Helge Juel Christensen
1954-1955	Christian Bentsen	1981-1982	John Kristensen
1955-1956	Thorvald Nielsen	1982-1983	Bodil Gray
1956-1957	Thorvald Nielsen	1983-1984	Kaare Lindboe
1957-1961	Arthur Andersen	1984-1985	Kaare Lindboe
1961-1962	Erik Nielsen	1985-1986	Kaare Lindboe
1962-1963	Jens Godbersen	1986-1987	Kaare Lindboe
1963-1964	Peder Sorensen	1987-1988	Helge Juel Christensen
1964-1965	Svend Kristiansen	1988-1989	Helge Juel Christensen
1965-1966	Carl Andersen	1989-1990	Helge Juel Christensen
1966-1967	Harald Kristensen	1990-1991	Helge Juel Christensen
1967-1968	Claus Jacobsen	1991-1992	Svend B. Nielsen
1968-1969	Claus Jacobsen	1992-1993	Svend B. Nielsen
1969-1970	Claus Jacobsen	1993-1994	Svend B. Nielsen
1970-1971	Claus Jacobsen	1994-1995	Kirsten Andersen
1971-1972	Claus Jacobsen	1995-1996	Kirsten Andersen
1972-1973	Claus Jacobsen	1996-1997	Kirsten Andersen
1997-1998	Kate V. Jensen	2009-2010	Jens Woller

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1998-1999	Annette Mortensen	2010-2011	Jens Woller
1999-2000	Kate V. Jensen	2011-2012	Jens Woller
2000-2001	Villy Christensen	2012-2013	Jens Woller
2001-2002	Helge Juel Christensen	2013-2014	Jens Woller
2002-2003	Villy Christensen	2014-2015	Lisa Christensen
2003-2004	Bent Skousbol	2015-2016	Lisa Christensen
2004-2005	Bent Skousbol	2016-2017	Konrad Christensen
2005-2006	Bent Skousbol	2017-2018	Konrad Christensen
2006-2007	Bent Skousbol	2018-2019	Lis Walker
2007-2008	Jens Woller	2019-2020	Lis Walker
2008-2009	Jens Woller	2020-2021	Lis Walker

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The Danish Canadian Society "Dania"

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100

YEARS of DANIA
1921—2021





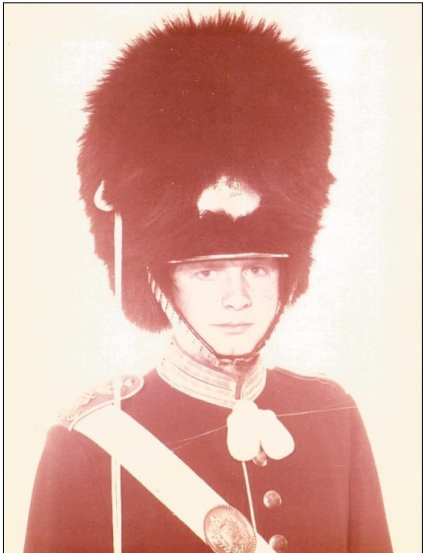


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Rolf Walter Andersen

Rolf Walter Andersen, Smiths Settlement, Nova Scotia

I was born on July 20, 1944 in Bedsted, Thy, and to be honest I do not really remember much from my first five years of life. However, in the summer of my fifth birthday I moved to Thisted with my grandparents. My mother had moved to Copenhagen to find some work after the war, so I lived with my grandparents until my seventh birthday when I moved to Copenhagen to join my parents and to start school. At that time my parents had moved to Hvidovre, a suburb of Copenhagen, where I attended a school called Strandmarksskolen. I lived in Hvidovre until I joined the military on January 4, 1965.



*Rolf Andersen,
Royal Danish Guards*

My father's name was Gunther Huck and that of my mother was Charlotte Andersen. In 1950 my mother married Børge Hallengreen my then stepfather. I have two brothers and one sister. My stepfather worked at a paint company in Valby called A. Stilling, but the company is no longer in existence as it merged with another paint company some years later. My mother was a housewife which at the time was very typical for mothers with children.

I spent ten years at Strandmarksskolen obtaining my "Real Examen" and after that I joined Landmandsbanken, now known as Danske Bank with a three year apprenticeship that also included three years at the Business School of Copenhagen, where I obtained a Certificate of the State Controlled Examination for Office Apprentices including Banking. After arriving in Canada, I studied at the University of Toronto from 1969 to 1971 in order to obtain a Fellows' Course of the Institute of Canadian Bankers.

On January 4, 1965 I presented myself at Sandholmlejren, Blovstrød, to start my sixteen month mandatory military career in the Royal Danish Guards. Prior to that, at the draft meeting, I had mentioned that I wanted to join the military police. But I was told that I had to complete basic training first, before moving on to the military police. I was then asked if I had a preference, army, navy or air force. I told them that I did not care. They then asked me if the Danish Royal Guards would be OK, and I said that would be fine. In the end that did not really work out as I had hoped. When I had finished my basic training, I went to the Commandant's office and asked for a transfer to the military police, but was told in no uncertain terms, that I must be crazy to want to leave the most honoured and prestigious regiment in order just to join the military police. I quickly agreed that yes, I must be crazy and left the Commandant's office (smile!). During my sixteen months stint with the Danish Royal Guards, I was known as 651867. For those of you

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who know a bit about military history, the number “67” has a bit of a funny connotation to it, maybe as someone not quite suited for military service. I had to live with that for sixteen months, and maybe I deserved it (smile!). After four months of basic training, which by the way was really not a whole lot of fun, and neither was the finishing final test also known as “REX-turen”, I did actually move on to a somewhat cozy job in the office, possibly due to my bank experience. After eight months I was transferred to Rosenborg Kaserne in Copenhagen, where for the last four months I actually and finally guarded the Royal Family.

After I completed my military service, I rejoined my former employer, who by the way had paid me half salary during my time in the army. I was transferred to a branch in Humlebæk just north of Copenhagen. I was lucky enough that the bank offered me accommodation in the same building as the branch at a very nominal amount of money. I stayed with the bank at that branch until my departure for Canada on February 11, 1968.

Why did I come to Canada? Well, we were seven or eight guys who usually got together for a bit of card playing and on a night in September 1967 the conversation got around to maybe seeing a little of the world outside of Denmark. After some discussion we came up with four countries which we potentially might want to spend some time in. Four of us thought this was a bit of a silly idea, but the other four thought that it was an interesting and serious proposal. The four countries we identified were Canada, Australia, the USA and South Africa. After some further investigation we narrowed it down to the USA and Canada. About a week later the four of us,



Rolf & Donna: With their children, Tanya & Stephen

that liked the idea, then contacted the US and Canadian embassies in Copenhagen. Remarkably early it became clear, that to obtain a Green Card was much more cumbersome than to obtain a Landed Immigrant Visa to Canada. When we spoke to the Canadian Embassy they more or less asked us when we wanted to leave, next month or sooner. I remember we were a bit taken aback by that and told them not quite so soon. After a bit more discussion among the four of us, we decided that maybe next February would be fine. I must mention that none of us intended this to be a permanent thing; maybe a stay in Canada for a couple of years would be about right. At

the time several corporations in Denmark were eagerly looking for young people with North American experience, and of course that was the main reason for wanting to spend a few years in Canada. As demonstrated later not all plans turn out as originally planned. Of the four of us who had planned to leave, one got sick and never made it to Canada, another returned to Denmark as originally planned and two of us are still here 53 years later. Anyhow, on February 11, 1968 three of us left Copenhagen for Toronto on an Air Canada flight and a new life started for at least two of us.

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I met my wife, Donna Blair Purves, in December 1968. We got engaged in December the following year and were married on May 30, 1970. We have two children, Tanya Lis Andersen and Stephen Blair Andersen. Tanya is employed by the Halton District School Board, and is presently a high school teacher in Milton, Ontario. Stephen is employed by Global Trade Corporation in Toronto, presently as Vice President, Professional Services. Tanya is married to Manuel Lopes. They have no children and live in Mississauga, Ontario. Stephen is married to Julia Mac Mackenzie with one child, Beatrice Leigh Andersen. They presently live in Oshawa.

As far as my working career goes, I joined the Mercantile Bank of Canada on February 26 two weeks after arriving in Toronto. I started out as a clerk in the cheque processing department and after about two years in various clerical positions was promoted to department head in our Money Transfer Department and later of our Audit Department. In January 1974 I was promoted to Assistant Inspector of our Internal Audit Department in the Head Office in Montreal, which meant that we needed to move to Montreal. I spent four years in that department travelling across Canada verifying the books of our various branches, during that time I



Rolf celebrating his 70th birthday, with his wife, his children and their spouses, his sister and her husband from Germany, and a family friend

I also received a promotion to Inspector. In January 1978 I was again promoted to Assistant Manager, Branch Operations in our Saint John, New Brunswick branch, which meant moving to Saint John. Then in May 1979 I was recalled to Montreal to take over as Manager, Branch Operations in our Main branch in Montreal. Following that I then moved on to become Manager, Operations in our Treasury Department also in Head Office which took place in October 1980. Finally at the beginning of 1982, I obtained, what I at the time thought would be my dream job as Manager of our Policy and Procedures Department at Head Office and I thought I could very well stay there for the rest of my working career. However, that was not to be as in 1986 the Mercantile Bank merged with the National Bank of Canada and that was the end of that job. At the same time not being bilingual French/English, my family and I had grown somewhat disenchanted with living in Quebec, so an opportunity presented itself to return to what I always considered my Canadian hometown, namely Toronto. (Not that my family really agrees with me there, Smile!)

In May 1986 we moved back to Toronto and I had the summer off as my new job with the Royal Bank of Canada did not start until September 2. My new position was that of Manger, Letters of Credit/Guarantees, International Department. I spent the next nine years in that position until I moved on to Manager, Customer Services in 1995. Initially that would entail all clients doing international trade business in the province of Ontario. It later expanded to include all of Canada, and finally I ended up as the Global Trade Consultant for the Royal Bank globally. This was to be my last and final job before my retirement at the end of July 2009. That concluded a 48-year career in banking, mostly good years and a few not so good. However, my last job was by far the

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most interesting one; a dream job much better than the one I had hoped for at the end of my career with the Mercantile Bank.

After my retirement in July 2009, my wife and I decided to move to Nova Scotia to spend our retirement years there as my wife is a Nova Scotia girl and she wanted to move back home. Moreover, it is also closer to Denmark.

Soccer and handball were my passions in Denmark and for the first number of years in Canada. However, once I started travelling on business it was difficult to keep up with that and instead I played a bit of badminton whenever time would allow. Now in my retirement years my passion is very much related to fantasy basketball with a bit of online poker with very, very minimal amounts of money involved. There are a couple of hobbies which have remained a constant with me the last sixty years. I love travelling and have visited all Canadian provinces and at least forty of the states in the USA. As well I am obsessed with reading science fiction books!

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for a
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From Denmark to Dickson

Wendy Christensen, Sherwood Park, Alberta

My brother Lorne and I grew up on a farm just one mile east of the Hamlet of Dickson, Alberta, which remains the “home base” for our geographically dispersed family. Lorne has spent most of his adult life in various international locations and currently resides in Saudi Arabia. I live in Sherwood Park in the Edmonton area and enjoy weekend visits to the farm. We had an idyllic childhood on the farm, embraced by the Danish community and traditions around us, just a bike ride away from our Larsen grandparents two miles to the east and Bethany Lutheran Church and the Dickson store a mile to the west.

My parents, Knud Hartvig Christensen (born on November 9, 1934) and Ellen Agnes Christensen, née Larsen (born on July 25, 1934) grew up in the Danish community of Dickson, Alberta, on farms just two and a half miles apart. Although they knew each other through gatherings at Bethany Lutheran Church growing up, they went to different one-room school houses. Hartvig went to school in Dickson and Ellen in Heckla. It was not until they were into their twenties that they got together and began dating. Hartvig and Ellen were married at Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson on October 7, 1961 when they were 27 years old.



*Hartvig, Ellen, Wendy and Lorne Christensen
At the farm in Dickson*

Ellen completed high school in Heckla and went on to business school. She moved to Edmonton in her twenties where she worked for several years as a bank teller and office clerk. Once Ellen and Hartvig married, she was a full partner in the farming operation and eventually a stay-at-home mom. Ellen was an avid gardener and fed not only our family but much of the community with her green thumb. She was also a talented crafter and baker. Very few visitors to the family farm left without homemade slippers, mittens or baked treats.

Hartvig had to quit formal schooling when he was 15 to work full-time on the farm after his father Vilhelm fell ill. Later, Hartvig was able to attend the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI) in Camrose for a year and many weekends he would hitchhike home from Camrose to the farm at Dickson. As a young adult, he was chosen to chaperone the male youth from Bethany Lutheran Church and surrounding area as part of the Canadian delegation travelling to a Lutheran youth gathering in Miami, Florida. The Canadian delegation travelled by train south to Miami and the journey included several stops in the southern United States where in the early 1960's racial unrest was at a boiling point. Hartvig told one story about a lunch stop in

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Mississippi, where the Canadian delegation which included youth of a multitude of ethnicities, made a tense walk down the street in an area grappling with segregation and civil unrest. Once in Miami, my father and the youth delegates witnessed an early version of the “I Have a Dream”



Hartvig and Ellen Christensen

speech from one Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. I did not know about my father’s brush with Rev. Dr. King and this epic part of history until well into my adult years when it came up during a casual coffee conversation. I could not believe he had not mentioned this amazing story and experience before.

Hartvig and Ellen farmed the Christensen quarter of land (first leasing it and eventually purchasing it) and, once Chris Larsen retired, rented and farmed the Larsen land for many years as well. They maintained a mixed farming operation, with several milk cows, a small herd of beef cows, a farrowing barn for pigs and a flock of chickens. In their 50’s, Hartvig and Ellen added both sheep and a large flock of ducks to the farming operation.

From the sheep they produced their own wool and sold duck eggs (balut) to the Asian markets in Vancouver. They also ran a “cottage industry” from the farm and local farmer’s markets with Ellen’s crafts and eggs, as well as Hartvig’s wool hooked saddle blankets in addition to a napkin-printing business.

Summertime visits from a multitude of Danish relatives from both sides of the family was a childhood highlight. These visitors would stay at our farm or the Larsen farm a few miles away and the visits would include trips to Banff and the Rocky Mountains (Johnson’s Canyon was a favourite destination), picnics at the Tay River campground, family meals at one of the farms and other excursions.

The life and legacy of my four Danish grandparents Beginning with Chris Larsen

My grandfather Edward Christian (Chris) Larsen was born on a farm near Hjørring in northern Jutland on December 31, 1896 to Jens Christian Larsen and Inger Marie (Nielsen) Larsen. Chris was the oldest of their ten children. The others were: Johanne (Hannah) – born 1898, Søren – born 1899, Axel – born 1901, Ahlmann – born 1902, Henry – born 1903, Anna – born 1904, Verner – born 1904, Mathilde (Tilda) – born 1905 and Einar – born 1907.

Chris’s mother Inger died in childbirth in 1908 (baby Ingvar also died), leaving my great-grandfather Jens as a single father of ten children. Shortly after Inger’s death, Jens and several of the younger children sailed to the United States, where Jens sought to make a new life for his



Chris Larsen in U.S. Navy uniform

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family. My grandfather Chris and his siblings, Johanne, Søren, Axel and Ahlmann (the oldest children) remained behind in Denmark with family and relatives for over a year. Once Jens was settled in America, Chris and his four siblings made their journey to America, arriving in New York on the *SS Oscar II* on November 18, 1910. Chris was only fourteen years old when he made this journey to America with his four younger siblings in tow.

Once in the United States Chris and his siblings made their way to Nebraska by train, to work on the family farm. Jens and the children had settled in Garfield, Nebraska, where they established a farming operation. Jens then met and married his second wife, Marie Rasmussen (born 1883) and together they had another son, Ingvard Marius Larsen, born in Nebraska in 1913. Jens died in 1931 and is buried in the Spring Creek Cemetery at Ruskin, Nebraska. Marie continued to live in the United States until her death in 1977. When he was of age, Chris joined the U.S. Navy and served for several years. It was in the harbour of New York as a young Navy man on furlough that he met his future bride, Agnete Andersen.

Agnes Agnete Andersen

My sweet and loving grandmother, Agnes Agnete Andersen (Neta) was born in Svendborg, on the island of Fyn, in May 1895 to Hans and Karoline (Amalievej) Andersen. According to U.S. Immigration records, Agnete arrived at Ellis Island, New York, from Copenhagen on November



Agnes Agnete Andersen

7, 1919. She lived and worked in Brooklyn, New York, for several months before meeting and falling in love with a young Dane (Edward Christian Larsen) who was serving in the U.S. Navy. Chris left the U.S. Navy in 1920, whereafter he and Neta travelled to Nebraska, where they were married that same year.

Agnete Andersen was the only member of her family to move to North America. Agnete had several siblings (four sisters and two brothers), two of which, Ellie and Emil, would later journey to Canada for lengthy stays with her in the 1970's and 1980's. We have great memories of what fun both Emil and Ellie were; full of mischief and delight and oh so happy to see their big sister Neta. Ellie was particularly memorable and sometimes embarrassed the demure and shy Neta with her boisterous personality and antics. When in the Calgary airport to depart back to Denmark, and asked if she had everything she needed for the flight back, Ellie proudly and loudly pulled out a pair of underwear from her purse,

waving them around for all to see, and declared in Danish "Se! Jeg har et ekstra par trusser til turen" (See! I have a spare pair of panties for the trip). Tragically, Emil, an adventurous soul, was killed in a motorcycle accident in Denmark just weeks after his last visit to Canada. This loss caused Agnete great sadness after such a joyful visit and reunion in Canada with her brother.

Vilhelm Christensen

Vilhelm Christensen, born on August 2, 1905 in Bøvlingbjerg, Denmark, came to Canada on his honeymoon in 1929, and died in 1969 at the age of 64 years in Calgary. Vilhelm was one of 21 children of Søren Kristensen, all born on the Kristensen farm (called Villensgaard) in northern

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Jutland. (All records show that the family name was spelled “Kristensen” in Denmark and converted to “Christensen” for those who came to Canada). Soren and his first wife, Johanne Marie Jensen had seven children born between 1877 and 1890 (Jens, Kristen, Maren, Anton, Jens Peder, Martin and Soren Marinus). Soren and his second wife, Johanne Marie Hartvigsen, had 14 children between 1893 and 1913 (Johanne, Kristen, Ane Kirstine, Soren, Jakob, Martha, Elisabeth, Johannes, Elias, Vilhelm, Aksel, Emil, Aksel II, and Hartvig), the fifth youngest of which was my grandfather Vilhelm. Four of Vilhelm’s closest brothers would also come to Canada: John Christensen would come first to Ponoka, Alberta, and then retire to Vancouver Island; Elias and Emil Christensen both settled in the Ponoka area of Alberta and Aksel Christensen would later in life settle in the Vancouver area, where his sons Kjeld and Erik already lived.

Vilhelm suffered from Grave’s disease, for which he was given iodine treatments, had ailments from drinking unpasteurized milk, and ultimately developed Parkinson’s disease. He was just 55 years old when he had to quit farming in 1960 and enter the Bethany Care Centre in Calgary. He remained at Bethany until his death in 1969. My fond memories of Vilhelm are visiting him in the Bethany Care Centre and standing by his bedside there for visits. I remember how delighted he always was to see my dad and his grandchildren when we visited.



Vilhelm Christensen

Petra Graversen



Petra Graversen

Petra Graversen was born on August 12, 1903 in Bøvlingbjerg, Denmark, and died on October 11, 1993 in Calgary at 90 years of age. Petra was the fifth child of Hans Graversen (1864 – 1940) and Mariane Olsen (1865 – 1916). Petra had seven siblings, Karen, Mitte, Katrine, Marianne, Peter, Viggo and Hanse. On their honeymoon in 1929, when she was 25 years old, Petra came to Canada with Vilhelm. The Graversen family lived close to the Soren Christensen family. Two Graversen sisters (Petra and Karen) would marry Christensen boys (Vilhelm and Kristen). Petra was the only member of the Graversen family to make her way to Canada. After Vilhelm’s hospitalization, Petra moved to Calgary to live with her daughter Marie.

Petra had the pleasure of going home to Denmark for the first time in May 1970. She travelled to Denmark again in the summers of 1971 and 1973 and then again in October 1975. In Denmark she was reunited with most of her sisters and spent a

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wonderful time visiting and getting to know her extended family. Petra had a constant smile, twinkling eyes, a ready wit and an infectious giggle. She was a God-fearing, faithful, happy, shy and loving soul. Although she understood English, she always spoke in her native Danish.

The Chris Larsen Family

Chris and Agnete were married in Hardy, Nebraska, on March 31, 1920. They continued to work on the family farm in Nebraska until 1928, when they made the journey north, crossing into Canada at Emerson, Manitoba, on March 29. By this time, Chris and Agnete had two children, Inger Marie Larsen (1921) and Calvin Larsen (1924). My mother, Ellen Agnes Larsen, was born in 1934 after they had arrived and settled in Dickson.

As a child of ten, I wrote the following few paragraphs about my grandparents for a community history book entitled ***Grub Axe to Grain***:

In 1910 Chris Larsen came from Denmark at the age of 14 to join his father in America. He served in the U.S. Navy for two years. He then did as all sailors do, found a girl. In 1920 he married the former Agnete Andersen and settled at Ruskin, Nebraska.

Chris and Agnete immigrated to Canada in 1928 and came immediately to the Dickson area. They purchased land, the NE 33-35-2-5 in the Heckla District and rented numerous homes in the Dickson area while clearing their own land. Chris drove to his property with his team and family every day to clear his land with an axe. Later, he built on this land and is still residing there.

Chris has been an active member of Bethany Lutheran Church ever since coming to the community and has served on the church council for 15 years. He has a family of three. Inger resides in Edmonton. Calvin married Ebba Larsen of Camrose and resides at Spruce View with his family of six children, Linda, Donald, Grant, Howard, twins Diane and Darlene. Ellen married Hartvig Christensen and resides at the former Vilhelm Christensen farm at Dickson. They have two children, Wendy and Lorne.

Chris homesteaded and farmed the property near Heckla until his retirement from farming in the 1970's, after which my father Hartvig took over farming the land. For decades the Larsen farm, with its beautiful gardens, apple orchard and river valley trails, was a happy gathering place for



*Chris and Agnete's 1920 wedding in Nebraska
Harry and Johanne Larsen in the wedding party*

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50th Wedding Anniversary of Chris & Agnete

Chris and Agnete's children and grandchildren. I have such fond memories of Sunday visits, biking the 2.5 miles from the Christensen farm over to Grandma and Grandpa Larsen's after school some days, treks down to the old sawmill site on the river flat and lazy afternoons fishing in the Red Deer River. Today the Larsen farm is on the site of the Dickson Dam and stands at the beginning of Glennifer Lake. The beautiful two-storey farmhouse and big red barn are gone, but remnants of the beautiful yard, orchard and berry patches remain.

The Vilhelm Christensen Family

Vilhelm and Petra Christensen sailed to Canada on their honeymoon, arriving on the *SS Oscar II* at Pier 21, Halifax, on April 13, 1929. From Halifax they travelled to Alberta by train. Vilhelm and Petra had only planned to stay in Canada for a few years, but ended up making Canada their permanent home once the Great Depression hit and travel back to Denmark was not an option. Vilhelm had taken a leave from the Danish army to travel to Canada. As a "deserter" from the Danish army, was unable to return to Denmark.

Vilhelm and Petra decided to make the Danish Canadian settlement of Dickson their home and they farmed in that community until 1960, when Wilhelm was admitted to Bethany Care Centre in Calgary. In their early days in Canada, Vilhelm and Petra rented and worked on various farms in the Dickson area. Petra also worked as a cook on a road work crew in the Calgary area, and Vilhelm received room and board for assisting her with the cooking. They eventually bought the Laus Christensen farm a mile east of Dickson and made that their permanent home.



*Vilhelm, Petra, Hartvig (on Vilhelm's lap)
Marie, Hans and baby Marianne, held by Petra*

Vilhelm and Petra were blessed with four children, Marie (born in 1930), Hans (born in 1932), Hartvig (born in 1934) and Marianne (born in 1936). Unfortunately, Marianne's twin, a young boy died shortly after birth and is buried in Dickson. Once Vilhelm was hospitalized in Calgary, Petra moved to

Calgary to live with her eldest daughter Marie Christensen. Petra did daywork in Calgary until she found employment at the Grace Hospital, where she worked until the age of 72. She would continue to live with Marie until her death in 1993.

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Aerial view of the Vilhelm Christensen farm

Our journey to Denmark

Shortly after my mother, Ellen, passed away in 2011, my father, Hartvig, and I travelled to Denmark and were able to meet some of our Christensen, Graversen, Larsen and Andersen



*Hartvig at Villensgaard
The Søren Kristensen farm in Jutland*

relatives. We were hosted by Hartvig's cousin Frits Jeritslev and wife Lorraine in Dragør. On a "road trip" through Denmark to visit family, Hartvig was able to stand in the yard at Villensgaard, where generations of the Christensen family had been born and raised, to visit what had been the Graversen home just a few minutes away, and to meet many cousins and their families. He stood in the church at Bøvlingbjerg where generations of both his mother and father's families had been baptized, confirmed, married and buried. It was a powerful "homecoming" for him and a true joy for me to witness. It was a trip

he and Ellen had planned to take, and she would have so enjoyed the chance to meet her Larsen cousins and relatives who we visited in Copenhagen. Her spirit and her memory travelled with us on the trip.

Dad (Hartvig) is now the only living descendant of the four Danes who made their way to Canada. My mom Ellen and her siblings, Calvin and Inger, all passed away in their late 70's. Dad's siblings Marie, Hans and Marianne have also passed away. At 86 years of age, Hartvig

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remains in good health. He married Marie Purcell in 2013, and lives in Innisfail, Alberta, with Marie. He makes several trips out to the farm each week and keeps the farmstead in good shape for Lorne and I and our families to visit.

My brother Lorne Daniel Christensen is a talented writer and artist who has had great success with life and jobs overseas. After high school Lorne completed a journalism diploma at SAIT and worked in the media business for the *Innisfail Province* and *Oilweek magazine*. He then worked with Trans Alta Utilities for several years before he and his wife Nadine moved to Hong Kong for 16 years. While in Hong Kong, Nadine taught at international schools and Lorne held several positions at the Hong Kong bank, including being the speechwriter for the Chairman of the Bank. Both Lorne's children, Noah and Hannah, were born in Hong Kong. Between a couple of short stints back in Canada, where their home base was Vernon, B.C., Lorne and family spent several years in Bangkok, Thailand, where Nadine again taught, and Lorne did freelance speechwriting. Lorne and his beautiful wife Nadine currently live in Saudi Arabia and both work for Saudi Aremco, Lorne as an Executive speechwriter and Nadine as a teacher. Their children Noah and Hannah recently completed post-secondary degrees in British Columbia and live and work in Vancouver.



Hartvig at Bøvlingbjerg - 2012



Wendy Christensen

After high school I worked in Innisfail for several years for a local law firm before heading to college at Camrose Lutheran College and then the University of Alberta. I completed an undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and political science and went on to do graduate work later in life at the University of Alberta in the political science field. After university I worked at the Alberta Legislature for various Ministers and MLAs for about nine years, then as a senior policy analyst for the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, had a nine year stint running a political and communications consulting company and then finally took on several management roles with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry in the Government of Alberta. I am currently an Executive Advisor and Issues Manager for the Executive Team at Alberta Agriculture. In my spare time I enjoy freelance writing, genealogy, travelling, time at the farm, Scandinavian cooking, and exploring all aspects of my Danish heritage. I am a past member of the Board of the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson.

I was married for 22 years and am a proud mom to three children: Kayla Marie who currently lives in Calgary and recently completed a master's degree; Lynsey Nicole who currently lives and works in Montreal; and Taylor Benjamin Dane who currently works and lives in Edmonton.

Greenhouse entrepreneurs Lisbeth and Ole Madsen bid farewell to Newmarket

Alan S. Hale, NewmarketToday.ca

Photographs by Greg King, *Newmarket Today*

Newmarket, north of Toronto, is losing a pair of its most notable entrepreneurs now that Lisbeth and Ole Madsen have sold their greenhouse and banquet hall on Bayview Parkway after 50 years. The married couple has decided to retire after the COVID-19 pandemic made it painfully clear that now was time to move on and enjoy their golden years.

"We have gone through three major depressions, recessions, and whatever else and still survived. But this pandemic has been the worst, not only for us, but for the whole self-employed community," said Ole. "Truthfully, since the middle of March last year, we have been losing \$30,000 every week. Every week! So we have been major losers in this, so we have sold the place because, by now, we have pretty much depleted our life savings."

The Madsens have sold the venue to a Toronto businessperson who owns multiple event halls and other businesses and plans to continue operating the greenhouse banquet hall much as it is now. The proceeds of the sale will go to funding the couple's retirement. The Madsens feel as though the government punished them for responsibly saving money for years, leading them to not qualify for any assistance during the pandemic.

"We didn't get one cent from the government," said Ole. "But we survived. We had enough to buy a condo in downtown Toronto where we are moving from here, and we will end up in Victoria, where our son and grandson are. We are both 75, so it's time."



Ole and Lisbeth Madsen, Photo by Alan S. Hale

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Madsen's Greenhouse has had many lives over those five decades; founded by Lisbeth's Danish immigrant father, who had worked as a greenhouse manager before the family's move to Canada. After her father's early death, she and Ole bought the greenhouses from her mother for market value in 1971. When asked about how she feels about selling her family's home and business, Lisbeth said she is ready.



Ole and Lisbeth Madsen with Town Crier and his wife, waving to passing cars in long parade, held on Sunday, March 21, 2021

"It's a new chapter for our lives, so it's time. My parents came over from Denmark with four

kids in 1956, so it's been a long, long time," she said. After purchasing the business, the young couple started out as a production greenhouse and ended up being pioneers of the Ontario industry in their day. "We were the first greenhouse in Ontario, maybe in Canada, to mass-produce house plants, which was unheard of in the early 1970s. House plants were not produced in Ontario then," said Ole. "We were also the first greenhouse to mass produce papier-mâché

round hanging baskets. We used to sell almost 2,000 of those baskets every year in the springtime." "We were also selected by the Ontario Growers Association to make a flower exhibition for the New York Flower Show one spring. So it's been an interesting life. Every 10 years, it seems like we reinvent ourselves."



Lois Brown, former Conservative MP for Newmarket, presents farewell card to Ole and Lisbeth Madsen, Photo by Greg King

customers. With a new stone floor installed, the couple realized they had a uniquely beautiful space and even began eating dinner in the greenhouse occasionally. They hadn't thought of using it as a wedding venue, as the trend of having weddings in unique locations hadn't started yet. "When we started the wedding business, you couldn't get married in a barn or anywhere like that. It was all traditional churches and banquet halls," said Ole.

One of their very most important reinventions occurred after the couple decided to renovate the interior of their greenhouse retail store and garden centre that they had opened years earlier to sell their plants directly to their many

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At the 2012 Danish Canadian Conference in Toronto, the Friday evening Dinner and Fundraiser for the Danish Canadian Museum was held at Madsen's Greenhouse, Photo by Rolf Buschardt Christensen

It wasn't until a long-time customer came in and asked to be allowed to have their wedding inside the greenhouse that the businesses' life as an event venue took off. "We only had that one person that first year, the next we had three, and it just grew from there," he said. "People laughed at us at first, and you have to remember that back then, we had a five-foot ditch with a bridge over it to get to the door, which was just a normal door. We also had pallets of bricks and fertilizer everywhere and garden centre items out front where the bride had to come in. But it still took off. "Other people took notice of us, and that's when the tree farms started and then the barns. Now there are weddings everywhere."

Eventually, the wedding business became so big that the greenhouses became a full-time event venue, and now the place is regularly booked two years in advance by brides and grooms from across the entire Greater Toronto Area. Aside from weddings, Madsen's Greenhouse has also been used as a filming location for movies and commercials for companies such as Canadian Tire, which spent a week shooting a series of barbecue commercials. The Madsens also regularly gave back to the community by allowing the venue to be used for public and charitable events for free. The couple said they will have many fond memories of running the greenhouse, including the time that former U.S. President Barack Obama's personal secretary came to a wedding, so the Secret Service had to scout out the venue in advance for security purposes. That was not the only bigwig to come to the greenhouse over the years. "We have hosted Premiers, Prime Ministers, and Adrienne Clarkson before she became Governor General," said Ole. "We had a Master Chef shoot here in 2009; that was pretty neat," added Lisbeth.

Newmarket has changed a lot in the years since they first started their business. When they were young, the town had fewer than 10,000 people living there. The couple thanks the community for the past several decades. "We have gotten as much out of this community as we have given. This

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has been a great community; if anything, we will miss our friends and surroundings the most. We will miss being able to walk downtown and say hi to our friends and acquaintances. So there is some sadness that we are leaving the community," said Ole.

Those who would like to say goodbye to the Madsens are invited to take part in a drive-by parade being organized by former Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown. You are asked to gather at the park on Bayview Parkway (first parking lot north of Madsen's on the east side of the park) before 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 21. The procession will go by the greenhouse where the Madsens will be watching and waving to people as they go by. "I just could not see them leave town without someone recognizing the enormous contribution they have made to this community," said Brown. "Our community has been the recipient of their kindness and generosity. This is our opportunity to demonstrate our gratitude for their decades of support and to wish them well."

This article was reprinted with permission from *Newmarket Today*. Moreover, there is an article about Lisbeth Madsen's parents in the 2001 Heritage Book. Lisbeth Madsen, née Hansen, was born on April 6, 1946 in Korinth, Fyn. Lisbeth came to Canada with her parents, Knud and Ellen Hansen, in 1956, when she was ten years old. She married Ole Madsen on July 15, 1967 in the Danish Church in Toronto. Her mother, Ellen Hansen, turned 98 on December 26, 2020. Ole Madsen was born to Jørgen and Ester Madsen in Gudenholm, south of Aalborg, on October 15, 1945. He apprenticed at Paul Madsen Gartneriet on Fyn, now called Gartneriet PKM A/S, his uncles' nursery. It has grown and is now a large nursery. PKM consists of 200,000 square metres of greenhouses and produces about 20 million potted plants per year. Ole came to Canada on February 25, 1966. Ole and Lisbeth are leaving Newmarket and moving into a condo in Toronto.

Danish House Society

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



Join the Members
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Club Night — “Kro Aften”

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Elver and Grethe Olsen

Calgary

Linda Olsen

Elver and Grethe Olsen and their one-year old son, Jan, immigrated to Calgary, Alberta, in 1957. Elver had a love of the ocean and always wanted to travel as a young man. Then he met Grethe and knew that making a life with her by his side was what he wanted most. He still had the dream of adventure, but now they decided to do it together as a family. They built a wonderful life in Western Canada, raising a family, while Elver helped shape the local electrical industry for over forty years. Grethe, a nurse and successful sales person, inspired all those she worked with. Both of them contributed to the slogan of the time that encouraged would-be immigrants across Europe in the 1950s to come “help build the West.”

Elver was born in Copenhagen on March 10, 1933. His mother Ingeborg and father Gunner had four children, Leif, Kurt, Elver, and their only daughter Inge. Leif was a part of the Danish underground resistance as a young man, working to save Jewish people from the Nazis. Grethe was born October 7, 1933 in Basnæs south of Næstved. Her mother Olga and father Jens Peter had four children, Grethe, Kirsten, Erik and Poul.

Elver and Grethe met in 1950 at a big dance in Kalundborg in a local hotel where Elver was the singer in the band that was performing that night. Elver had a beautiful singing voice and had considered making that his profession for a time, but realized he needed a steadier income. At the dance, Elver only had eyes for one girl and that was 17-year-old Grethe Olsen, who was attending a pre-nursing school nearby. Yes, coincidentally, they shared the same last name. They danced their first dance to “If” by Perry Como. Elver and Grethe often recalled the first line of the song, “*if you were the only girl in the world and I were the only boy.*” This line kind of summed up their relationship. They became good friends, enjoying Elver’s music together, and a month after they met, Grethe’s schooling was complete, and she went back to Næstved.



Grethe and Elver were married in 1955

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A few months later, Elver became an electrician and moved to Næstved for work. He knew he might have a chance to see Grethe if she was now living in the hospital residence as a nurse. Sure enough, he saw her name on the front door. This was the beginning of their journey and falling in love. Six months later, Elver was called to join the army where he served for two years as a soldier while Grethe was in nursing school.

They married on July 30, 1955 and began their life journey together. Their first child, Jan Elver Olsen, was born in 1956. The small family lived in a rented apartment in Næstved.

Grethe's friend from nursing told them about their plans to move to Canada, as she already had family there. Elver and Grethe then decided to attend information sessions in local hotels where recruiters would show pictures of Canada and encourage Danes with a trade to consider moving there to help build the West.

The recruiters offered an interest-free loan to pay for the trip to Canada, something Elver viewed as a great opportunity. Elver was immensely proud the day he paid off that loan in full at the government building in downtown Calgary. When they left Denmark they left



Elver and Grethe in Bermuda, in 1970s

behind family, friends, and the closeness to the ocean. Grethe says they would probably have chosen Vancouver if they had known more about Canada. They missed swimming, sailing and rowing after the move. In Denmark they had both been members of the local rowing club.

Elver, Grethe, and Jan boarded a plane on their new adventure to Canada on April 2, 1957. The first leg of the trip brought them to Norway where they waited for a connecting flight to Prestwick, Scotland, and then on to Gander, Newfoundland. Grethe says there were no houses in Gander at the time, only the airport and former soldiers' barracks from the war. The Olsens and all the passengers with connecting flights, stayed in the sparse barracks overnight.

Next they flew to Montreal, which also included a taxi cab ride that ended up being a bit more expensive than expected. The driver took them all over the place and when they finally arrived at their hotel they discovered it was right in front of the airport. Their impromptu tour cost them about four times what the cab fare should have been. Welcome to Canada!

While they were sitting in a Montreal restaurant that night, Elver suddenly called out to someone he recognized. To their surprise here was a friend from Denmark who was now living in the city. He took them to his home for dinner and drove them around sight-seeing the next day. Then it was time for the flight to Calgary, which seemed exceedingly long on a propeller plane and left Grethe feeling unwell. At eleven months Jan travelled well and slept a lot which made the long journey easier. They were also making the journey with their friends from Denmark who had originally suggested the move to Canada. Family of those friends greeted them all at the airport and welcomed them home to a nice Danish meal.

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Elver and Grethe immigrated in a year when the Canadian government allowed immigrants to bring money into the country. They had sold their furniture and vehicle, and while it was not a lot, they were one of the fortunate young families who arrived in Calgary with some financial



Elver and Grethe, in 1990

resources. That allowed them to rent a furnished basement suite right away. Grethe says she was extremely homesick those first several months and often said if she could have walked on water she would have gone home a thousand times.

Elver and Grethe were both quickly employed at the General Hospital; Grethe as a nurse and Elver as an electrician helping build the north wing. Grethe was paid \$280 dollars a month and Elver's first paycheck was \$165. Elver immediately went out and proudly bought the family a new used car! In 1958 their second son, Michael Paul Olsen, was born and they made the upgrade to a two bedroom house.

Elver went on to start his own electrical business, Scandia Electric, in 1961, the year their third son, Tony Brian Olsen was born. Elver also built the family home, which they would stay in until 2017. In 1961 they also bought a new truck. A busy year! Together with Jan, Elver owned and operated Scandia Electric until 1998. As an electrical and general contractor he constructed the building Scandia was in and several others in Calgary. In 1964, Linda Chris Olsen was born, and their family was complete.

As a business owner Elver continuously educated himself. He was a skilled master electrician and passed on that knowledge to his employees. They were so well trained and inspired by Elver that a few of them decided to branch out and start their own businesses and went on to be successful themselves.

Elver worked alongside his partner, Helmut, and son Jan, for many years and was always forgiving when his key people made mistakes. He was well respected by engineers and peers. Everyone noticed how happy and positive he always was. Elver would take on challenging projects no one else would take. Any job that was complex and had been turned down by others, Elver would not shy away from. His message was simple, "Yes, we will take care of you. You can trust me to keep my word." He would never let anyone down, and on those difficult jobs he would add with a big smile, "The impossible only takes a little bit longer." A saying Jan still uses today.

One client of Scandia Electric, summed up his experience with Elver like this; "I knew your father when I lived in Calgary. We had a hotel on Macleod Trail and your dad was our electrician. It's not often you remember someone you worked with only a handful of times. I always looked forward to your dad visiting. He would share his wisdom and experience as I was just starting out in my career. He was always kind, generous and well humored. He spent lots of time and was never in a rush. I still think of him from time to time after fifteen years. He was a gentle man and made a lasting impression on me and I imagine on many others."

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Elver and Grethe's 60th Wedding Anniversary - 2015

While Elver worked hard to build and maintain his business, he was also committed to supporting and giving back to the community and his industry. He served multiple terms as President of the Electrical Contractors Association of Alberta, President of the Danish Businessmen's Association, which he co-founded, and President of the Danish Canadian Club. For 49 years he was a Trustee for the Electrical Contractors Pension Fund, as well as the Health and Welfare Fund. Elver's contribution to the electrical industry is recognized with the naming of a boardroom after him at the association's main office in Edmonton.

Elver volunteered with the Lions Club for over 45 years, serving as President and was proudly awarded a Lifetime Membership. His volunteer work with the group was focused on raising funds and support for people who were blind, and building and maintaining the Lions Youth Camp. He also served as the chef de mission for Denmark, during the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, offering support to the team of athletes and officials.

Elver was one of the founders and operators of the Lions Festival of Lights in Calgary's Confederation Park. He spent hours volunteering each year to erect the popular displays, which have been a holiday staple in Calgary for decades. While the electrical work on the job became more challenging as he grew older, it was truly a labour of love and he appreciated being able to present the citizens of Calgary, and visitors, with that beautiful holiday display.

Elver was very handy and could fix or build just about anything. It was knowledge that he loved to share with his children and grandchildren, spending time with them in his workshop and home

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garage through the years. He especially put his talents and knowledge to work building his dream cabin at the family's summer property in Windermere, British Columbia. Elver started taking the family there in 1971, and with help from his three boys, built the cabin that still stands today full of many memories. He was instrumental in bringing water and power service to the community and creating the local community association. Summer days were spent water-skiing with his children, working on the cabin, and then enjoying a cold beer on the patio.



Jan and Elver - 1994

Elver was famous for running into the cold lake as a way to wake up in the morning or taking a cold outdoor shower, what he always called his 'Viking shower!' His shower singing would even wake those sleeping in the cabin. The Windermere cabin was more than a summer get-away, it was a gift to his family so they would have a place to come together and enjoy the beautiful mountains that Elver and Grethe had come to love so much.

Elver's exceptional workmanship and electrical skills were valued by his customers at Scandia Electric for decades, but also called upon by his own family. He would spend hours helping his children work on their own homes and it never felt like work for him, he just wanted to be there for his family, a theme that defines who he was.

The theme was also shared by Grethe, whose primary goal has always been to be there to support her children and husband. With a houseful of kids by the early 1960's, Grethe decided to be a stay-at-home mom, which she did for 15 years. In 1976, she saw an ad to become a real estate agent and thought it would be better hours than going back to nursing, but as it turns out, the hours were long and not kind to family life. Still, she enjoyed the work, especially helping people find the house that was exactly right for them. Soon she was in the Million Dollar Club and had won many awards in real estate, including a trip to Hawaii.

Then in 1982, Grethe switched gears again and joined Mary Kay Cosmetics as a sales consultant, realizing she could set her own hours and still be there for her family. It is a career she is still pursuing after almost 40 years and has enjoyed all along. In 1983, Grethe became a sales director, teaching and training a group of cosmetic consultants. Her ability to sell and inspire resulted in great success with Mary Kay, winning many awards including two of those pink cars! This was the ultimate symbol of achievement in the company.

Grethe is happy to say she had three different and interesting careers where she could be successful, while also giving her time as a volunteer. She helped with the Lionettes Club, working on some of the same causes as Elver, helping those with impaired vision and the youth camp.

BIOGRAPHIES



Grandson Riley's wedding in 2020

Elver passed away on August 13, 2020 with Grethe and Linda by his side, leaving Grethe, Jan, Michael, Tony, Linda, and eleven grandchildren with great sadness, but also such joy and gratefulness for having such a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather in their lives. His kindness, integrity, and wisdom will stay with us and those he helped guide and support in his and Grethe's new home of Canada. Elver had many sayings he would often share, most importantly was to "just be good to each other every day." We will do that, dear dad.

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Dania - Celebrating 80 years!

Torben Hansen, Director, Dania, Burnaby

Together Dania Society and Dania Home Society provide an all-inclusive Campus of Care in the City of Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. Located on seven acres of lush land adjacent to the Danish Lutheran Church, Dania houses Dania Home, Dania Manor, the Carl Mortensen Manor and a soon-to-be-built new residence for an additional 155 seniors.

It is unlikely that the founders of Dania would ever have imagined that their daring initiative would flourish into the Campus of Care that Dania has become. Yet, here we are as Dania celebrates 80 years of service to the community, while it continues to expand its services.

The initiative to launch a Seniors Home came from Danish Consul L.L. Jessen who offered up his church bonds worth \$1000 and Mr. Carl Mortensen, then living in Ponoka, Alberta, who donated an additional \$3000. This is how Dania started, then officially chartered as “West Canada Danish Old People’s Home”.

Over the decades numerous people have generously contributed financially and given their time, labour and wisdom, to support Dania.

Dania has enjoyed steadfast support from the various local authorities, such as the City of Burnaby, B.C. Housing Corporation as well as the Fraser Health Authority. Our building partners, NSDA as architects, CPA as our consultants and VanMar Construction as our building contractor, have been valuable

partners. As a daily service we have CareCorp for care staffing and Angel Food Service for meals and housekeeping. Of course there are many other organizations that we value as our partners in our day-to-day activities, such as the maintenance of our buildings and ensuring the safety and comfort of all the residents on our Campus of Care.

Over the years we have also benefitted from close cooperation with our Scandinavian friends at Normanna and the Swedish Canadian Rest Home. In partnership with Normanna, and other generous donors, Dania has acquired a bus which provides transportation for residents for outings in and around the lower mainland. The success of Dania is our partnerships, our people and our values of trust, respect, caring, commitment and diversity, while maintaining our Danish heritage.



Main entrance to Dania Home

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Dania has changed considerably since it was founded in 1941 with a purse of \$4000 to meet the specific needs of the Danish community. Today Dania serves all nationalities in our community while maintaining Danish values.

Over the years buildings to house seniors have been constructed on the site and later replaced with larger and more efficiently designed accommodation for the various types of care that is needed today. As we celebrate our 80th anniversary a new and larger building with 155 low cost housing units for seniors is in the final stages of planning and moving through the municipal building permit approval process.



*Draft drawing of our new 155 unit independent housing residence
On the corner of Canada Way and Norland Avenue, Burnaby*

Dania Today

The Campus of Care that Dania provides extends from low cost independent housing to assisted living and complex care. Dania Manor, built in 1973, contains fifty assisted living suites. Our funding partner for forty of the units is the Fraser Health Authority and the building is currently undergoing renovation as suites become available.

Carl Mortensen Manor, built in 1993 in cooperation with B.C. Housing, is a social living residence for seniors with moderate income. Residents at Carl Mortensen Manor live

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independently, and each suite has its own kitchen, even though a meal service is available for a small fee. The Manor has 49 one bedroom suites and two guest suites. The building also houses the largest auditorium on campus, available not only for various day-to-day activities for the residents, but also for rent to outside organizations and for private functions. A fully equipped kitchen is connected to the auditorium. The Manor is a neighbour to the Danish Lutheran Church and between the two buildings there is a popular community garden

where tenants can display their gardening skills. Over the years Carl Mortensen Manor has been home to many residents of Danish heritage.

Dania Home, a residential care facility, also funded by the Fraser Health Authority, is our most recently completed building, commissioned in 2015 and now home to 102 residents. It provides residential care for residents with advanced needs on a day-to-day basis. Six of the suites are made available for respite for individuals from the general community in need of temporary complex care support. All suites are self-contained units with overhead lifts should that be required. The building consists of six neighbourhoods with seventeen suites. Each neighbourhood has its own dining room, living and activity centre in addition to care stations and support services, in order to limit the spread of infectious diseases. In this connection we are pleased to report that during the Covid-19 pandemic we have so far been able to keep our campus free of an outbreak.



Dania Home as seen from Norland Avenue

At present Dania is in the process of realising its latest project, a 155-unit affordable independent housing residence for seniors in cooperation with the B.C. Housing Corporation. A proposal was submitted in September 2018 and already in November Dania was awarded \$14.2 million towards the cost of the building. Since then we have been working with both the B.C. Housing Corporation and the City of Burnaby to advance the project. In April 2021 our proposal obtained third reading, which means we can now proceed with obtaining the building permit. Needless to say we are very excited about this new project and look forward to being able to start building as soon as possible.

The new building will be the largest on campus occupying the land where the former Dania Home was located. Each unit in the building is designed to be 560 sq. ft. and the design of the building incorporates a number of features such as designated areas for social gatherings of

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residents, including a swanky community garden surrounding the building. The units will be available to a mix of income levels for seniors in the community.

The Dania Campus of Care is accredited by Accreditation Canada. Since 2010 Dania has been accredited with “exemplary status”. In 2018 Dania achieved a score of 98%. Accreditation is a requirement of the B.C.’s Health Authorities to ensure that elderly citizens receive safe, competent care. We are delighted to share our results with you, ultimately exemplifying our commitment to your loved one’s safety, care, quality of life and wellbeing!



*November 2019 Remembrance Service at Dania
From left: Dania President Vena Chopra, Pastor Susanne Ivalo
Rasmussen, and Guardsmen Kenneth V. Olsen & Knud Nielsen,
respectively president and treasurer of PNWGF*

For updates and further information please visit our website at <http://www.dania.bc.ca/>
On our website you are able to join Dania and help further our vision.

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Five years at Ansgar

Rev. Lasse Hultberg, Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton

I will begin my story at the Edmonton Airport one of the last days of October 2015. The board of the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton had invited me and my wife, Frederikke, to visit the city, to meet the Pastor Selection Committee and to see the Church, the parsonage and its surroundings. Our flight from Toronto to Edmonton was delayed due to a severe storm on the East Coast. But the Church's treasurer, Bent Skousbøl, was waiting with patience for me and my wife and our youngest son who was only four months old at the time.

The first sentence, I heard in Edmonton, was in the Danish mainland dialect, "rav jysk": "we' I ha' klar sup' mæ båller!" Of course, we were more than ready for some real Danish homemade soup. We had been away from Denmark for almost twenty hours! We were far away from home and needed more than anything some homemade comfort in the wonderful home of the Church's treasurer and his wife! With this sentence of care in a very concrete sense, we immediately connected in our mind and hearts with Bent Skousbøl and his wife, Jasha, as well as the Danish community in Edmonton. We knew instantly that we were on the same page, and that Edmonton must be a good place to live and work as a Danish pastor.



The Hultberg family at our first Service at Ansgar, Thaddæus was 7 months old, Ambrosius was 8 years old and Cordelius was 14

Our first visit to Edmonton was short and hectic, but one thing was clear after those few days: Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton and its congregation is incredibly special. It is a heart-warming community where you will feel at home right away. It is a caring fellowship with all the encouragement and support you need in good times as well as in times of trial. You cannot find at a better place in this world. This was my verdict of Ansgar back then and hasn't changed a bit since.

So, we took the leap and moved the entire family to Edmonton. Frederikke, Cordelius, Ambrosius, Thaddæus and I arrived at our new home on one of the first days in March 2016.

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This time a big crowd from the Church came to welcome us at the airport. Again they waited a long time as we had to go through the immigration office. Finally, out of the airport, our many bags were loaded on to one truck, and we climbed into another. Niels Hansen was driving the truck we were in, and he talked about how happy he was about us coming to Edmonton. We were happy too. This was a true adventure for us. But I don't think we were that communicative that night. We were very tired. I hope we have made it up to Niels and wife, Connie, since then.

And for sure, we have been happy living and working in Edmonton since that day more than five years ago. The congregation at Ansgar has just been wonderful, and welcoming. We have become part of a Church family that appreciates its roots in the Danish culture but is still open to new people and new impulses. It has been like coming home to something well-known, but never static, a wonderful place to be, and a marvelous place to live and grow.

From the beginning of our time here in Edmonton, my wife, Frederikke, has been a highly active part of the Church's ministry. Frederikke has been a full-time mom taking care of our entire family, but she has also shared her talents and her compassionate approach to Christian life with the congregation. Her way to be there for other people has been highly valued by the congregation. Her care, enthusiasm and creativity has brought joy and sparked many activities in our little Church.



*Frederikke leading our Church owls play group
With songs and fun for the youngest in the congregation*

Danish traditions are important to most parishioners of Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton. One of my main objectives as a Pastor of the Church has been to keep the Danish traditions alive. Fastelavn, Shrove Sunday, is one the merriest of Danish traditions. We always have a full house on Fastelavn Sunday with a festive family service followed by Danish Shrovetide traditions in the Church basement: "slå-katten-af-tønden!" (beating the "cat" out of the barrel), Danish homemade cream buns, and of course, many parishioners dressed up in costumes. We all need fun in life and at Church with due respect of course to the main purpose of the Church, to bring comfort, solace, and hope to those in sorrow and loss.

Another dear tradition that we have enjoyed at Ansgar is the Lucia-pageant. It has been a part of the evening Advent service that is followed by our traditional "julestue". The Church buzzes with life and joy that evening and in the basement after the service "æbleskiver" are baked and enjoyed. Hot rice pudding, "risengrød", and Danish cookies are served, too. We only miss a nice pot of "nisseøl" to go with the sweet goodness that brings back memories of joyful days that have passed.

In 2017, Lutheran Churches all around the world celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Ansgar was no exception. Among many other activities we planted a reformation

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tree, a combination apple tree with five different kinds of apples, symbolising the many branches of Christ and how we can and should live together in harmony and respect for each other. The study group immersed themselves in Martin Luther's Small Catechism. And in the fall, on November 10th, we celebrated in the Church Basement the birth of Martin Luther by enjoying a wonderful duck dinner as is the tradition in Denmark on "Mortens Aften", the Eve of Saint Martin. This fundraising dinner replaced the Thanksgiving Turkey dinner that volunteers had brought to the congregation. The duck dinner was so popular that it has now replaced the Turkey Dinner as an annual event at Ansgar.



Celebration of "Dannebrog", the Danish Flag a few days before Waldemar's Dag, June 13, 2019

However, the peak of the 2017 celebrations was the Reformation Walk on Reformation Sunday, the last Sunday in October. I contacted the pastor of our neighbouring Saint John Lutheran Church where many parishioners have a German background. Reverend Sigmar Reichel knew the pastor at New Life Chinese Lutheran Church a few blocks away, and together we organised the Church Walk between the three Lutheran Churches with short devotions at each Church. The walk also included a visit to the Catholic Church, Sacred Heart of the First Nations, where we in ecumenical spirit were warmly received.

My family and I have spent many wonderful hours with the congregation during the past five years. It is difficult to pick out only a few things that should be mentioned. So many visits and studies and meeting of many kinds! But maybe I am most happy about how we have managed to start a congregational choir again. Singing brings people together. We form a unity. We create

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harmony. We bring joy and spirit to the congregation at the services. I am so grateful that it has been possible for us to recreate the choir, which I gladly conduct.

We have also had many wonderful celebrations on Sunday as well as on other occasions. One, however, stands out: The celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Danish flag, “Dannebrog”, on June 13, 2019. This was the Sunday a few days before the actual day, “Waldemar’s Day”, June 15. It happened to be the Day of Pentecost. We had a festive service with the choir participating. After the service, we consecrated a new set of flags for the Church, both Dannebrog and The Maple Leaf. After a short photo session, we went into the Church Basement for a real Danish Canadian potluck. It was a day full of spirit, full of happiness, and full of joy. If I will remember nothing else of the last five years as a pastor at Ansgar, I will remember this hallowed day.



Goodbye photo from the camp of 2019, also featuring the seraph-angels made by campers

Or maybe this is not completely true. Because there have been so many wonderful and meaningful moments with so many warm-hearted parishioners of both serious as well as of a cheerful nature. And I feel that it has all come together at our Church camps in July. These camps have been deeply appreciated by all those who have participated. They have been true family camps with all generations represented, and we have enjoyed true fellowship and community, being together and doing lots of exciting activities together. We have made food together, studied together, played and relaxed together, enjoyed the lakeside together, made crafts together, danced Scandinavian folkdances together, gathered around the camp fire and worshiped together. Togetherness, fellowship, and support of one another have been the main keys of success at these wonderful camps. The spirit of togetherness is what makes Ansgar Church so special.

Since March 2020, things have been much different for all of us, due to Covid-19. There are fewer events to talk about. But the Ansgar Church has been active even in these strange times

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and has promoted fellowship and community. I have been on the phone with many parishioners almost daily and encouraged them to keep in contact with one another as we don't get together at the Church. Nevertheless, the Church has been present online with services and cultural broadcasts. One thing that I have enjoyed immensely has been the short children's broadcasts featuring my youngest son, Thaddæus, and the Church Donkey, Hosannah in the Highest, together with me. It has been a blessing for me to work with both, and I believe that their interaction has brought joy and enlightenment to many parishioners, young at heart.



L to R: Hosannah in the Highest, Thaddæus and Pastor Lasse

hope that the parishioners of Ansgar as well as the wider Danish community in Edmonton and Alberta will continue to support this unique place, our spiritual home. It is now needed more than ever. The entire community must step up and secure the future of our wonderful Church in Edmonton.

While the Ansgar Church is a unique community, we are also a community which is open to the world around us, but particularly to the Danish community in Edmonton. I have worked to bring the various parts of the Danish community together through my involvement with the Danish Canadian Society DANIA. For about 100 years DANIA has brought Danes together for Christmas parties, dances, Danish Constitution Day, campouts, sports, fundraising and cultural events. Together DANIA and Ansgar have decisive roles to play in our shared community. Most members of DANIA have some connection to the Church, and many are members. It is important that Ansgar and DANIA stand together to ensure a future for both in Edmonton. I have personally tried to strengthen the ties between the two organizations by joining the DANIA board of directors and by being present and active at DANIA events, above all by bringing Danish traditions and cultural aspects into play. I have conducted the Ansgar Sunday Service at the DANIA campout around midsummer, with many of the campers attending, and parishioners from Ansgar coming out to the grounds for the Sunday Service. These sermons have focussed on the connection between Danish culture and Christian values and beliefs. For instance, I have told the story of Saint Ansgar coming to Scandinavia to conduct missionary work in the 9th century, as well as how the monk Poppo converted King Harold Bluetooth of Denmark to Christianity in the 960s. In 2019 we celebrated the 800th anniversary of the Danish flag with a ceremony at the campground. I recounted how Dannebrog became the most loved flag of any country in the

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world (at least according to the Danes). All these events and developments have decidedly shaped Danish history and Danish identity. These cultural inputs have been my contribution to the campout. We have also held a Sankt Hans bonfire every year, where we sing traditional Danish songs and enjoy snogbrød, bread on a stick. All these many events and get-togethers go a long way to strengthened both DANIA and Ansgar, and in the process strengthen the cultural identity of the Danish community.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Canada for welcoming us so warmly and generously. As a Danish pastor, I am a visitor to Canada. That is my status here. But my family and I have enjoyed almost every aspect of Canadian society; free health care and schooling for my children among other things. My oldest son has graduated from high school and started at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. My son Ambrosius has been given the opportunity to study with Edmonton's best violinists, 1st violinist Laura Veeze and Concertmaster Robert Uchida from the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Thaddæus is completely fluent in both Danish and English and is now studying at a French Immersion School. Moreover, we have all fallen in love with this beautiful country. Many hikes and fishing trips in Alberta and British Columbia will be remembered and cherished in our hearts and minds for the rest of our lives.

We are so thankful for the opportunity to live in Canada almost as if we were a part of this country. We appreciate how open and supporting most people are here in Canada. There is no "jantelov" here. You praise the successes of your neighbour and mention to one another what is good and beautiful. Canadians have a fantastic attitude toward life. And in particular, the Danish community here in Edmonton has been marvelous to us in every way. The best of Denmark and the best of Canada come together in this community. This has made us feel at home, right away, on "the last frontier". As many other generations before us we have been warmly welcomed.



The Hultberg family at Cordelius' High School graduation party, 2019

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Første og tredje søndag på dansk
Second and fourth Sunday in English
Pastor Lasse Hultberg



Sisterhood Lodge 179

Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Jannet Tricarico, Editor/1st Trustee, Dogwood Lodge 179

In 1966 when Margaret Esrom of Portland, Oregon, was elected President of the Pacific North West District of the Danish Sisterhood of America it was her personal goal to organize a Danish Sisterhood Lodge in Vancouver, British Columbia. To launch a sisterhood lodge in Vancouver Margaret proposed an organizational meeting with the wives of the men who were members of the Danish Brotherhood, Lodge 328. In February 1967 Margaret, her husband Magnus and Florence Nielsen came to Vancouver, and while the Brothers were holding their monthly meeting at the Hastings Auditorium, Margaret met with fourteen ladies in the adjoining hall. Her proposal was endorsed by most of the ladies present. At the meeting Marie Johansen was appointed President Pro Tem. As well, Karen Pedersen pointed out that the meeting should be conducted in English, and thus Marie was the logical person for President as she was born in Canada. For the next four years we operated under the name Danish Sisterhood of Vancouver.

At the next National Convention in September 1970, the delegates voted to approve us as an Associate Lodge. Then on March 13, 1971 the Danish Sisterhood Dogwood Lodge 179 was officially installed. Lilly Kain, National Trustee, together with Pacific North West District Past President Margaret Esrom as Marshall, installed the Vancouver group of sixteen as the Danish Sisterhood Lodge 179. The Dogwood Lodge name was taken from British Columbia's floral emblem. Unfortunately three members were unable to attend due to illness.

Elected as officers and members of Dogwood Lodge 179 were the following:

Marie Johansen – President	Elsie Johannesen – Member
Eleanor Pedersen – Vice President	Anna Rasmussen – Member
Lilly Bruhn – Secretary	Edith Taedler – Member
Vera Pedersen – Treasurer	Agnes Jessen – Member
Edith Jensen – 1st Trustee	Gwen Sorel – Member
Lillian Andreasen – 2nd Trustee	Kirsten Sorensen – Member
Inger Christensen – 3rd Trustee	Kate Rytter – Member
Rita Sigvardsen – Marshall	Hanne Pedersen – Member
Elly Nielsen – Guard	Karen Pedersen – Member

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Out of the original charter members eight received their 25-year Pin in 1996. They are Marie Johansen, Lilly Bruhn, Edith Jensen, Inger Christensen, Karen Pedersen, Hanne Pedersen, Anna Rasmussen, and Ritta Sigvardsen.

In 1987 in the interest of sharing the rich culture of Denmark the delegates at the National Convention opened Danish Sisterhood membership to any woman who is of Danish descent, or who has a strong interest in Danish culture and traditions.

Over the years Delegates and Alternates from the Dogwood Lodge have participated in the National Conventions, which take place every four years in the fall. So far the Danish Sisterhood of America has held 27 National Conventions. The first Convention was held in 1887 in Burlington, Iowa. The most recent one held was held in Omaha, Nebraska, in 2019.



Since our Dogwood Lodge was founded, the Lodge has sent Delegates and Alternates to the Pacific North Conventions. The North West District consists of six lodges in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. Conventions are held yearly in the spring. The first was held in 1950 in Portland, Oregon. The 71st Convention was to be held in Seattle in 2021 but was cancelled due to the Corona Virus. Some of the officers from Lodge 179 have served as President of the Pacific North West District. They are Marie Johansen (1975), Gertha Marcussen (1979), Bente Pedersen (1982), Kate Praegel (1992), Tina Praegel (2006) and Jannet Tricarico (2015).



Jannet Tricarico, Vicky Baker, Judith Jensen and Korey Jensen, PNW Bowling Tournament - Seattle, 2010

Our Lodge has participated in the annual PNW bowling tournaments and over the years we have managed to win some of the trophies. Locally, Lodge 179 and the Danish Brotherhood Lodge 328 have held an annual Andespil (Bingo) since 1977. For this event the Brothers are in charge of the Bingo and the Sisters make up to 400 open face sandwiches.

Our Dogwood Lodge Newsletter is sent to members four times a year. It not only carries news about our Lodge and upcoming events but also other news of interest to our members. We email it to 98% of our members and send it by regular mail to the rest who are without computers. This has saved us a lot of money in postage.

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In 2007 we started a small local website for members only. Then in 2009 we created a professional Lodge 179 website. It includes articles about Danish culture and traditions and features a photo gallery with pictures from our various events. Our website has had numerous visitors and we have received favourable feedback and positive comments. The address is www.danishsisterhood.ca.

In 2010 our Lodge established our own “Dogwood Pet Club”. Today we enrol and accept all kinds of pet-members from Canada, the United States and Denmark. It is a great little fundraiser for our Lodge and a different way to connect members through their pets. It also shows that Danes are a pet-friendly people!

Our Lodge holds business meetings on the third Thursday of each month, except in July, August and December. The Sisters meet at Dania Home’s Carl Mortensen Manor, 4035 Norland Avenue in Burnaby at 5:30 pm. In addition we hold four social gatherings yearly where the date, location and time will be advised to members.

The Board consists of nine Officers: President, Past President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, three Trustees and a Marshall. The President presides over all meetings, distributes the agenda and conduct the Ritual according to the Constitution. Our Past President is Connie Frederiksen, and our current President is Tina Taylor.

Marie Johansen **	1971 – 1972
Elly Nielsen **	1973 – 1974
Lillian Andreassen **	1975 - 1976
Gertha Marcussen**	1977 – 1978
Karen Elmberg **	1979 – 1980
Bente Pedersen **	1981 – 1984
Inge Paquette **	1985 – 1986
Marie Johansen **	1987 – 1988
Lilly Bruhn	1989 – 1992
Kate Praegel **	1993 – 1999
Bente Pedersen **	2000 – 2003
Judith Jensen	2004 – 2005
Kate Praegel **	2006 – 2007
Jannet Tricarico	2008 – 2010
Judith Jensen	2011 – 2012
Linda Kuhlman	2013 – 2014
Sandra Alexander	2015 - 2017
Linda Kuhlman	2018 – 2019
Connie Frederiksen	2019 – 2020
Tina Taylor	2021 –
<i>** denotes deceased</i>	

Over the years we have organized many social functions and fundraising events such as pot luck dinners, whist drives, bazaars, Valentine Parties, St. Patrick’s Days (where everyone come dressed in something green), Summer Picnics, Halloween Parties, where members show up in funny or scary outfits, as well as Christmas parties, which are truly *hyggelige*.

We have participated in the Country Fair at Dania Home, the Alexandra Multicultural Festival, plus several other activities. From the proceeds we have donated money to various needy organizations. At the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby we participate in Danish Constitution Day (Grundlovsfest), the popular and festive ‘Kroaften’, as well as the Midsummer Festival, where our baked goods are sold out within the first two hours. Moreover, our Dogwood Lodge is a member of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada and The Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta. We often send a delegate to their annual conferences, held across Canada.

ORGANIZATIONS

Our Dogwood Lodge was the first Sisterhood Lodge organized in Canada. It was founded in the United States. The Sisterhood was started by Mrs. Christine Hemmingsen in Negaunee, Michigan, on December 15, 1883, as Dansk Søster Samfund. The Sisterhood logo still says DSS,



Front Row, L to R:

Ulla Prip Larsen, Lilly Bruhn, Nelly Pedersen

Back Row, L to R:

Tina Taylor, Rita Frederiksen, Linda Kuhlman, Ritta Sigvardsen, Linda Larsen and Jannet Tricarico.

even though the name was later changed to the Danish Sisterhood of America. The first Lodge in Negaunee was named Christine Lodge Number 1. At the first meeting it was decided that members of the Danish Brotherhood could become social members of the Sisterhood. Thus, in addition to the eleven women who were installed as active member, twenty men, members of Danish Brotherhood Lodge 6, were initiated as social members. The Sisterhood held its first Convention in 1887, and thanks to the encouragement and support of the Danish Brotherhood, the Sisterhood has continued to grow as an independent organization.

The Sisterhood also supported the war effort during the Second World War. In 1946 the Sisterhood received a letter thanking the American lodges for the books donated to the colleges of Denmark.

The 138-year-old history of the Danish Sisterhood of America is an important part of our organization. It allows us to understand how the Danish Sisterhood was established, who stood behind it and the evolution of our organization. It gives us the opportunity to see where we have been, and the roads taken to get to where we are today. In our archives we can read and appreciate the groundwork of our founding Sisters and how incredible it is that the Danish Sisterhood has been able to withstand the test of time and survive as a viable organization.

Lodge 179 is proud to be part of the largest Danish women's organization in North America with over 2,000 active members in 43 lodges, of which 41 are in the United States and two are in Canada. The other Canadian Sisterhood Lodge is located in Port Huron/Sarnia, situated on the Michigan/Ontario border.

In 2021 we can celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we will not be able to celebrate this milestone the way we had hoped. However, Dogwood Lodge 179 will continue to pursue the ideals of the founders as well as to preserve and actively promote the heritage, traditions, and culture of Denmark for the benefit of future generations.



Salem Church burns down

**June (Nielsen) Huston, with Photographs by Debby Jensen
Pass Lake Historical Society**

On September 28, 2019, the Congregation of Salem Lutheran Church in Pass Lake, Ontario, celebrated its 90th Anniversary. The happy events, as well as a short history, were written up in the Danish Federation's 2020 Heritage Book.

Tragically fire levelled our beloved Church in the early hours of June 9, 2020. The loss of this spiritual, ethnic, and historic treasure has been a devastating blow to the Community and to everyone associated with it. It was the first building constructed communally by the Danish settlers and a clear sign that the fledging community was here to stay.

The Volunteer Fire Department was quick to respond, but the fire had a head start and the main Church and its contents were consumed by flames on its arrival. By daybreak, word had spread, and many local residents came to watch helplessly and in utter disbelief. The fire department managed to lower the intensity of the fire in the newer part (the hall) so that the contents of the fireproof filing cabinets, which stored the records of Salem and those of the Pass Lake Historical Society were saved mostly intact.



View after the fire, taken by a drone

The Church had a long and storied past. The Salem Danish Lutheran Congregation of Pass Lake was founded on November 20, 1927 in the presence of Pastor Jens Knudsen, Calgary, Alberta, and became a part of the West Canada District of The United Danish Evangelical Church in America. The blueprints were drawn by Danish architect Anton Holnn-Møller, who designed several Danish churches in Canada. On October 30, 1931, the foundation stone for the church was laid. A time capsule was placed in the

concrete foundation. Against all odds in this small isolated Danish pioneer settlement, the church was already completed in 1932 and thrived until 2020.

ORGANIZATIONS



Both the cornerstone and the time capsule were recovered during excavation. The time capsule consisted of a sealed glass bottle with papers tightly rolled up inside. It revealed the events of the day and a copy of the Constitution of “Salem Danske Evangeliske Lutherske Menighed af Pass Lake”.

The cause of the fire has not yet been confirmed. At present no firm decision has been made to rebuild, although that is being contemplated with several proposals having been submitted for consideration. Perhaps one day, the words found in the time capsule and repeated in the sign over the old church doors “By the Grace of God Only” will once again find a place in a new church in Pass Lake.



GREETINGS FROM THE DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO

“ Where Friends and Family gather for Worship, Fellowship, and Danish Culture



facebook.com/danishchurchtoronto  danishchurchtoronto.ca
youtube.com/c/danishchurchtoronto  72 Finch Ave W, Toronto,
instagram.com/danishchurchtoronto  M2N 2H4, Ontario
danishchurchtoronto.ca/newsletter  +1 416-222-2494

ORGANIZATIONS



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Danish Canadian Museum

Connie Swarbrick, First Vice President

It has been a very different year at the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta, as well as throughout the world. Last summer, the Museum and café were completely closed, and a small but mighty workforce did their best to keep the gardens from going completely wild. Although it was different, the year has been very productive in securing grants to ensure sustainability and looking critically at operations and areas to improve workflow and quality.



The Board of Directors has a full slate of directors and officers. The recruitment of new directors has been successful over the past year and we are very proud of the expertise which we now have on the board. The Board of Directors has been reviewing policies and has recently passed an updated vision, mission, and mandate, as they were required for grant applications.

Our Vision: To share our unique Danish Canadian heritage and culture. Our Mission: To collect, preserve and promote Danish Canadian history and culture. Our Mandate: To preserve the archival repository and share the story of the Danish Canadian experience and culture locally, provincially, and nationally through living history, dynamic displays, virtual presence, cultural experiences, and events.



ORGANIZATIONS

With the Museum closed to the public, much work was done in transitioning to a new website. While updating the website an online blog, available to members only, was created and a number of new memberships were sold, and our online following was increased significantly.

This year saw the continuation of some events and the creation of others. As restrictions loosened in the late summer and early fall, Susan Hayduk, our manager, was successful in extending summer job grants and worked to open the grounds for some Halloween fun. Over 1,300 visitors enjoyed the Haunted Forest, and a lot of new visitors discovered our little gem.

Building upon this success, Susan and her crew developed Jul Nats at the Museum to enjoy the festive season with walks among the lighted forest, warmups at the fires, hot chocolate, coffee, and pre-booked ventures into the Café for either meals or desserts. Unfortunately, this was cut short by escalating Covid numbers in Alberta, but the short enterprise was successful and has provided a template for the future. In anticipation for Jul Nats, the Café received a quick but much needed refresh with new window valances, tablecloths, and seasonal décor.



Throughout the winter months, Susan worked to secure much needed grants to continue operations of the Museum and to hire new staff. She was successful in obtaining grants to create four new positions to improve the workload at the Museum. With these positions approved, a new organizational structure was approved by the board. This new structure will ensure that Susan can delegate many of the daily operations to the four coordinator positions and focus her time on strategic planning and grant writing. In total, the Museum will receive over \$168,000 for wages from provincial and federal grants. Well done, Susan! The seasonal staff and coordinators have all begun their employment and the work is progressing quickly on some projects at the Museum.

ORGANIZATIONS

A full slate of grounds crew has enabled the Museum's beauty to be preserved and improved under the direction of our grounds coordinator Jill Blocksom. The area around the garage and shed has been cleaned up and re-organized. A sea-can was purchased to house tents and outdoor items freeing up space in the garage for maintenance projects. Bramall Oil Field donated the moving of the sea-can (\$945) while the purchase of the sea-can was covered by a grant and the remainder was donated by Lonestar Consulting. A local arborist assisted with the removal of weakened trees near the building and the wood is being sold to cover those costs. The fence and gate are nearing completion with the help from Aspen Developments and Monty Hindbo. The caps and rock are complete, and Monty will fabricate the metal work between the stone pillars. He has graciously donated the labour for the metal work (\$8,000) and Anne Lise Pedersen (Bedstemor) generously donated for the rest of the project over the last two years totalling over \$25,000. It will be quite a showpiece when it is completed and will include a metal rendering of the prow from our logo.



A survey of the buildings and a list of the projects that they will require have been compiled. The Dagmar Church's roof has a leak which requires repairs along with some minor wood maintenance. The Thomsen Cabin requires some major repairs, and we are awaiting quotes on the work required to keep it in good condition. The chinking and windows need maintenance and pest infestations of the logs need to be addressed.

The security and monitoring systems were upgraded, which will ensure the Museum is protected and will enable us to host visiting exhibitions from other museums. It will also reduce some of our wages for checking the building daily in the off-season. Many thanks go to Grant Hindbo for funding the cost of the security system not covered by the previously approved grant.

Our new collections and interpretation coordinator Jacq Patterson is hard at work planning new and interesting displays of our collection within the Museum in anticipation of an opening. She is going through the archives, which require some work as there is some damage from mold and pests which needs to be addressed. Improved archival storage will be needed to safely house our artifacts to preserve them properly for future generations. Much of this work will be completed over the winter.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Café is open for take out and a good number of visitors have already made visits for picnic lunch boxes and have enjoyed those on the grounds. The kitchen coordinator Dominique Robin and her staff have been experimenting with tasty treats that are easy to take outside.



The gift shop is adding new and unique items and a new online store will be present on our website. A grant was received to hire Dillon Richard who is a local attending the University of Victoria for graphic design. Check our website regularly for new items in the gift shop.



Covid has been a challenge for the Danish Canadian Museum, but it also stretched us to think creatively and gave us some time to reflect and spend some time planning for the future. There have been an increased number of volunteers contributing both locally and from afar for the betterment of the Museum.

We are looking forward to reopening to the public with many improvements both inside and out at the physical location and serving our wider membership with an improved online presence.

ORGANIZATIONS



2022 Event Schedule

May 1st Summer season starts

July 1st: Aebleskiver N Jam Day

Aug 20th & 21st: Viking Days

Aug 20th: Viking Feast

Oct 22nd & 23rd: Hans Christian Andersen Haunted Forest

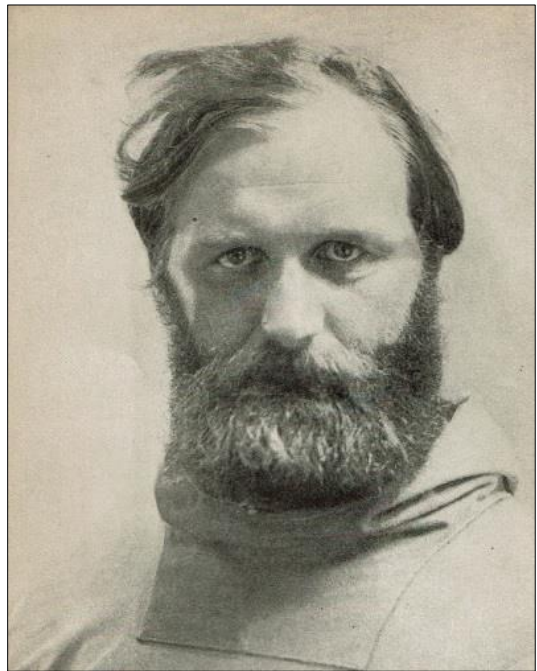
Nov 5th: Julestue Spruce View Hall

Our Mission is to: “Inspire, engage & educate about Danish Canadians.”

Knud Rasmussen and Peter Freuchen

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The year 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of Knud Rasmussen's launch of the three-year Fifth Thule Expedition, which included an impressive trek by dog sled across Arctic North America from Danish Island in Hudson Bay to the Bering Strait, which separates Alaska and Siberia. It remains the longest journey, some 18,000 km, ever made by dog sled. En route Knud Rasmussen and his two Greenlandic teammates had to endure extreme physical hardship, while they traversed a majestic and breathtaking landscape, in the process encountering a remarkable and courageous people who had learned to survive in a cold and hostile environment. Indeed, the goal of the expedition was specifically to meet these people who lived in these northern regions, and in the process learn about their way of life.



Peter Freuchen, (Arctic Adventure 1921)

In his *Book of the Eskimos* Peter Freuchen succinctly writes, “One of the purposes of the Fifth Thule Expedition was to throw some light upon the riddle of the origin of the Eskimo race, which had been puzzling scientists for years.” The book is exciting and extremely well written, giving an exhilarating account of the Inuit and their way of life. The book's Preface tells us that, “Peter Freuchen knew the Eskimos better than any white man in the world, his intimate knowledge of their ways being rivaled only by that of Knud Rasmussen, his friend and colleague.”

Previous European expeditions had not been interested in cultivating contact with the local inhabitants and learning about their culture, religion, myths, lifestyle and everyday hardships. Rather, they had been interested in surveying the land, finding the Northwest Passage or reaching the North Pole. In this respect the Fifth Thule Expedition was different from previous European forays into the North.

In 1910 Knud Rasmussen and Peter Freuchen had founded a trading station in northern Greenland which they called Thule. They had met earlier in Copenhagen, where Knud had asked Peter to become his partner in establishing a trading station in the extreme north of Greenland among the people who at the time were known as the Polar Eskimos, and who thus lived in northern Greenland outside Danish government jurisdiction. Peter was to be the manager of the Thule Station. Peter, in describing the Inuit who came to trade at the station, writes:

Everything about the Polar Eskimos, the way they look, the way they live, and even the way they think and feel, is largely determined by the extreme arctic conditions under which they live. In their isolated existence north of everywhere they love to receive visitors, and when they come running toward you to welcome you, all excited, they may, especially because of their heavy fur clothes, seem thickset and somewhat ferocious. The way to alleviate this impression is to smile. Deceit they have never known; they take a smile for what it is and return it. They smile often and willingly, and you soon learn to know them as warm and friendly, with a great capacity for humor and compassion.



Peter's wife, Navarana

Knud Rasmussen, the leader of the Fifth Thule Expedition, had been born in 1879 in Ilulissat (Jakobshavn) in western Greenland, which was under Danish jurisdiction. His father was a pastor and missionary. Peter Freuchen, on the other hand, had been born in Nykøbing on the Danish island of Falster in 1886. Peter was a very big man, two metres tall. His first marriage was to Navarana, a beautiful young Greenlandic woman. They had two children, Pipaluk and Mequsaq. Unfortunately, Navarana died from the terrible Spanish flu epidemic in 1921, which raged just prior to the launch of the Fifth Thule Expedition.

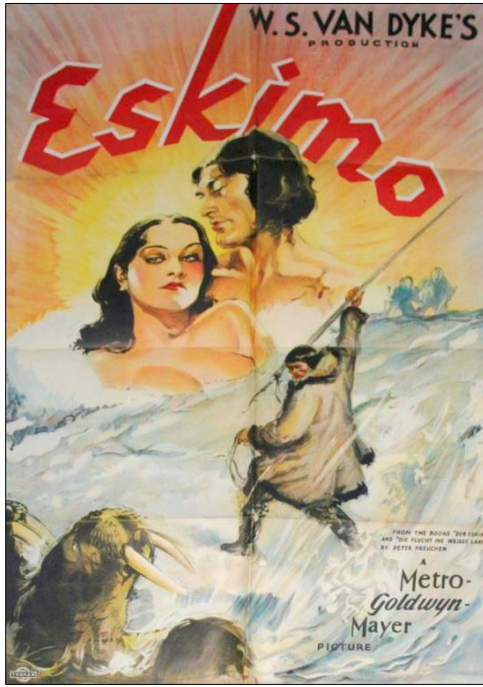


Captain of Søkongen Peder M. Pedersen, Knud Rasmussen and Peter Freuchen, (Arctic Adventure, 1921)

When Navarana died Peter wanted her to be buried in the old church cemetery in Upernavik. But the pastor refused to perform the burial as Navarana had not been baptized. Later in 1933 when Knud Rasmussen produced the movie *Palos Bruddefærd*, he chose the name Navarana for the female lead in the film.

Most of Knud Rasmussen's seven Thule Expeditions (1912-1933) centered on the geographic and ethnographic study of Greenland. The Fifth Thule Expedition, however, was different in that it focussed on North

America with the purpose of determining the origin of the Inuit people. For one, Knud Rasmussen discovered that many of their myths and legends, whether in Greenland or in Alaska, were similar if not identical. Moreover, Knud who spoke Greenlandic, discovered that he could easily communicate with the Inuit of Canada and Alaska.



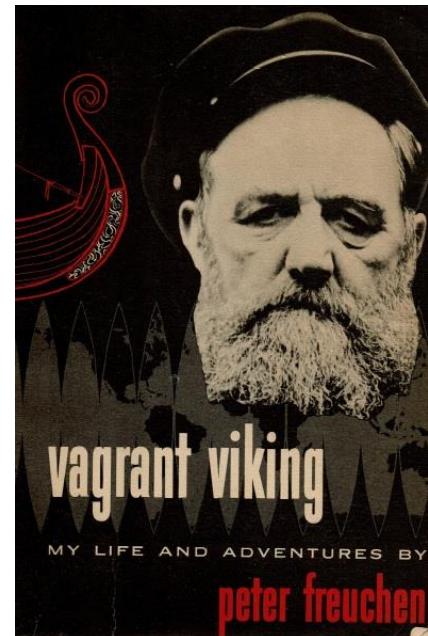
The Fifth Thule Expedition set out from Copenhagen in May 1921, with Knud Rasmussen and others, sailing to Greenland on board *Søkongen*. In Greenland they picked up more expedition members, the original full team consisting of seven Danes and seven Greenlanders. In September Peder M. Pedersen, captain of *Søkongen*, sailed the expedition team into Hudson Bay where they established a base camp on an island they named *Danskeøen* (Danish Island). From this camp the members of the expedition took numerous trips north and south to engage with the local Inuit people, in the process collecting data. The expedition lasted three years, ending with Knud, Miteq and Arnarulunguaq setting out on the long journey by dog sled along the Arctic Ocean to Alaska.

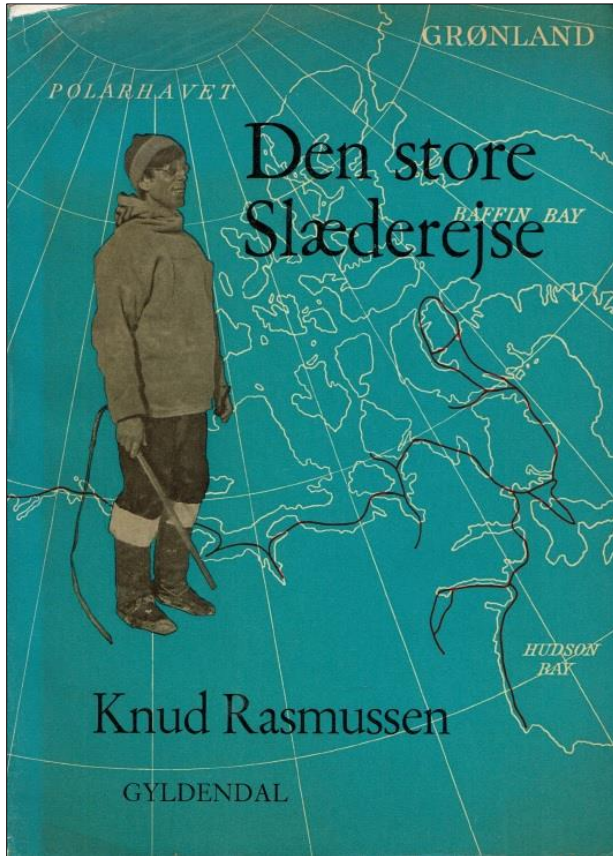
In other words, Peter Freuchen did not take part in the long trek across the continent, but conducted other scientific work. Moreover, Peter Freuchen made a major contribution with his many books. He wrote memoirs, travel books and books about the Inuit and the various expeditions. His books include novels, which were made into movies. His books were published in Danish, English and German. The 1933 movie *Eskimo*, produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer was based on his two books *Die flucht ins weisse land* (German) and *Eskimo* (English).

In 1938 Peter Freuchen took the initiative to create Eventyrernes Klub (The Adventurers' Club) at the University Café in Copenhagen. It has since grown from ten members to well over one-hundred. Many years later the Club erected an Eskimo Cairn near Langeliniebroen, the place in Copenhagen not far from The Little Mermaid, from where Peter had left Denmark for Greenland in 1906.

During the Second World War, when Denmark was occupied by Nazi Germany, Peter became active in the Danish resistance movement. Peter was taken prisoner by the Germans and sentenced to death, but he managed to escape and flee to Sweden, and later Greenland.

In 1956 Peter Freuchen won \$64,000 on the American TV game show *The \$64,000 Question*, a feat that brought him substantial publicity. The quiz show subject was *The Seven Seas*, where he answered all the questions correctly.





Peter Freuchen's book *Vagrant Viking - My Life and Adventures* was published in 1953, and in 1958 he published *I sailed with Rasmussen*. Peter was a prolific writer and in 1961 he published his *Book of the Eskimos*, which gives an impressive insight into this northern world. All three books contributed to the body of knowledge of the various expeditions as well as the Inuit, their culture and way of life.

After the Fifth Thule Expedition Knud Rasmussen wrote *Den store Slæderejse* (The Great Sled Journey) about the expedition. It was a popular book and has sold well over 100,000 copies in Denmark. It was dedicated to Denmark's youth and was often given to fourteen-year-olds when they were confirmed. While it is a book about the expedition it is also a book about the people he met and what they told him about their culture, traditions, legends and beliefs. Knud was able to record these matters in time before the missionaries, the RCMP and the Canadian federal government made their presence felt in

northern Canada, an intrusion which would change the traditional way of life of the Inuit forever. At the end of his book Knud Rasmussen wrote:

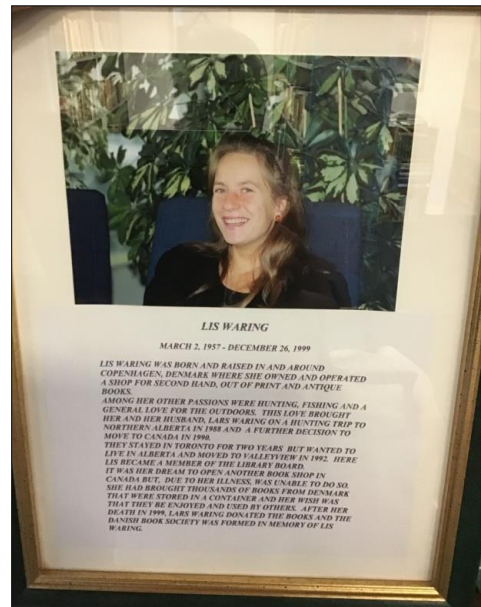
Let this mighty preaching be the last word in this book where I have tried to portray the Eskimo imagination and spirit. Within a few years, their religion will be just a saga, and the white man will have leveled everything and subjugated everything, the land and the people, their thoughts, their vision and their beliefs. It pleases me that I was able to go from settlement to settlement at a time when their minds were still imbued with authentic originality. In this way we also experienced the fantastic phenomenon that lies behind the fact that along the entire massive expanse from Greenland to the Pacific we not only encountered one people and one language, but also a culture that will always stand as an example of human resilience, strength and beauty.

Danish Book Society closes Danish Library

Birgit Wildenhoff, Edmonton

The Danish Book Society in Edmonton was dissolved in the fall of 2020 after twenty years of operation. Our library, as we called it, consisted of thousands of books in Danish and Icelandic. There was an abundance of fiction, history, classical works and many other categories by interesting authors and the library's closing was a difficult decision to make. We realized that the need for Danish language literature in Canada had greatly diminished with the aging and disappearance of the great Danish immigrant groups of the fifties and sixties. Many times, we lamented the fact that the library had not existed during those earlier years.

As written in the 2001 Heritage Book the library was started in October 2000. The books were a gift from Lars Waring and his deceased wife, Lis Waring. Lis had owned a second-hand book shop in Copenhagen where she was selling second hand as well as out of print books. Lars and Lis came to Canada in 1990 and lived in Valleyview, Alberta. She had brought a container with thousands of her old books and meant to open a shop here. However, she fell ill and passed away. Lars Waring contacted the Danish community in Edmonton, asking if we were interested in the books. We were, and with space provided by Konrad Hansen, the library was started.



Lis Waring: 1957-1999

Soon thereafter we were contacted by Bob Rennie from the Icelandic Society asking if we had a corner for some Icelandic books. We did and we enjoyed an exceptionally good relationship with the Icelanders over the years.

There are many fond memories of all the activities that took place. Initiated by Pastor Rikke Aagaard of the Ansgar Church, we started a reading club that operated a few years. It was often a problem having enough books for all to read and discuss, but we managed. For a time, Lissi Jensen and I taught basic Danish Lessons which were attended by many. Later, the Icelanders held classes in Icelandic. An extremely popular activity and well attended, was a class in making Danish open-face sandwiches or smørrebrød. Lissi and I had designed short cuts and easy ways to make these open-face sandwiches for second and third generation Danes.

FYI

Going through our guest book, I am reminded of all the interesting authors and others that came to the library. Pastor Rikke spoke about her love of Astrid Lindgren and read some excerpts from her books. Edmonton Author Marina Allemano told us about her translation of Hanne Marie Svendsen's book and her work with the author. Agnes Jelhof Jensen of Edmonton, author of many books, came to tell us about her volunteer work with "*Seniors Driving Senior*" – an amazing feat for a lady in the late eighties herself. Her daughter, Bodil Jelhof Jensen, came and read her children's book: *Sara and Morgan go to School*. Another author, Christine Tjalve, spoke about her book, *Ræven har sin Hule*. Heidi Woller and Niels Breum told us about their work with less fortunate people in foreign countries. Stephane Tessier showed us glimpses of his time as a captain with the Canadian Army in Afghanistan. Kristen Vogt came to demonstrate how to live healthy. We were also honoured by a visit of the Danish ambassador to Canada, Svend Roed Nielsen.



Birgit Wildenhoff

On the first Saturday in December each year we held our annual Julehygge with æbleskiver and gløgg. I will likely miss this day the most, as it brought out so many good friends. There were relaxed and great conversations and people just settled down to enjoy each others company. Our benefactor, Konrad Hansen, would settle in his chair and people would be drawn to his table to catch up on the happenings of the last year. No other entertainment was needed, just the enjoyment of being together.



During the 2020 covid-19 summer, we started to dismantle the library and fortunately found good homes for many of our best and most valuable books. The books with connections to Alberta will hopefully find a place at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, once the archives open again after the present pandemic.

Many people have been involved and supported our library over the years. It would be hard to start naming them, and I could easily leave some out, due to the great number. However, one person who needs our gratitude and thanks is Konrad Hansen for his enduring support of the library and us. To all the rest of you as well, Tusind Tak!

Scandinavian Connections

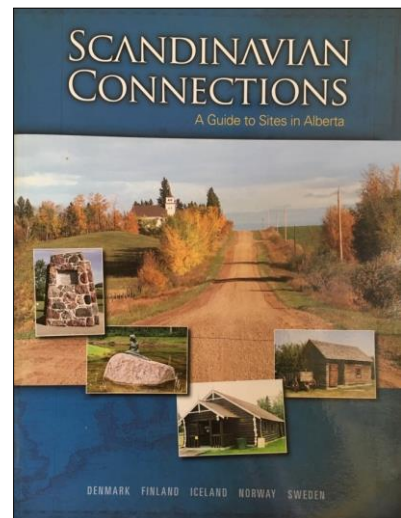
Donated to Amalienborg

Birgit Wildenhoff, Edmonton

Over the years a variety of functions were held in the Danish Library. In 2001 Konrad Hansen approached members of the Scandinavian community to set up a group to represent Scandinavia as a feature Country in the annual Klondike Days Celebration. A group of people came together to form the Scandinavian Trade and Cultural Society. It was run and organized in the building. Countless meetings were held and a Viking ship for the parade was built out behind in the shop.

It was one of the most popular country feature shows ever. A good profit was made from the sale of food and baking. Afterwards the group stayed together and decided to use the money to create a book about Scandinavian settlements in Alberta. *Scandinavian Connections* became another big success. It had stories, beautiful pictures, a map and guide for sight-seeing. The books were stored at the Danish Library and I watched them being sold, very quickly. The sale of the books generated a profit which was donated to Augustana Campus in Camrose.

It would be hard to name all the people involved in these endeavours. But some were Kai Lynge, Roger Bruce, Mary Karvonen, Don Melin, Wayne Nordstrom, Robert Rennie, Svend Nielsen, Ken Domier and Konrad Hansen.



My husband, Erik, had served with the Danish Royal Guards, and his 50th reunion occurred at the same-time as the regiment was celebrating its 350th anniversary. We were planning to attend both celebrations. Jette Badre, at the library, suggested we give a copy to Queen Margrethe. I found a contact at the Court and emailed her about giving the book to the Queen. In her reply she asked me to phone Kammerherre Ove Ullerup to arrange a time which turned out to be July 1, 2008. Canada Day!

Erik was with his Guards, and his sister was kind enough to come with me. As we drove up to Det Gule Palæ, a guard came out and handed us a parking permit to park right in front of the building. We were led into the office of Ove Ullerup and treated to coffee and vaniljekranse. He was very gracious and asked many questions about Alberta. I told him about the Museum and meeting Queen Margrethe there in 1991. Later during our visit, we saw the royal family at an anniversary Tattoo held at Rosenborg and at a Gala Dinner for all the Guards at the Bella Centre.

Danish Benefit Association

DANA, Vancouver

Benny Nordhoj; translated & edited by Rolf Buschardt Christensen

In Vancouver on August 17, 1953, seven Danish men, all immigrants, gathered for a meeting called by Ronald Munkeskov, with the aim of considering the possibility and need for health insurance and mutual aid in case of illness or death. These seven men quickly agreed there was a need for such a benefit association.

After a brief discussion, they decided to establish such a society and then agreed on a set of bylaws, and articles of association, whereafter they proceeded to elect DANA's first board of directors. Elected president was naturally Ronald Munkeskov, who had spearheaded the project. They then elected Oscar Grann vice-president, Erhart Nielsen secretary, Kaj Hedekjær treasurer, Hilmer Solberg recording secretary, Frans Nielsen auditor, and Herlev Christoffersen as director at large. These seven then solicited others and within a month they were seventeen. And within two weeks they had already collected \$43.81 in cash.

They certainly wanted more members but at the same time they debated when to halt the influx of new members. It was finally agreed that fifty members would be ideal. This number was subsequently adopted at DANA's first general meeting, held on December 7, 1953 at Hastings Auditorium in Vancouver. Edvin Rude was unanimously elected to chair the first general meeting. The treasurer could now, after various start-up costs, inform the meeting that there was \$148.95 in the association's account. As well it was agreed not to provide assistance for dental work or the purchase of prescription glasses. Moreover, the founding board was officially re-elected. In addition, Edvin Rude and Erik Christiansen were elected auditors.

At the meeting it was readily agreed that for immigrants the social aspect of the association was important, and it should therefore arrange excursions and gatherings for its members. With this in mind, the assembly set up a party committee consisting of Edvin Rude, Johannes Petersen, Tage Christensen, Åge Thiesen, Willy Frederiksen and Einer Jørgensen. Moreover, when a member had a birthday, the person would receive a birthday card.

At the end of 1953, DANA's bylaws were available in a printed format. It was agreed that these should be handed out to potential members in person, along with two application forms. This was done personally by the members of the board as the board wanted to reach the goal of 50 members as soon as possible.

The board also decided to expand the party committee with Teodor Petersen and Erhart Nielsen. At the same time, an information committee was set up consisting of Ronald Munkeskov, Einar Jørgensen, Teodor Petersen and Tage M. Christensen.

There were no sick reports in January 1954, and the cash balance had increased to \$154. The board then received an application for admission from a Norwegian citizen. In addition

applications were received from single Danish women. These applications were rejected. The association was for men of Danish descent living in the Greater Vancouver area.

The party committee organized the first party at Point Roberts in the State of Washington. The party was a success, with a good turnout and a profit of \$72.

On March 22, 1954, DANA received its first sick report. It was member number 24, Tage Petersen. Others quickly followed. At the general meeting on June 15, 1954, DANA had 37 members. The treasurer reported that since DANA's inception, \$168 had been paid out in sick pay, in other words, 56 sick days @ three dollars a day.

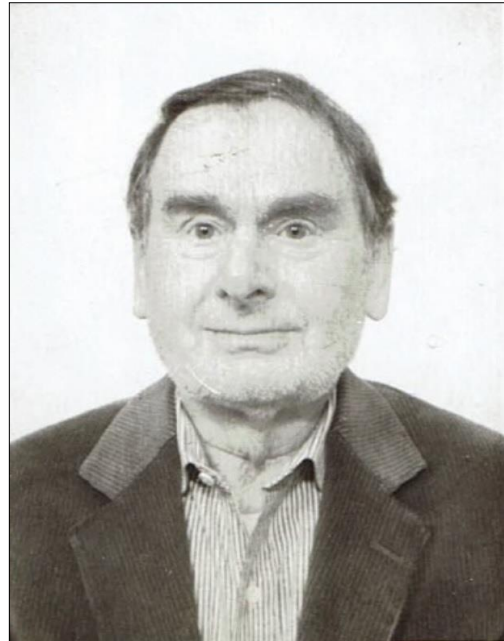
DANA had inquired with the government in Victoria whether or not it was necessary to incorporate under the Society Act of British Columbia. The ministry replied there was no need to incorporate. At the June 1954 meeting it was also agreed that each member should pay an extra dollar twice a year until there was \$500 in the funeral fund. Currently, there was \$593 in the sick fund and \$65 in the funeral fund.

The meeting also decided that proceeds from parties should be distributed with 50% to the sick fund, 25% to the funeral fund and the remaining 25% could remain with the party committee. There was still an influx of new members, but there were also members who had to be expelled as their monthly dues were in arrears, often three months or more. Just before DANA was a year old, the association reached 50 members. Nearly all the members attended the social events.

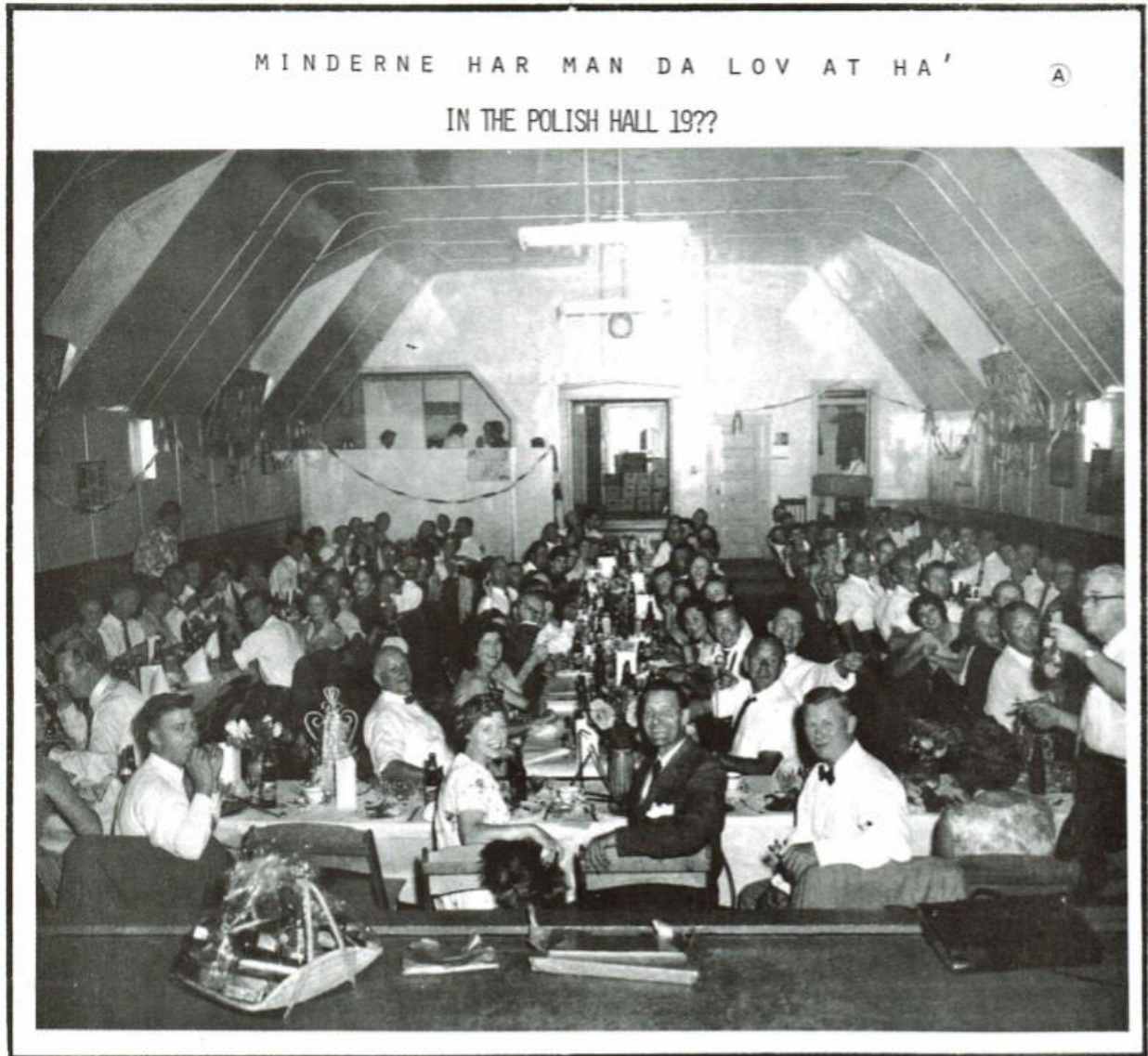
On August 21, 1954, DANA held its first Founders Party, for members only (and with one single guest), a total of 58 people. The deficit amounted to \$52. The board and the party committee saw clearly that there was a need for socializing in the association, so the party committee was encouraged to arrange other parties as well as *flæskespil* (bingo), followed by music and dancing.

With many wanting to join DANA it was agreed to start a waiting list. At the general meeting on December 8, 1954, it was determined that with the current 50 members, DANA could have one man reporting sick all year without it affecting the cash balance. Also at this meeting three of the founding board members, vice president Oscar Grann, treasurer Kaj Hedekjær and recording secretary Hilmer Solberg wanted to step down. Erik Christiansen, Johannes Pedersen and Johan Hansen were elected in their place. There was now \$872 in the sick fund and \$73 in the funeral fund.

The board also began investigating the possibility of group tours by charter flight to Denmark, as groups could obtain discounts. The board also wanted to arrange film evenings. The board realized that it could borrow films for free from The Canadian Film Board and show these for the benefit of the many Danes who were now thinking of becoming Canadian citizens.



Benny Nordhoj, born in Copenhagen on March 20, 1935, came to Canada with his wife in 1958, joined DANA in 1964, and became president in 1982



In early 1955, DANA received an invitation from The Danish Brotherhood to jointly organize Constitution Day at Peace Arch Park on June 5, 1955. The board decided not to participate in any joint event, yet it encouraged its members to attend. Shortly after, the desire arose for an annual summer outing for children, as the kids attending Constitution Day had really enjoyed themselves.

There was also the question of DANA admitting passive members. At a meeting in February 1955 it was decided to admit passive members, and the party committee was to keep a record of these. As well, there was a call to increase the membership to 100. This too had something to do with the many passive members who now attended parties and social events.

At the general meeting on June 8, 1955, it was officially decided to expand the membership to 75. At the same time, Ronald Munkeskov stepped down as president and instead Ernie Nielsen (a.k.a. Ernie Nelson) was elected. Munkeskov was thanked with many words of praise and it was later decided by the board to set aside \$10 to buy a gift for him as a thank you for his pioneering

work. The gift was presented at the upcoming party. The accounts showed that there was \$1,400 in the sick fund and \$120 in the funeral fund. At a subsequent board meeting, it was decided to deposit \$1,000 in The Danish Credit Union, with which to buy a Savings Bond when these were offered.

At the general meeting president Ernie Nielsen proposed that a three-man committee be set up with a mandate to investigate together with other Danish associations the possibility of building a Danish house or hall in Vancouver. This was unanimously adopted, and Ernie Nielsen, Oscar Grann and Einer Jørgensen were elected to the committee. In August, these three gentlemen held a meeting regarding a Danish house with representatives from the Danish Brotherhood and the Danish Credit Union. At a later meeting in September the Danish Women's Association and the Danish Lutheran Church also participated.

DANA's annual founders party, for members only (and spouses), was held in October. As in the previous year, the members had to bring their own smørrebrød while DANA gave each participant a beer and one snaps. Admission was \$1.50 per couple.

The board also discussed creating a club logo, from which DANA could make some small emblems for members to wear. It was thought that it would be cheaper to have these emblems made in Denmark. Einer Jørgensen was willing to draw a draft logo or help someone else draw one. Later in the year a competition was launched for proposals for an emblem. The winner would receive \$10. Later a Viking lur was adopted as DANA's emblem.

As well, there was a proposal to give the treasurer a small stipend as he spent many hours keeping the books, looking after the payments and tracking sick days. But the proposal had to be presented in a particular way as DANA, an unincorporated society, could not pay its directors. The proposal therefore had to be presented to the general meeting in a round-about way.

On December 5, 1955, the general meeting was held in Hastings Auditorium. It was a challenge to get the members to attend the general meetings, so the board of directors considered issuing fines or the like. Nevertheless, those present agreed to provide the treasurer with \$25 in case the books did not balance, (Even though they did.) The cash balance showed \$1,973 in the sickness fund, \$200 in the funeral fund and \$239 in the party fund. The association consisted of 75 members and 151 passive members. Meanwhile, the whole board was re-elected.

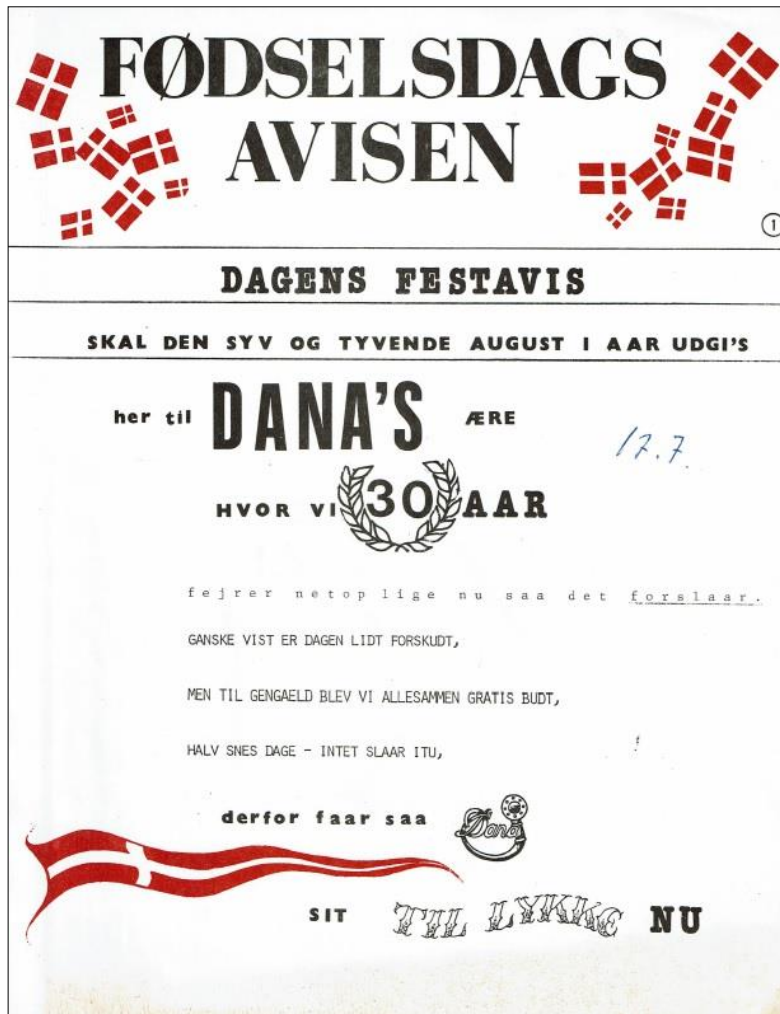
On December 12, a member submitted a sick note. At the time of joining, this person already suffered from an illness. It had been made clear to him that there would be no question of medical care if he were to fall sick from this disease. His application for sick pay was therefore rejected. But DANA was willing to retain his membership and to waive his monthly fee.

In February 1956, the board decided to publish a small newsletter for members. Einer Jørgensen was elected editor. He was willing to take on the job as editor, on the condition that he would not be expected to publish a newsletter every month.



At the general meeting on June 13, 1956 the bylaws were amended and clarified. The bylaws were in Danish, as were the meetings. The aims and objectives were changed to: DANA is a mutual aid and benefit association, which seeks to bring together men of Danish descent, aged 18 to 60 who live in the Greater Vancouver area or Lower Fraser Valley, to jointly ease their economic situation during illness. On the death of a member, the funeral fund would pay a sum of money to the bereaved. In other words, DANA would provide its members with financial assistance in case of illness, and in the event of accidents that result in incapacity to work, and which are not covered by Workmen's Compensation. In addition, the association would occasionally arrange parties, excursions and the like.

Regarding the dissolution of the association, the bylaws stated that the dissolution of the association could only take place when at least 75% of the votes cast were in favour. Any remaining assets, the bylaws stated, shall be given to the Danish retirement home Dania, or possibly the Danish Hall in Vancouver, if such should exist.



It was also decided that sick pay of \$3 would be provided per day, up to a maximum of \$270 in each individual member's year. Payment would be made weekly two weeks later against submitted receipts. Any arrears in fees would be deducted from the amount. If a member had received \$270 in medical care for three consecutive years, his right to further assistance would cease. A sickness benefit would not be paid if the patient was partially able to carry out his work. Moreover, members who were in arrears over two months would lose their right to vote and lose their right to sick and funeral assistance.

Upon a member's death, DANA would pay \$500 to the survivors. If the \$500 was not available in the funeral fund, the money would be taken from the sick fund. Members were to pay \$1 into the funeral fund every six months, due in January and July.

The new bylaws also stated that the party committee would be appointed by the annual general meeting. Any profits would be distributed as follows: one quarter to the sickness fund, one

quarter to the funeral fund, one quarter to the party committee and one quarter to the reserve fund.

At the June 1956 meeting the sick fund totalled \$2,136 and the funeral fund \$322. A woman asked DANA for financial help after her husband, brick mason Holger Jensen, had passed away. He was not a member of DANA, but it was agreed to try to start a collection for her.

At a board meeting on August 8, the acquisition of a Danish Hall was discussed. A lawyer was hired, and a doctor Black issued a letter praising DANA's ideas and work. This was to be used to support DANA's case at Vancouver City Hall. The board had found a place on Welwyn Street where a Danish hall could possibly be built. But City Hall would not approve the application for re-zoning on Welwyn Street.

Acquiring a hall became a priority as the social aspects such as parties were coming to the fore. Consequently a Building Fund was established. Fundraising became important with the holding of bazaars and other fundraising initiatives. In March 1957 DANA held a Package Party, where everyone brought a gift. The proceeds from the party, \$250, were deposited into the Building Fund.

Einer Jørgensen wrote a newsletter once in a while. He would remind members to pay their dues and the treasurer noticed an increase in payments after each issue with a reminder to pay.

On June 21, 1957, an extraordinary general meeting was held at the address of the hall which the association intended to purchase near Prince Albert Street. The original asking price had been reduced to \$8,000 with \$3,000 in down payment and \$67 a month. Despite individually addressed invitations, only sixteen members showed up. These all voted in favor of the purchase despite the fact that the property was only suitable for own use and not ideal to rent out. To raise funds to purchase the property the board also considered issuing debentures to DANA's members.

The security deposit of \$200 would be refunded if the necessary permission was not obtained from City Hall. Everyone agreed that even though the building was not the best for the association's purposes, it was, despite everything else, the beginning of a Danish House in Vancouver.

The real estate agent vouched that there would be no opposition from the neighbours to DANA's parties. However, permission was not obtained from City Hall. The pastor of the congregation who wanted the building sold undertook to speak to the Appeal Board and the real estate agent promised that she would let the board know when there was a decision in the matter.

Despite these exciting activities it was still a struggle to get members to come out for the annual general meeting. DANA then offered handsome door prizes, but that did not substantially increase the turnout for the business meetings.

Free smørrebrød, beer and snaps were served at the annual general meeting on December 9, 1957, all in the hope of increasing the turnout. It did bring out more members, but not enough to call it a resounding success. There was now \$4,013 in the sick fund, \$677 in the funeral fund, \$254 in the building fund, as well as \$677 in the reserve fund. Moreover, the Women's Association was given \$30 to help struggling Danes at Christmas time.

In April 1958, the old Polish Hall on Victoria Drive with an adjoining lot came up for sale for \$28,000. The Polish Society wanted \$8,000 in down payment. A meeting was called and between the 21 attendees \$2,300 was pledged. If the rest of DANA's members were just as generous, the hall could be DANA's.

The Board of Directors then personally visited each individual member of DANA to promote the idea and to secure funds to cover the down payment. With these visits, \$5,000 was committed. But it was not enough. At the meeting on 18 June, DANA had to face the fact that not enough funds had been committed to cover the down payment. Thus DANA had to drop the idea of buying the Polish Hall.

The membership now stood at 96 members. For DANA's fifth Founders party, Edvin Rude and Einer Jørgensen had written a song which became DANA's *Slagsang* (theme song). Further verses were later added by both Edvin Rude and Ole Kristensen. Edvin Rude, who had chaired the party committee, received high praise for the successful party.

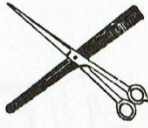
At the end of 1958, there was talk of expanding DANA to 150 members, which was then adopted at the general meeting in December. In 1959, the Danish Brotherhood asked DANA to enter into a partnership with the organizing of Constitution Day at Peace Arch Park. The two associations then held a joint Danish Constitution Day at Peace Arch Park and in addition jointly supported a gymnastics team from Denmark which gave a performance at the University of British Columbia's Sports Complex.

At the June 1959 general meeting, it was decided to reduce the funeral allowance from \$500 to \$350. Later at the general meeting in December, it was mentioned that numerous members were behind in paying their monthly dues.

In 1960, it was confirmed that passive members would continue to be allowed to attend DANA's parties. In order to comply with B.C. liquor laws, passive members had to be registered in a book that was present at any party, in case the police showed up.

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Ronald Munkeskov, the first president of DANA, was born in Copenhagen on April 14, 1912, and died in Vancouver on January 11, 1982

In June 1960 the Danish Constitution Day, held again at Peace Arch Park, was organized by the newly established Central Committee, with the Danish Brotherhood and DANA taking the lead, due to their experience. DANA played a key role in the establishment of the Central Committee, with both Ernie Nielsen and Einer Jørgensen attending the founding meetings. After a very successful Constitution Day, a general meeting was held which revealed that DANA's membership had dropped to 75. There was \$6,024 in the Sick Fund, \$1,400 in the Funeral Fund and \$273 in the Building Fund. There was no Andespil (bingo) during the fall as these events had started to generate deficits. At Christmas, DANA helped a man who had his leg operated on. He received a grant even though he was not a member.

In February 1961 it was decided that passive members should pay more to attend parties than members. It was also mentioned that a number of undesirable persons had more or less crashed DANA's parties. DANA would now try to keep them out, so the society would not be visited by the police at parties. Some members also expressed the wish for all members to wear nice attire at the various DANA events, not just casual or work wear. The board also decided that the Danish and Canadian national anthems should be sung at meetings. According to tradition the Founders party was held in September, where members again had to bring their own open face sandwiches in order to keep the price of the party down.

At the June 1962 general meeting, sickness benefits were raised to \$5 a day. Ernie Nielsen wanted to step down as president and proposed as president was Einer Jørgensen, who had previously been vice-president. It was also decided to leave the project of a Danish House in Vancouver to the Danish Community Centre, which now had a solid mandate from the whole Danish community in the Greater Vancouver area to buy or build a Danish House. To support the project, DANA donated \$50 to the Danish Community Centre and bought some \$100 debentures, issued by the Community Centre.

At the general meeting in December 1963, it was debated whether or not the monthly fee should be increased as it was clear that DANA's funds would likely continue to decrease. The following general meeting in June 1964 was held in Ronald Munkeskov's barber shop on Fraser Street. The following meeting was also held in Munkeskov's shop. There were not many participants. In June 1965, Ole Kristensen was elected president of DANA. The Founders party in August generated a loss of \$155. Ole Kristensen was determined to turn the situation around and already in March 1966 DANA had 100 members again. The initiation fee was increased as was the monthly fee. At the same time, the Danish Community Centre asked DANA to write DANA's history for use in connection with Canada's 1967 Centennial, an assignment given to Edvin Rude. In 1967 DANA disbanded the party committee and the board took over the task of organizing parties.

As had become the tradition, DANA donated \$50 towards the celebration of Constitution Day in 1968. Then in November DANA adopted some new age restrictions. DANA would not sign up men over the age of 40. When a member turned 65, his monthly fee would go down and his daily sick pay would drop to half. At age 70 a member's benefits would cease, but he could remain a member of the association and attend parties.

As the Danish Community Centre had acquired Hastings Auditorium the Board of DANA wanted to support the new venue and decided to lend the Community Centre \$ 5,000 at the rate of 8.5%. At the same time DANA wanted the Community Centre to take over the annual Children's Christmas Party.

At the beginning of 1970 DANA donated \$200 to help furnish Dania, the Danish senior citizen home in Burnaby. At the annual general meeting in November the Sick Fund totaled \$10,930 and the Funeral Fund \$8,510. Ole Kristensen stepped down as president and Ronald Munkeskov again became president. Edvin Rude too stepped down. Then in 1971 Erik Christiansen stepped down after being the dedicated treasurer for many years.

In 1972 DANA bought twenty \$100 debentures in the Danish Community Centre. The following year DANA's twentieth anniversary party was a great success, but produced an alarming deficit of over one thousand dollars. Then in 1974 it was necessary to raise the monthly fee from \$3 to

\$4. As well Ronald Munkeskov stepped down as president and was replaced by Herlev Christoffersen, who was one of the seven original founders of DANA.

At the annual general meeting in November 1975 Herlev Christoffersen informed the 51 members who showed up at the meeting that the average age of the membership was 49. Sadly in 1976 former President Ernie Nielsen passed away. At the AGM that year the treasurer informed the meeting that during the past year \$3,207 had been paid out from the Sick Fund. At the 1977 AGM the president highlighted the continuing decline in membership. It was nearly impossible to sign up members under the age of 40.



At the AGM in 1978 the members stood in silence for one minute in a tribute to both the late Einer Jørgensen and the late Oscar Grann. By November the membership had dropped to 91 and the average age of the members was 52. Elected president of DANA in November 1980 was Henning Pedersson, the sixth person to take on the task. There were now 86 members and about \$30,000 in DANA's kitty. In 1981 DANA tried to introduce a *Mandshyggeaften*, an evening where the men could get together once a month. They were encouraged to bring one guest.

In June 1982 there was a discussion concerning the society's aims and objectives and it was suggested to turn DANA into a social club, with a focus on dinner dances. Later that year Ronald Munkeskov, DANA's only honorary member, passed away. The idea of a *Mandshyggeaften* was not a success. The membership had slipped to 69 members, and the

average age of the members was now 56. The board also noticed that an increasing number of members spoke to each other in English rather than Danish. Minutes of meetings and DANA's bookkeeping were now in English as well.

In November 1982 Benny Nordhoj was elected president of DANA. In March 1983 he could report that DANA had now invested \$ 42,000 in two different banks at very favorable rates. In 1983 a very successful party was held to celebrate DANA's 30 years of operation. In late 1983 the president of the Vancouver Church Council, Poul B. Christensen, sent a request to DANA for a donation to help build a new Danish Church in Burnaby, next to Dania Home. The Board

wanted the members to decide and at the next general meeting it was decided to donate \$2,500 to the building of the new church.

According to DANA's bylaws, should DANA be dissolved, the remaining assets of the society would be donated to Dania Home, the senior citizen complex in Burnaby. However, since Dania Home had now entered into a binding agreement with the British Columbia government it was no longer a private organization run solely by volunteers from the Danish community. Due to these changes at Dania Home many of the members of DANA held that the assets of DANA belonged to the members and should not be donated to Dania Home, which some felt would be like donating the money to the government. It came to a vote at the November 1984 general meeting and there were many arguments for and against. The motion was carried, whereby the bylaws were changed and upon the dissolution of DANA the remaining assets would be distributed to the members in good standing. The assembly also voted to support Peter Prægel's TV program with a donation of \$1,500.

In 1985 DANA held a picnic at Hans Jensen's place in Point Roberts in the United States and the annual Founders Dinner Dance was held at the Eldorado Motor Hotel on Kingsway, both of which were a great success. Again in 1986 there was a picnic at Point Roberts. At the end of the year Benny Nordhoj could report that DANA currently had 79 members and the average age was 59.5. As in the previous year there was a picnic at Point Roberts with 65 participants as well as a well-attended dinner dance at the Eldorado Motor Hotel.

These two events were repeated in 1987. And despite their success, the board felt that society was in decline and that its mandate might no longer be relevant. At a board meeting in November 1987 the board discussed the possibility of disbanding the society as the original objective had been taken over by provincial and federal policies in the field of social, economic and health legislation. Many felt that this was actually a good thing, as the government programs were universal, with only tiny exceptions and without any monthly payments.

In 1988 DANA celebrated its 35th anniversary at the Canyon Garden Restaurant in North Vancouver. All members plus widows of former members were invited free of charge. Non-member guests were welcome, paying \$25 per person. 110 party goers attended the unforgettable evening, which cost DANA over \$2,500.

At the general meeting Benny Nordhoj pointed out that DANA's membership was still in decline. He very much regretted that he had not been able to reverse this decline, which had been his wish. He reported that DANA now had 73 members. Moreover, by the end of the year over half of the members would be over 65 years of age, and fifteen would be over 70 years. The average age was now 62. At the same time it was nearly impossible to sign up new members. There were no new Danish immigrants coming to Canada. Apparently the society had outlived its purpose.

At the end of 1988, the board received a letter from Erik Christiansen in which he explained why he thought the association should be dissolved. He called on DANA to convene an extraordinary general meeting to vote on his proposal, which could only be decided at an extraordinary general meeting. Consequently at the general meeting in November 1988, it was decided to convene an extraordinary general meeting in the spring of 1989 to vote on whether the association should be dissolved or not. Eighteen voted in favor and ten against calling the extraordinary meeting.

FYI

It was also decided to reduce the number of board members from seven to five. Benny Nordhoj wanted to step down, and Axel Jorgensen was elected new president. The extraordinary general meeting was held on May 16, 1989. There were 54 votes in favor of dissolution of the association and 11 against, so it was decided that the association should cease to exist as from December 31, 1989. In other words, 83% voted in favor of dissolving DANA. On the last day of the year, DANA's assets would then be calculated and later distributed among the members, in proportion to how long they had been members and how much each had been paid in sick pay. After the vote, Edvin Rude said some memorable words about the association and the comradeship, which were greatly appreciated by all those present.

On November 4, 1989, DANA held its farewell party at the Eldorado Motor Hotel with 100 guests. It was another lovely party with great food. Ole Kristensen made a fine speech and for the occasion he had written a few extra verses for DANA's *Slagsang*. Already in January members received their cheques from DANA, which in many cases amounted to \$500 or even \$750.



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CONVERGE

Escape from Germany

The Story of Lieutenant Colonel Pete Anderson, DSO Bar

Kurt F. Jensen, Ottawa

Canadians tend to minimize the accomplishments of their heroes. The causes are complex and have been debated for decades. They can range from an antipathy to the one-dimensional portrayal of many American heroes in popular culture, (think Davy Crockett at the Alamo), to egalitarian views of ourselves. Whatever the reasons, Canadians generally agree that heroes are celebrated less in our culture than in some others. This treatment of our heroes does little to recognize and value the many ordinary men and women who went before us to attain extraordinary achievements. Pete Anderson, whom this book is about, was such a person. He didn't change the world. But he did make a significant difference. In typical Canadian fashion, he didn't view himself as a hero.

Before going to war in 1914, Anderson had been an early pioneer in Edmonton, Alberta, where he had been a successful, rich, and respected businessman. He was a middle-aged man when he fought in the First World War. Shortly after arriving in France, he was captured by the enemy, on his birthday. In a daring escape, he was able to breach the defences of the prisoner of war camp in which he was held and to return to Britain, after an eventful transit through much of Germany. He, and others, thought that he might have been the first Canadian to have escaped from the Germans. Likely, he was not. A fellow Albertan, Cpl. Ernest Atherton of the 10th Battalion probably escaped slightly earlier.¹ However, Anderson was not only the first Canadian *officer* to successfully escape, he was also the *only* Canadian officer to escape during the First World War (many others made the attempt but were recaptured).

Toward the end of the war, Anderson volunteered to fight in northern Russia, first against the Germans and subsequently as part of an Allied attempt to overthrow the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. By the time he returned home from his wars, he had earned two Distinguished Service Orders, a senior honour awarded for exemplary service under enemy fire.

This is the story of Anderson, in his own view an ordinary man. Today, Anderson is largely forgotten except by military enthusiasts who acknowledge his extraordinary achievements. The book seeks to accord him a greater recognition, which he has thoroughly earned. A book which he wrote himself about his escape from German captivity, as well as some of his personal papers, including notes for an expanded second edition of his book, and official and private records have been used extensively, to capture the story of Anderson, a reluctant hero.

¹ Ted Byfield. *Alberta in the Twentieth Century*. Vol. 4 (Edmonton: United Western Communications, 1995), p. 69.

This project of recording the life and adventures of Pete Anderson began forty years ago upon my graduation from university. I had just been accepted as an entrance level officer in the Canadian diplomatic service but was not to report for duty for about three months. Young, newly-married, and with student loans to repay, I accepted a temporary job at the Provincial Archives of Alberta to electronically catalogue the papers of some of Alberta's early premiers. In addition, I assumed other tasks at the archives involving reviewing and organizing collections. In the course of this additional work, I came across material on Anderson which had, in part, been donated by his family and other prominent Edmontonians.

Something about Anderson's story resonated with me. Most likely it was the fact that both of us had immigrated to Alberta from Denmark, he as a young adult and I as a child. As well, there was the sheer adventurous nature of his accomplishments. While checking for other documents at the archives relating to Anderson I was informed by one of the permanent staff that one of Anderson's daughters, Ethel Moore,² lived in Edmonton.

I was encouraged to establish contact with her to determine if she had other material which she might wish to donate to the archives or from which copies could be made. After our meeting, she provided a number of photographs which were duly reproduced for the archives and for me before being returned to her. Some of these photographs appear in this book.

All of the Anderson material which I had collected those many years ago languished in an old leather briefcase from my school years. The collection of material dutifully accompanied me as I traveled around the world on diplomatic assignments. I always had the intention of writing about Anderson, although whether in an article or a book was undecided. There never seemed to be time to start the project; I was always too busy with my career, a young and wonderful family, and my other interests and pursuits.

Intermittently, I would review my collection of documents relating to the Anderson story as well as make efforts to uncover additional material. Towards the end of my diplomatic career I completed a doctorate in history, and my determination to do something with the Anderson material was reinvigorated. Whenever visiting family and friends in Edmonton, I began to go to the Provincial Archives of Alberta in search of additional documents. Periodically I unearthed new material from other sources and secondary resources. The internet also proved a limited but valuable resource by providing relevant newspaper articles and other material. I obtained additional documents from Canada's national archives and the archival/historical collection of the Department of National Defence.



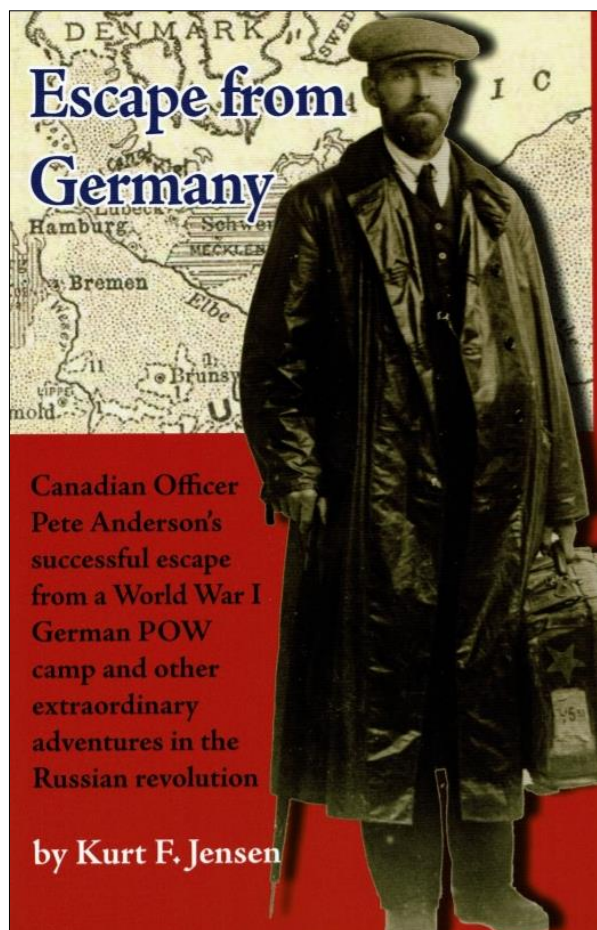
Lt. Colonel Pete Anderson, Edmonton

² Mrs. Moore, who died in 1977, was the first jumping centre on what eventually became the Edmonton Grads, a world-champion women's basketball team.

To my delight the internet also provided hints about the existence of Anderson's grand and great-grandchildren. After a number of unsuccessful efforts to find any of the descendants, towards the end of the writing of the book I managed to establish contact with Maureen McKillican, Anderson's great grand-daughter and grand-daughter of Ethel Moore, who had given me information so many years earlier. Maureen kindly offered to share with me photographs, letters and documents which she had inherited, as well as research on Anderson which she had conducted and which included material I had been unable to unearth, including an electronic copy of a book on sniping which he wrote during the First World War.

I also benefitted from a fortuitous encounter through which I uncovered another amazing Anderson windfall. At the time, I was a newly-minted board member of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society (CIHS), having earlier in my career served as an immigration officer in the diplomatic service. I had been asked to telephone a number of CIHS members for whom email addresses had been lost. One of my 'lost sheep' was Roy Christensen, coincidentally also a native-born Dane, who, it developed, was researching notable Danish-Canadians to record their historical significance in a Danish-Canadian ethnic periodical. One of the individuals who had caught Christensen's interest was Pete Anderson, about whom he had already obtained valuable genealogical information from fellow researchers in Denmark. I had been on the verge of seeking data on Anderson for the period before he came to Canada and my surprising contact with Roy, on a totally unrelated matter, proved immensely valuable and became the catalyst which spurred me to revisit the Anderson material which, over the years, had grown from a hefty briefcase to a sizable trunk full of documents, books, etc. From the material made available by Roy Christensen, I was also able to discover the descendants of Pete Anderson's lifelong friend, Jens Marius Jensen, back in Denmark, who provide me with additional valuable material from their family collection, including a number of letters sent by Anderson to Jens Marius.

Like those of many other Canadians who made significant contributions to this country in a host of domains, the story of Pete Anderson is largely forgotten today. Nevertheless, a small number of acolytes maintain an ongoing interest in him. In 2008, his book, *I That's Me*, which he wrote in the early 1930s, was reprinted by CEF Books (Ottawa) in a small edition. As with the original edition, this reprint also quickly became difficult to obtain. Anderson's name also appears in



Kurt F. Jensen's book Escape from Germany



several Canadian books on the First World War as one of the many individuals whose war-time exploits were noticed, but no study has focused on him and his story.

Anderson was a hero in every sense of the word. He did not change the course of the war in which he fought, but he is one of many who made a difference and sought no personal advantage from having done so. While everything available about Pete Anderson suggests that he genuinely enjoyed his adventures, a sense also emerges of a man of the people who was concerned for the welfare of the men who served under him, whether on a personal level or concerning efforts to ensure that his soldiers had the equipment and training that they needed to provide them equitable chances of surviving the war.

Where to buy the book

The above is the Introduction to *Escape from Germany* by Kurt F. Jensen, and it is reprinted here with permission from the author. The 248-page book was published by Commoners Publishing, Ottawa, in 2019. The book is available from the Provincial Archives of Alberta, the Danish Canadian Museum, Dickson, Alberta, the Markerville Creamery, the Calgary Danish Canadian Club, Sunset Villa Association as well as the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

Pete Anderson was born in Havndrup on the island of Fyn on April 24, 1868. He was baptized Claus Peter Andersen. In May 1888 having just turned twenty he immigrated to Canada. In the spring of 1891, after working in Manitoba, he headed for Alberta, finally settling in Edmonton, where he eventually established a highly successful brickyard, becoming a rich and respected businessman. Fulfilling a life-long dream he joined the local militia and when war broke out in 1914 he went overseas as an officer.



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Danish Central Committee, Vancouver 1960 - 1971

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Pastor Arnold Vang of the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver thought it would be fitting for the Danish associations in the Vancouver area to celebrate the silver anniversary of King Frederik and Queen Ingrid. It had been suggested that a dinner dance could be held at the Hotel Vancouver on or near May 24, 1960, the 25th wedding anniversary of the King and Queen of Denmark.

Pastor Vang should have called the meeting earlier. There were only two months until the big day. But he could have been sick. In any case, Pastor Vang invited the various Danish associations in the Vancouver area to a meeting at his residence on Thursday, March 31, 1960, with the purpose of organizing a celebration. Present at the meeting were:

Mrs. Elly Vang	Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church
Ewald Lassen	Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church
Ernie Nelson	President, Sygekassen DANA
Einer Jorgensen	Sygekassen DANA
Jack Jensen	Danish Brotherhood, Lodge 328
Hans Holm	Danish Credit Union
Poul Jensen	Choir, Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church
Bernhard Johansen	Dania Home
Karsten Hess	Royal Danish Consulate
Ib Nielsen	Folk Dancers

As Pastor Arnold Vang was sick the meeting was chaired by his wife Elly Vang, who then put forward the proposal to celebrate the silver anniversary of the Danish monarchs, who had been married in Storkyrkan in Stockholm in 1935. It was a bit discouraging to hear at the meeting that none of the participants were ready to recommend a party to their members, as they all felt it would cost too much money, above all if the event were held at the prestigious Hotel Vancouver. Instead they agreed to send a telegram on the wedding day on behalf of all Danes in the Vancouver area.

Ib Nielsen then made a proposal which would have wide ramifications for the Danes in Vancouver. He suggested that a central committee consisting of all the Danish organizations should be formed to coordinate their various activities and to further cooperation among them. His proposal was unanimously accepted, and the participants promised to bring it up in their respective associations.

As well it was agreed to celebrate Danish Constitution Day on Sunday, June 5, 1960 at Peace Arch Park on the Canada-United States border. Earlier Constitution Day picnics had been organized by the Danish Brotherhood and the Danish Benefit Association DANA, which meant that not all Danish associations had been part of those earlier celebrations. Constitution Day, in Danish *Grundlovsdag*, is observed in Denmark on 5 June, the day in 1849 when King Frederik VII granted the Danish people a constitution, parliament and elections. It is the day Danes celebrate their democracy.



Ib Nielsen

Mrs. Elly Vang then expressed the wish that it would be nice if one day the Danes in Vancouver could have a Danish House (Dansk Hus) or community centre. Einer Jorgensen then informed the meeting that DANA had for several years worked on establishing a Danish community centre. DANA had looked at several halls which were for sale and DANA had been in contact with city hall. In addition DANA had solicited money for buying a hall and had been promised nearly \$10,000 from its members. Yet, no suitable hall had been found.

The participants left the meeting with a feeling of optimism. They had agreed to celebrate Danish Constitution Day with a picnic where they expected a good turnout. They therefore decided to meet soon again to plan the picnic in more detail.

The next meeting was held at Pastor Vang's residence on April 24, 1960. Pastor Vang informed the meeting that Dansk Canadisk Selskab, the Danish Canadian Society in Copenhagen, would be celebrating Canada Day at an outdoor meeting at Fakse Ladeplads, south of Copenhagen. Afterwards Ib Nielsen gave a short summary of the previous meeting, and the assembled agreed to send a telegram to the King and Queen. It was agreed to write, "Sølvbrudeparret, Amalienborg, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Deres Majestæter. De bedste ønsker om en lykkelig festdag og mange velsignede år fremover." (Best wishes for a happy festive day and many blessed years in the time to come.)

It was not possible to agree on how to sign the telegram, or who should sign it. Einer Jorgensen therefore suggested that they should first agree on a name for their budding coordinating committee, and once agreed, they could sign the telegram with that name. The various representatives finally decided on the name Danish Central Committee, and signed the telegram with that name.

It was also decided to elect an executive committee, which would manage the affairs until a founding meeting was held, where the bylaws could be adopted, and a board of directors elected. The following were elected to the executive committee: Ib Nielsen as chairman, Einer Jorgensen as deputy chair and secretary and Jorgen Elstoft as treasurer.

The discussion then turned to the upcoming Constitution Day. To cover the cost of the picnic the various associations committed the following: the Danish Credit Union \$75; the Danish Brotherhood and DANA \$40 each; Dania Home, the Folk Dancers and the Danish Consulate \$25 each and the Choir \$15. As June 5th was Pinsedag (Whitsunday), Hans Holm from the Credit

Union asked Pastor Vang if it was possible to conduct the Church Service at Peace Arch Park, instead of at the church on 19th Avenue. Pastor Vang declined, saying the Service would be at the church.

Constitution Day at Peace Arch Park was an overwhelming success. The weather was great, and it was estimated that between 2,000 and 2,500 people had come out for the picnic. The large parking lot overflowed, and many had to park along the main road to the border.

It was not only in Vancouver that the Danes were busy organizing. The Danish Club of Montreal wanted to create a national umbrella organization, an initiative led by Jan Eisenhardt. Proposed bylaws for a Danish Canadian National Committee were sent from Eisenhardt to Ib Nielsen and Einer Jorgensen. But there was little follow-up, and a national umbrella organization was not created at this time. In 1961 Jan Eisenhardt incorporated Canadania, a society whose purpose was to promote exchanges of cultural activities between the people of Denmark and Canada. Eisenhardt worked closely with Hans Buchart-Petersen, the president of Dansk Canadisk Selskab in Copenhagen.



The Peace Arch on the US-Canada border

In Denmark Dansk Canadisk Selskab held a remarkably successful event at Fakse Ladeplads on July 2, 1960. Hans Buchart-Petersen, a farmer who owned an estate on Zealand, was a member of the Danish Parliament, and a Social Democrat. He was able to get Danish Prime Minister Jens Otto Krag to attend the Canada Day celebration, which gave it outstanding media coverage. The Danish Central Committee in Vancouver sent a telegram to the Canada Day celebrations at Fakse Ladeplads, wishing them a successful day and the best wishes for the future.

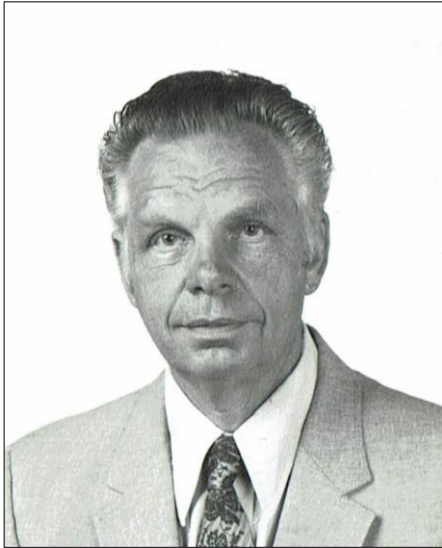
After the Constitution Day celebration the Central Committee established three sub-committees. The first committee was tasked with acquiring or building a Danish house or community centre in Vancouver. The second committee was the Bylaws Committee, while the third committee was the Publicity Committee, tasked to bring awareness of the Central Committee and its activities.

On September 20, 1960, the Building Committee was able to report that the Central Committee could buy the Polish Hall for \$27,000, with a down payment of \$7,000 or \$8,000. After some discussion it was decided to pass on this offer. At the meeting on January 21, 1961, the Bylaws Committee submitted its proposed bylaws for perusal.

At the meeting on August 15, 1961, Poul B. Christensen was invited as a guest, representing *Modersmaalet*, the Danish Canadian newspaper published in Toronto, for which he was the correspondent for Vancouver. *Modersmaalet* was owned and operated by Erik Melander. During the meeting Poul B. Christensen was asked to join the Publicity Committee, which he did.

By this time three other Danish associations had joined the Central Committee; that is, the Danish Art Club, the Danish Bowling Club “The Vikings” and the Danish Sisterhood.

By the fall of 1962 it was clear that the Danish Central Committee was ready to be formally launched. The bylaws had been approved by both the executive committee and Danish associations, and the active Building Committee had been extremely busy. In the meantime it had become clear that the new organization could not be called the Central Committee. It was therefore decided to call it the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver.



Poul B. Christensen

A meeting of the Central Committee was held in the Church hall on 19th Avenue on November 5, 1962, where the bylaws of the new Danish Community Centre were adopted. The bylaws were designed in such a way that the member organizations would have the major say in any decisions, and not individuals. It was also decided to follow Robert’s Rules of Order. As well a lawyer had gone over the bylaws and had approved them.

The first board of directors of the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver was elected by acclamation. Elected were president Poul B. Christensen (salesman); vice-president Oscar Grann (furniture store); secretary Einer Jorgensen (jeweller); treasurer Hugo Busch (forest officer); and directors at large, Bent A. Johansen (manufacturer), Helge Lindhede (engineer), Ib Nielsen (gardener), Henning Pedersson (carpenter) and Edvin Rude (printer).

A new organization was born! Its primary task was to buy or build a Danish Community Centre. Consequently the Central Committee’s Building Committee was dissolved. But the Central Committee continued to exist and became involved in a host of activities within the Danish community.

Among the many activities discussed, initiated or continued were Danish lessons for children and adults, getting movies from Denmark, celebrating Constitution Day, the Children’s Christmas Party and establishing a committee to take care of Danish seamen who came into port in Vancouver. At one meeting Svend Bratner informed the others that a new organization, the Scandinavian Maple Leaf Association, had been formed with the purpose of arranging charter flights to Denmark.

The Central Committee also reached out to other Danish organizations such as Sunset Villa in Puslinch, Ontario, and the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary. At one point Otto Hermansen, the editor of *Prærie Nyt*, in Calgary, offered the Central Committee space in his publication.

At the end of 1963 the Central Committee welcomed Hans Buchart-Petersen to Vancouver. He informed the Committee of the gatherings at Fakse Ladeplads and sought to establish cooperation between Dansk Canadisk Selskab and Danish organizations in Canada. He was willing to help get Danish movies and speakers, as well as creating a joint newsletter.



The Folk Dancers bring in the three flags, Constitution Day, 1966

At a meeting of the Central Committee not long after, Ib Nielsen stepped down as chairman. Everyone on the Committee thanked Ib for his pioneering work to promote cooperation among the Danes in Vancouver. Elected new president, as the chair was now called, of the Central Committee was Helge Lindhede. Then at the meeting on October 19, 1964, Helge Lindhede distributed a document to all the members of the Central Committee which showed that the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver had bought a piece of property on Kingsway. Helge Lindhede thought that this purchase would result in an annual deficit of \$2,146. As secretary of the Community Centre, Helge Lindhede had protested against the purchase of the property. He felt so strongly about it that he had resigned from the board of the Community Centre.

The other members of the Central Committee were of the opinion that the purchase of the property on Kingsway was a matter for the Community Centre and not the Central Committee, and therefore refused to deal with it in any way. Helge Lindhede then left the meeting, which the Committee interpreted as his resignation. Elected new president of the Central Committee was Henning Pedersson.

At the meeting in February 1965, Herman Kristensen stepped down as secretary of the Central Committee, and was replaced by Ole Kristensen. Moreover, the members of the Committee were informed that Svend Johansen had been appointed by B.C. Premier W.A.C. Bennett to represent the Danes for the 1967 Centennial. However, it was unanimously agreed by the Committee, "that Svend Johansen was not qualified to talk and to act on behalf of the Danish people, not knowing enough about Danish circumstances, affairs and facts."

In September 1965 Henning Pedersson stepped down as president of the Central Committee. Elected new president was Ejner Jorgensen. Unfortunately Ejner Jorgensen had to step down already in April 1966 as he was going into the hospital for an operation. None of the members present were willing to take the chair. Ejner Jorgensen then suggested that he phone Poul B.

Christensen as he had knowledge and experience relating to the work of the Central Committee. This was unanimously agreed and Jorgensen phoned Poul B. Christensen, who immediately came to the meeting. Despite already being president of the Community Centre, Poul B. Christensen was willing to stand, since nobody else was willing, and he thanked the Committee for their confidence.

The new minister at the Danish Lutheran Church in Vancouver, Pastor Immanuel Rasmussen, was invited to the next meeting of the Central Committee. Pastor Rasmussen, who had previously served at the DKU Church in Hamilton, Ontario, informed the meeting of the various Danish organizations in the Toronto area. The members of the committee were also surprised by the fact that he called people “du”, instead of the more formal “De”.

Due to Canada’s centennial in 1967 the Central Committee organized a grand Constitution Day picnic, one of the best ever, at Peace Arch Park. The key note speaker was NDP leader Tommy Douglas, M.P. The master of ceremonies was Captain Ove Trip. A dance group from the Kahaga



Folk Dancers entertain, Constitution Day, 1966

First Nation entertained as did the Danish Folk Dancers. The Church Service at the Danish Church on 19th Avenue was shortened, so Pastor Rasmussen could come to Peace Arch Park for a short Church Service. Pete Palmgren, who owned Old Country Bakery on Robson Street, had made an enormous fake layer cake with 100 candles. A special bus provided transport for seniors from Dania Home to the Park. The picnic had been publicized on the radio, in the newspaper and with posters in all the Danish shops. All the Danish associations helped with material, services, transport and staff. When

the event was over the clean up crew went to work and left the park in such a state that it was impossible to see that over 3,000 people had participated in the event. It had likely been one of the largest gatherings of Danes ever on the West Coast.

Due to Canada’s centennial the provincial government asked the Danes to write up their history in British Columbia. Each Danish association was therefore asked to write a short history, and they were indeed short. These histories were published in the 1967 Constitution Day Program, which were handed out at the picnic. The program also included a longer separate piece which started with the explorer Jens Munk at Hudson Bay in 1619, the founding of New Denmark in 1872 and the Danish settlement at Cape Scott on northern Vancouver Island in the 1890s.

Esper Boel, who had taken over as president of Dansk Canadisk Selskab after Buchart-Petersen, also visited Vancouver and had a meeting with the Central Committee. Esper Boel’s main interest was in student exchanges between Denmark and Canada.

As well, the Central Committee received an invitation from Copenhagen Lord Mayor Urban Hansen, inviting a couple from Vancouver, who originally came from Copenhagen, to join Copenhagen City Hall in celebrating the 800th anniversary of the city.

Around the same time the Royal Danish Consulate in Vancouver announced that the King Christian X's Jubilee Fund of 1937 was looking to give a deserving Danish immigrant a free trip to Denmark. The chosen candidate would be a person who had not been to Denmark since immigrating and who could not afford the trip on her or his own. The Fund, established by Danes in Montreal in 1937, was administered by the Danish Consulate General in Montreal.

Crown Princess Margrethe and Prince Henrik visited various Danish organizations across Canada in September 1967. The Vancouver part of the trip was coordinated in partnership with the Central Committee, which arranged a visit to the Danish Lutheran Church on 19th Avenue and a visit to Dania Home in Burnaby. Povl Westphall, the *Berlingske Tidende* journalist who accompanied the royal couple estimated that about 250 people showed up at the Church, where the Crown Princess, standing in front of the altar, spoke to the congregation. Poul B. Christensen thanked the royal couple for including Vancouver on their tour of Canada and explained how the Danes view Denmark as their parents, while they have married Canada. He then presented the couple with a beautiful coffee table book of Vancouver. At the end of the Service, conducted by Pastor Immanuel Rasmussen, Mrs. Captain Poulsen presented Princess Margrethe with a bouquet of red and white carnations. The royal party were then driven to Dania Home where Crown Princess Margrethe greeted all the residents, including the ones who were unable to get out of bed. She had a brief talk with 96-year-old Bertil Borgen, the oldest resident, and received a table cloth and serviettes, made by 91-year-old Anna Fischer.



Danish Consul J. Vibe Christensen speaking - Constitution Day, 1966

At the meeting of the Central Committee on January 24, 1968, the financial statement showed a deficit of \$150. This was due to the poor turnout for Danish feature films, which had been screened at the Bay Theatre on Denmark Street.

At the Constitution Day picnic at Peace Arch Park in June 1968 the key note speaker was Danish Ambassador Arne Bøgh Andersen. But at the picnic at Peace Arch Park in 1969 there was no key note speaker.

At the annual general meeting of the Central Committee in October 1969, Poul B. Christensen addressed the issues relating to holding Constitution Day at Peace Arch Park. It was no longer possible to celebrate the event at Peace Arch Park since the park would no longer allow a podium, speeches, flags, lotteries or sales of coffee and ice cream. As a consequence, after ten years at Peace Arch Park, Danish Constitution Day in June 1970 was held at Redwood Park in Surrey. The key note speaker was Willard Ernest Ireland, the provincial librarian and archivist.

The Children's Christmas Party in December 1969 was held at Hastings Auditorium, a hall on East Hastings Street, which had been bought by the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver that spring. It had been a great success with a total of 300 participants of which 182 were children. Unfortunately, the party showed a deficit of \$109. The following year nearly 500 people participated in the Children's Christmas Party at Hastings Auditorium, of which 262 were children. This was a record which still stands. The deficit was \$98.

At the first meeting of the Central Committee in 1971, it was announced that the Municipality of Surrey would no longer permit Danish Constitution Day picnics at Redwood Park. Instead the 1971 Constitution Day was held at Tivoli Gardens Ltd., a park in Langley. The key note speaker was Kristen Bo, vice-president of Industriraadet (The Industrial Council) in Copenhagen.

The annual general meeting of the Danish Central Committee held at Hastings Auditorium on October 28, 1971, would be its last. Poul B. Christensen wanted to step down as president and had written so in the Annual Report which had been distributed at the meeting. When it came to elections to the board, nominated for president at the meeting were: Poul B. Christensen, Eigil Kristensen, Ole Sigvardsen and Benny Christoffersen, but all declined to stand. Eigil Kristensen then stated that there was no longer a need for the Central Committee, as the larger Danish organizations could look after Constitution Day and the Children's Christmas Party. Pastor Rasmussen then stated that the idea behind the Central Committee



Edvin Rude

was not just to arrange these two gatherings, but to bring the various Danish organizations in Vancouver together and foster cooperation among them. Poul B. Christensen then suggested that the Danish Community Centre should take over the two events as these had been the only gatherings held by the Central Committee the last couple of years.

Ole Kristensen had been elected president of the Danish Community Centre five weeks earlier. He said that the Community Centre could not take on these tasks without him consulting the Board of Directors. Poul B. Christensen then suggested that the Central Committee could ask the Danish Brotherhood or DANA to take over the two events. Eigil Kristensen thought that the Community Centre should be responsible for Constitution Day. Erik Christiansen suggested that the Scandia Restaurant at Hastings Auditorium could put on the Children's Christmas Party. Edvin Rude proposed that a separate joint committee could be established to be responsible for just Constitution Day and the Children's Christmas Party. Ejner Silverbauer felt that they should try to keep the Central Committee alive.

Ole Kristensen then asked if there, by a show of hands, still was a desire to celebrate Constitution Day. Out of the 28 representatives present, 13 voted in favour of holding a Constitution Day picnic at Peace Arch Park without speeches. Ole Kristensen then moved that the Danish Central Committee be dissolved and that the assets as well as the liabilities of the Central Committee be transferred to the Danish Community Centre. By a show of hands 26 voted for the motion, with one against. With this motion the Central Committee ceased to exist. The assets, according to the financial statement handed out at the AGM were \$766.51. Before concluding the meeting Ejner Silverbauer from Dania, Ronald Munkeskov from DANA and Ole Kristensen from the Community Centre thanked Poul B. Christensen and Edvin Rude for the enormous work they had carried out for the Central Committee. The assembled gave the two a standing ovation. Poul B. Christensen and Edvin Rude then thanked the gathering and highlighted how they had enjoyed working with the many board members and the various Danish organizations. From that day forward it fell on the Danish Community Centre to coordinate cooperation among the various organizations in the Vancouver area.

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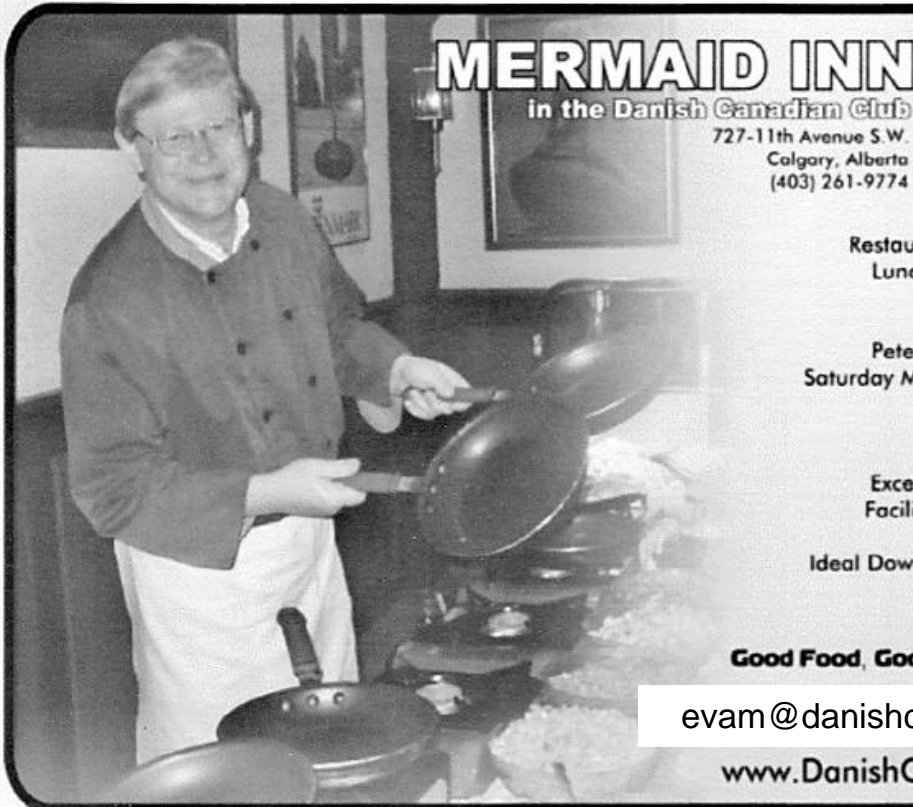
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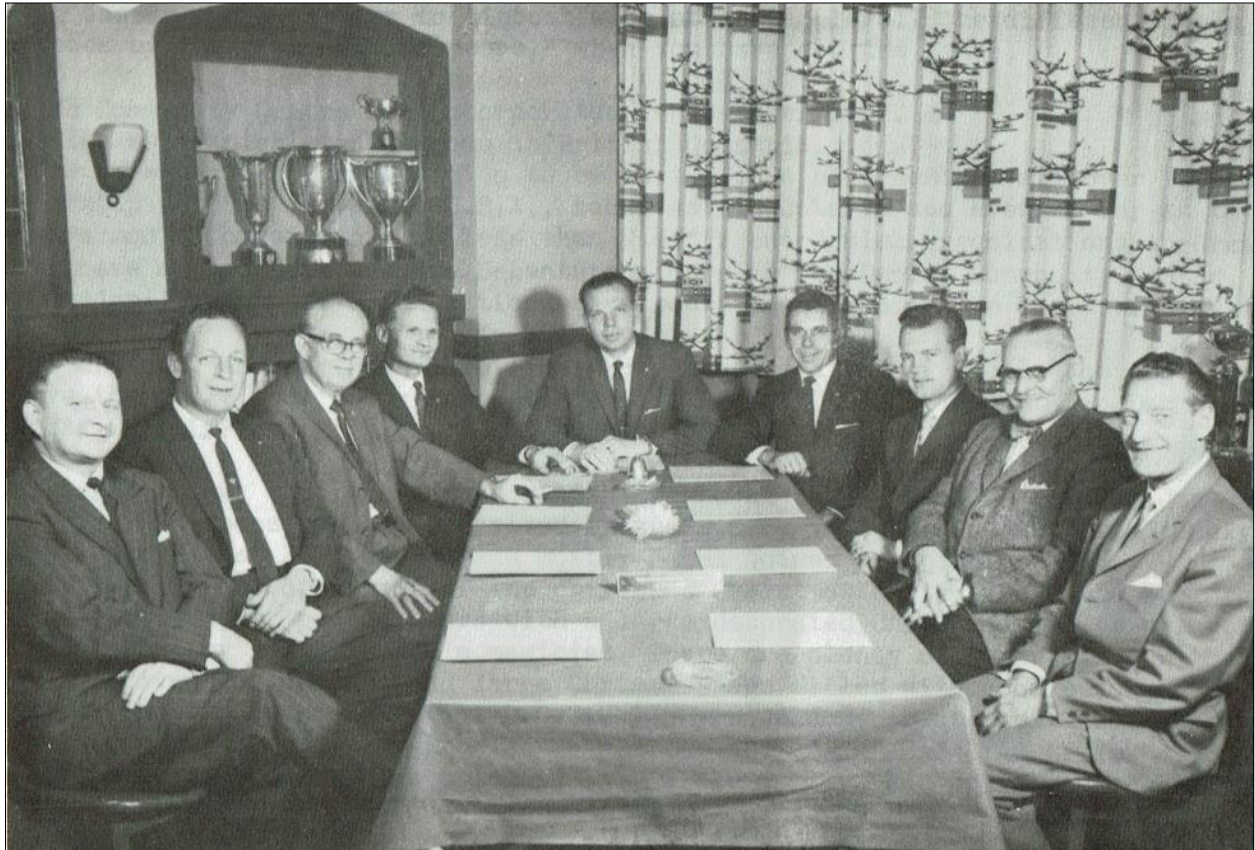
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The Danish Community Centre of Vancouver 1962 - 1972

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The Danish Community Centre of Vancouver, as it was first called, was created by the Central Committee in the Danish Church Hall on 19th Avenue on November 5, 1962. The aim of the Danish Community Centre was first and foremost to acquire or build a Danish House or community centre, which had been one of the objectives of the Central Committee.



Charter Members from L to R: Helge Lindhede, Henning Pedersson, Einer Jorgensen, Oscar Grann, Poul B. Christensen, Hugo Busch, Ib Nielsen, Bent A. Johansen, Edvin Rude

The Central Committee had been established in 1960 as an umbrella organization of the various Danish associations in the Vancouver area. The idea of an umbrella organization had been around for a long time, and the idea of a Danish House even longer. Vernon Tryson of the

Danish Brotherhood had handed over plans to the Central Committee showing that the Danish Brotherhood, Lodge 328, had toyed with plans for a Danish Hall going back twenty-five years. While the Danish Community Centre was established with the specific task of acquiring or building a Danish House, it gradually took over all operations of the Central Committee, which was then dissolved in 1971.

The Danish Community Centre was incorporated under the Societies Act of British Columbia. It was set up as an umbrella organization with the various Danish associations electing or appointing a representative to sit on the board of directors of the Community Centre. However, the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer of the Danish Community Centre were elected annually at the general meeting.

The first board of directors of the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver was elected by acclamation. Elected were President Poul B. Christensen (salesman); Vice-President Oscar Grann (furniture store); Secretary Einer Jorgensen (jeweller); Treasurer Hugo Busch (forest officer); and Directors at Large, Bent A. Johansen (manufacturer), Helge Lindhede (engineer), Ib Nielsen (gardener), Henning Pedersson (carpenter) and Edvin Rude (printer).

According to the bylaws the purposes of the society were:

- To form a body interested in bringing together people of Danish origin and persons of other National Origins, which the Directors consider suitable for membership in the Society, for the purpose of promoting sports, music, customs and other things which are peculiar to the Danish culture.
- To engage in works of a moral, charitable, educational and philanthropic nature.
- To be strictly non-political and non-sectarian.
- To acquire such real and personal property as the Society may from time to time see fit, or otherwise deal with such property or any part thereof as the Society may deem as best.
- To borrow, raise, provide or otherwise secure funds in such manner as the Society may see fit, and in particular by mortgage or by the issue of bonds or debentures.

With the creation of the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver the Central Committee disbanded its Building Committee, this task being taken over by the Community Centre. The search for a hall or a piece of property on which to build was intensified. As well it was necessary to start a fundraising campaign. None of the Danish associations had money to fund the project, and it seems that there were no individual financial backers or donors who could assist. It was therefore decided to sell \$100 debentures. In its first year the Community Centre sold 21 debentures. The sales were slow. After three years there were still only 132 debenture holders. In 1969, when the Community Centre bought Hastings Auditorium there were 172 debenture holders, a paltry result for a Danish community of about 20,000 in the greater Vancouver area.

The Community Centre looked at many properties, among them the old Kingsway Theatre, the Mission pop plant, a car lot on Kingsway, a property on Fraser Street across from Mountain View Cemetery as well as Hastings Auditorium. Whatever property they looked at the board always came back to the same question, "How can we make it pay?" The property had to be a

business proposition. The board could not rely on Danish associations or activities alone. The Centre would have to receive income from other sources as well. This meant that a property in Vancouver on a main street would be the best option. This was also in line with the advice the board had received from the Vancouver Real Estate Board.

With few funds coming from the Danish associations or from individual Danes the Community Centre had to look at other ways to raise money. One option was to invest in some real estate and hopefully make some money that way.

In late summer 1964 the Community Centre found four adjoining lots on Kingsway, situated only three blocks away from the Danish Church on 19th Avenue. The four lots at 1065-1075 Kingsway hugged the corner of Kingsway and Glen Drive. All four stores were occupied, and one-year leases could be obtained from the tenants with rents of \$322 per month. The owner was asking \$45,000 with \$22,500 down and \$250 per month including principal and interest at 7%.

The property was bought after quite a bit of haggling over the price. Thus after a number of negotiations the property was bought for \$39,000 with a down payment of \$10,000 and a mortgage of \$29,000, payable with \$250 per month, including principal and interest at 7%. The Community Centre had raised money by selling \$100 debentures, but still needed funds to pay for the \$10,000 down payment. This was solved by a donation from the Danish Brotherhood and a \$3,000 loan from Mrs. Anna Jorgensen, as well as help with a mortgage from the Vancouver and District Danish Credit Union, located at 96 East Broadway.

The yearly property tax and insurance amounted to respectively \$1,500 and \$110. The monthly mortgage payments were paid by the income from the tenants. Some vacancies occurred and there were repair and maintenance issues, including burst water pipes.

If the Community Centre were going to build or operate a viable hall there would have to be another source of income. It was suggested that the hall could include a bowling alley or apartments. The Community Centre also explored the idea of buying two acres from Dania Home on Grandview Highway (now Canada Way) and selling the Kingsway property. But the plan to locate a hall on Dania's property ran into difficulties because the municipality was opposed, saying no building permit near Dania would be issued before sewers had been installed. The municipality informed the Community Centre that it would prefer to have a future Danish hall located closer to Burnaby Lake.

In 1965 in order to sell more debentures all new debenture holders were entered into a draw to win a trip for two to Hawaii. Unfortunately it was apparently not much of an incentive as few new debentures were sold. As late as July 1970 it was also possible to buy a debenture by sending the Community Centre ten postdated \$10 cheques.

Around 1966 architect L.J.E. Genner of New Westminster drew up plans for a Danish community centre on the property on Kingsway. He proposed a new modern two-storey concrete structure, comprising an assembly hall and rentable stores and offices. It was an interesting proposal, but too expensive to act on at the time.

During the 1967 to 1968 fiscal year, the Kingsway property received a needed face lift, and the Community Centre bought an additional 30 feet of frontage on Kingsway from the City of Vancouver. Most of the building was rented out, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Jacklin. The loan from

Mrs. Anna Jorgensen was paid off and the financial statement for the year showed a profit of \$1,028.

In its report to the annual general meeting of the Danish Community Centre on September 30, 1968, the board could list seven accomplishments, in addition to a particularly successful dinner dance held at the Villa Motor Inn.

1. To date the Community Centre had sold 164 debentures at \$100 each.
2. The Centre had bought property on Kingsway, which had been given a face lift, and most of it was rented out. A good investment which was generating money.
3. Through Jens Sondergaard at Wright's Travel the Community Centre had organized five six-week charter flights from Vancouver to Copenhagen, as well as several shorter group flights. The Community Centre's Charter Flight Committee was headed by Svend Bratner. The charter flights were with Wardair Canada Ltd., while the group flights were with either Canadian Pacific Airlines or SAS.
4. The Danish Community Centre, in cooperation with Teatermusik A/S in Copenhagen and *Modersmaalet* in Toronto, had organized an Osvald Helmuth One-Man Show at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on March 28, 1965, with 1,000 in attendance. The show had been advertised by all the Danish associations and in Danish shops. Residents of Dania as well as the crew of the Danish ship *Danholm*, which was in port at the time, were invited to the show. The profit was \$232.
5. The Community Centre had helped screen Danish feature films in Vancouver.
6. The Erik Flensted-Jensen gymnasts from Denmark performed before 1,100 spectators at the University of British Columbia. The performance was moving, and the gymnasts were given a standing ovation.
7. Overall the Danish Community Centre was in good shape financially, showing a profit.

Shortly after the annual general meeting the Community Centre organized a one-man show by violinist Wandy Tworek, who was just as talented and entertaining on the violin as Victor Borge was on the piano. After performances in Toronto and Calgary he came to Vancouver where he performed at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, playing pieces from Bach, Carl Nielsen and many others. He was not as well know among Danes in Vancouver as Osvald Helmuth and so the turn out was disappointing, creating a deficit of \$1,346 for the event.

At the Community Centre's annual general meeting on September 29, 1969, the board informed the members that the property on Kingsway had been sold. It had been bought in September 1964 for \$39,000 and sold for \$70,000 cash to Jayberg Enterprises Ltd in April 1969. Ole Kristensen of O.K. Homes Ltd. had looked after the sale.

In February 1969 the Community Centre learned that the Sons of Norway were selling Hastings Auditorium, located at 828 East Hastings Street. The hall had been up for sale for a long time, and recently it had received two offers. As President of the Community Centre Poul B. Christensen immediately contacted the Sons of Norway and received details about the property. The Board unanimously approved that an offer should be given. On March 6, 1969, the Sons of Norway voted in favour of selling Hastings Auditorium to the Danish Community Centre for

\$104,000, with \$15,000 down and another \$19,000 by April 1, 1970. The monthly payments were \$723.31 at 9½ % and possession by noon, April 15, 1969. That evening the boards of the Community Centre and the Sons of Norway met and the building was officially turned over to the Community Centre. Until July 1970 the Community Centre had a fixed monthly income of \$935 as the present tenant, Herman Kristensen, had a lease which had to be respected.



*Hastings Auditorium on Hastings Street
Photo: Rolf B. Christensen*

In addition to the funds obtained by selling the Kingsway property the Community Centre was able to finance the purchase of Hastings Auditorium with a \$2,000 loan from Theodore Pedersen, a \$5,000 loan from the Danish Benefit Association DANA and a nearly \$8,000 loan from the Bank of Montreal.

Hastings Auditorium had been built in 1924. It was a two storey building containing three large halls with kitchens, offices, a library and a basement with an oil furnace. From the 1920s until about 1934 it had been called the Silver Slipper Dance Hall or just the Italian Hall. In about 1934 The Sons of Norway, Sleipner Lodge No. 8 began meeting at the hall the first and third Thursday of the month. At some point the Sons of Norway, Sleipner Lodge No. 8, must have bought Hastings Auditorium because it was from the Sleipner Lodge that the Danes bought it.

By acquiring Hastings Auditorium a dream came true, the Danes finally had a Danish House which could be used as a community centre. But the purchase of Hastings Auditorium was only the beginning of a tremendous task involving remodelling, alterations, buying furniture and equipment, facilitating parking etc. To make the hall a place where Danes would like to come, and a place of which they would be proud, funds were needed to carry out the extensive renovations. When Hastings Auditorium was bought the purchase included some furniture, fixtures and equipment, including three pianos, draperies, tables and dishes.

The annual general meeting of the Danish Community Centre on September 23, 1970, was held in the Valhalla Hall in Hastings Auditorium. In the annual report to the members, Poul B. Christensen reported that the Community Centre had obtained a bingo licence and a liquor licence. The ladies washrooms had been upgraded and the changes required by the building inspector as well as by the fire marshal had been attended to.

In the spring, Valhalla had been open quite a few Saturday evenings; with Just Melgaard's three piece orchestra entertaining. But not enough people had come out to make it profitable, so these dance parties had been discontinued, primarily due to lack of advertising and because Valhalla did not have a permanent liquor licence at the time.

Moreover, for the first time, after six consecutive years, the Community Centre did not offer charter flights to Denmark during the summer. Although a favourable contract was eventually offered by Canadian Pacific Airlines through Hans Kristensen Travel in Copenhagen, the board decided against the offer as it felt there was too little time to advertise the flights and to sell the tickets.

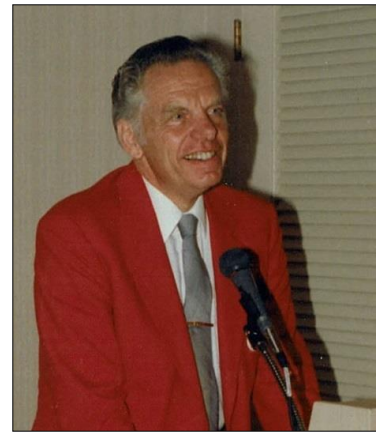
Yet, the biggest issue for the Danish Community Centre was the under-utilization of Hastings Auditorium. In his annual report Poul B. Christensen wrote,

“Going back to our last general meeting on September 29, 1969, and the following twelve months, the question comes to mind, “Why is it, so few Danish-Canadians seem to really care about a Danish Hall? That is the question the Board of Directors of the Danish Community Centre is asking these days.

For more than three decades, a Danish Hall was the talk of the Great Vancouver area. Today, a mumbling apathy appears to reign. Why would anyone think Danes have lost their interest in the development of this seemingly important facility? Why?

Membership has fallen, and rumours started to deteriorate the reputation of the Society. The Board expected at least so much “Cadeau” that we would have a year without any obstruction or hurdles to get Hastings Auditorium rolling. Although somewhat discouraged by this experience, the Board bolstered with energy, pressed forward and had the renovation program continued...

The Board of seven members has worked hard to get Hastings Auditorium established. We are on the right track.”



Poul B. Christensen

It was an intricate and time-consuming task running Hastings Auditorium, particularly for a volunteer board consisting of people with full-time jobs. A solution was therefore to lease the hall to a restaurant which could manage the property. Consequently the Community Centre entered into an agreement with Peter Hansen whereby he would operate Scandia Restaurant at Hastings Auditorium for ten years. One drawback was that the monthly payments did not cover all of the Community Centre’s monthly obligations. Other sources of income, hard to come by, were also needed in order to cover the mortgage payments.

The Scandia Restaurant serving authentic Danish food was open week days from 11:30 am to 8:00 pm for both lunch and dinner, but closed on Mondays. On Sundays it offered a smorgasbord from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. On Friday and Saturdays there was smorgasbord from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and then from 9:00 pm dancing to the Just Melgaard Trio.

The following year on September 30, 1971 the ninth annual general meeting of the Danish Community Centre was again held at Hastings Auditorium. There was a large turnout, about double the usual number. After the President, Poul B. Christensen, opened the meeting, welcoming all, Henning Pedersson was elected to chair the meeting. The minutes of the previous annual general meeting were read and approved. After some discussion the financial statements were also approved. The president read his annual report, which likewise was accepted as read.

Under General Discussion, according to the December 1971 newsletter *DCC News*, Ole Kristensen then rose to speak. The *DCC News* reported,

“Mr. Ole Kristensen ‘got the floor’ for some fifteen minutes. He brought to the attention of the members several certain facts. Strong criticism was thrown at the president for being unreal owing to his lack of knowledge and sound business sense, and the entire Board of Directors was blamed for having gone along with the uncontrolled and helpless manner in which the Community Centre had been run for a long time in spite of the many hours each and everyone had contributed in their capacity as director.



Ole Kristensen

Ole Kristensen claimed that it was an absolute must to sell 150 debentures (a total of \$15,000) before the next annual meeting in order to clear certain debt, and to prevent further insolvency, as our income was now fixed for the next ten years from the lease to Scandia Holdings, and that this income was inadequate to cover the daily expenses and also because further repairs would be unavoidable.

After the attack, which was clearly approved by the great majority, a short quiet debate ended the general discussion.”

Next item on the agenda was elections. A new board was elected consisting of President Ole Kristensen, Vice-President Oscar Grann, Secretary Mogens Mogensen and Treasurer Svend Bratner. The Directors at Large consisted of Ronald Munkeskov (Danish Art Club), Herlev Christoffersen (DANA), Henning Pedersson (Danish Brotherhood) and Aksel Jorgensen (Danish Bowling League).

Before the conclusion of the meeting the new president thanked the past president for the many, many hours he had given to the Danish Community Centre, “and he received a deserved applause.” Both the past president and the past vice-president, respectively Poul B. Christensen and Edvin Rude, had served on the board since the founding of the Community Centre nine years earlier. Ole Kristensen then concluded the general meeting by promising to sell 150 debentures before the next annual meeting.

At the September 1972 annual general meeting Ole Kristensen reported that 153 debentures had been sold. The four executives were re-elected, and Karen Pedersen joined the board, representing the Danish Sisterhood.

In the large Viking Hall at the Scandia Restaurant the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver celebrated its tenth anniversary on November 4, 1972. All life members, or debenture holders, were invited to a free cocktail, a free dinner, followed by kransekage and wine. The 228 people who attended were attractively dressed for the grand occasion and had a truly memorable evening. There were also some excellent door prizes, the first prize being two return tickets to Hawaii, donated by the Scandinavian Travel Centre. The successful, but costly, event was excellent publicity for the Community Centre.

Danish Community Centre of Vancouver
Properties bought and sold 1964 - 2007

Bought	Kingsway property	September 1964	\$39,000
Sold	Kingsway property	April 1969	\$70,000
Bought	Hastings Auditorium	April 1969	\$104,000
Sold	Hastings Auditorium	1973	\$170,000
Bought	Mission property	May 28, 1974	\$66,000
Sold	Mission property	August 1980	\$70,000
Bought	Elks Hall, Cloverdale	June 16, 1992	\$185,000
Sold	Elks Hall, Cloverdale	September 15, 2007	\$635,000

**Presidents of the Danish Canadian Community Centre
of British Columbia from 1962 to 2020**

Year(s) Served	No. of Years	Name of President
1962 - 1971	9	Poul B. Christensen
1971 - 1980	9	Ole Kristensen
1980 - 1982	2	Jens Miller
1982 - 1984	2	Garry Elmberg
1984 - 1986	2	Henning Jensen
1986 - 1992	6	Allen A. Paquette
1992 - 1995	3	Inge Patrong
1995 - 1999	4	Leo Pedersen
1999 - 2002	3	Inge Patrong
2002 - 2003	1	Egon Nielsen
2003 - 2008	5	Inge Patrong
2008 - 2020	13	Margit Hansson

Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C. 1972 - 2020

Ed Kuhlman

The Danish Canadian Community Centre of Vancouver celebrated its 10th anniversary on November 4, 1972 in the Viking Hall at the Scandia Restaurant in the Hastings Auditorium on Hastings Street. All Life-Members were invited to a free dinner after a free cocktail and later in the evening “Kransekage” and wine. The event was attended by no less than 228 happy and party-dressed people. The 10th Anniversary Action Draw took place at 11:00pm. Prizes consisted of the following:

- 1st Prize – 2 return tickets to Hawaii donated by Scandinavian Travel Centre
- 2nd Prize – Danish Teak Coffee Table, donated by Oscar’s Furniture
- 3rd Prize – Weekend for two at The Harrison Hot Springs donated by O.K. Homes Ltd
- 4th Prize – Something Special for “The Thirsty” donated by Superior Builders

Who won these prizes has been forgotten, and is not really important. What was important was that the income of the society was constrained by the ten year fixed income lease on the Hastings Auditorium held by the restaurant. The president Ole Kristensen, a real estate agent by profession had donated the 3rd prize as the owner of O.K. Homes Ltd., and had made the case that the society was on shaky financial grounds. The decision was made by the Board of Directors to sell the Hastings Auditorium and consideration should be given to purchasing a property that was more suitable for recreational purposes.

Subsequently in 1973 the Hastings Auditorium, purchased for \$104,000 in 1969 was sold for \$170,000, realizing a tidy profit of \$66,000. Throughout the rest of 1973 a search was undertaken for a suitable new home, the search proved to be fruitless and no suitable property was found.

In April of 1974, Ole Kristensen noticed an advertisement in a local paper for some property situated near Mission, B.C. He telephoned the advertiser, a Mr. Bell of La’ Bell Holdings and arranged to meet him to inspect the property with the intention of possibly purchasing it for himself. After his inspection tour, he concluded that the property would meet the needs of the Danish Community Centre. The property consisted of two lots and his intention was to purchase one lot for himself and the other for the Community Centre.

After some negotiation a purchase price of \$117,000 was agreed upon for the two lots. That sum was broken down as \$60,000 for the Community Centre lot and \$57,000 for the lot he intended to purchase for himself. Papers were drawn up and Ole Kristensen indicated to Mr. Bell that he intended to add a \$6,000 (10 Per cent) commission to the Centre’s lot price bringing the price to

\$66,000 and that the commission was to be credited to the price of the lot he was purchasing for himself reducing the price of that lot to \$51,000. An interim agreement was drawn up.

On May 4, 1974 and again on May 12, 1974, members of the DCC Board of Directors viewed the property and indicated that they were favorably impressed. In due course a statement of adjustments was prepared by a solicitor. The vendor's copy showed that a commission of \$6,000 was being paid, but the purchaser's copy (Community Centre copy) showed the purchase price of \$66,000 and made no mention of the \$6,000 commission. The Board of Directors met on May 18, 1974 and approved the purchase of the lot for the sum of \$66,000. No mention was made that a commission of \$6000 was included in the sale price and paid to Ole Kristensen, an obvious conflict of interest for the current President.

By the 15th Anniversary of the Danish Canadian Community Centre of Vancouver in 1977, the land purchased in Mission, B.C., despite the patronage and use of the property by various groups including the Danish Benefit Association "DANA", the purchase proved to be controversial. The majority of the members considered the location to be too far away from the greater Vancouver area. Weather factors also made the use of the property for recreational purposes a seasonal consideration. Disgruntled members were also convinced that something was not right about the original purchase transaction. An action was launched in the County Court of Vancouver against Ole Kristensen contesting the legality of the particulars of the purchase.

Meanwhile, the Peace Arch Grundlovsfest Picnic held in the summer of 1978, saw the traditional attendance of 3,000 to 4,000 patrons drop to approximately 2,000 and was a harbinger of the major drops in attendance to come over subsequent years. The Children's Christmas Party that year was held on December 17, 1978 at the Canadian Legion Hall on Commercial Drive in Vancouver. A total of 83 families arrived and brought with them a total of 160 kids who each received a "Goodie Bag" from Santa and danced around the Christmas tree.

Judgement against Ole Kristensen was handed down on February 28, 1979. Judge Paris stated:

"I am satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that of the \$66,000 paid by the Danish Community Centre the accused obtained \$6,000.00 for himself by deceit, falsehood or other fraudulent means, that is, that he dishonestly deprived the Danish Community Centre of \$6,000.00. I find the accused guilty as charged".

The judgement was appealed and the Court of Appeal in a ruling by Justice Hinkson on January 18, 1980 dismissed the appeal and upheld the conviction.

Prior to the appeal ruling, On May 4, 1979, it was broadcast over the radio that Jorgen Schierbeck, at that time a member of the Danish Community Centre had launched a B.C. Supreme Court Action against the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver, and 4 of the society's elected officers claiming a fix in the February 1979 election. Schierbeck wanted the election declared null and void and a new one held. In the petition he also wanted several other matters to be dealt with for clarification and corrections and wanted any act or appointment done or made by the said Directors to be null and void and of no effect. On the 14th of September 1979, the Supreme Court dismissed the application.

Despite his conviction exactly one year earlier, Ole Kristensen was still president of the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver and had no intention of resigning. From notes of the February 28, 1980 Annual General Meeting:

The seventeenth annual general meeting of the Danish Community Centre was held at the Scandia Restaurant at 828 East Hastings Street on Thursday, February 28, 1980. It came to be a meeting that was remembered for a long time, even today by old timers. Outlined quite clearly on the front page of the Notice of Meeting were the definitions of a Life Member and an Associate Member, as well as a description of who could vote at an AGM.

The Board was aware that trouble was brewing and therefore took certain precautions. For one the Notice pointed out that no new memberships would be sold at the door. The meeting had been called for 7:30 pm, but it was 8:00 pm before the president, Ole Kristensen, called the meeting to order to bid everyone welcome. Elected by acclamation to chair the meeting was Poul B. Christensen. Then from 8:05 until 9:50 the meeting discussed who could vote, despite the fact that members from both of the two factions had sat at the door and checked who was eligible to vote. The two factions consisted of the supporters of the President, Ole Kristensen, and then those who were disgusted with his behaviour and dealings.

The chair was informed by the scrutineers at the door that there were 144 eligible voters present, which the chair then announced to the members. Immediately a member stood up and asked how it could be he had a voting card with the number 147. And then another stood up and said he had voting card number 149. The chair then asked to have every single name on the membership list read out loud. In this way it was discovered that there were five corporate members that had not been listed, for a total of 149 members.

Next there was a vote as to whether or not Uwe Bruhn should be readmitted as a member. Uwe Bruhn received 84 votes in favour of being reinstated and 65 against. With this result the Board realized they had lost the battle and Uwe Bruhn was reinstated as a member. Another member was also reinstated, but this time without a vote.

The meeting then approved the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting as well as the minutes of the Special General Meeting to amend the bylaws, which had been held on May 24, 1979. Both the financial statements and the President's Report were approved fairly quickly. But then during General Discussion the assembly turned into an unruly lot with much shouting and yelling. At one point a member took Ole Kristensen's tape recorder and was going to smash it on the floor, while swearing and using profane language. After the meeting the chairman was criticized for not having this member thrown out of the meeting.

Then came the election. Ole Kristensen, Erik Christiansen, Benny Nordhoj and Henning Pedersson were all willing to stand for re-election as respectively president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. However, one by one they were replaced by Jens Miller, Hilmer Solberg, Axel Johannesen and Garry Elmberg.

Jens Miller, a member of the Danish Brotherhood, was now the new president and quickly got down to work. Jens Miller and his new board saw the disposal of the property in Mission as a priority. They called a Special General Meeting for May 13, 1980, with the sole purpose of getting the membership's approval to sell the property. In an August letter to the membership Jens Miller informed the members that the property had been sold for \$70,000 cash. He added, the "sale of the Mission Property will of course, involve changes in the Society's activities. The Board is presently laying plans which are in accord with the original purposes of the Society and for this it needs, and solicits, your continued support."

The Board also recommended some changes to the Community Centre's bylaws, which were presented to the membership in December 1980. The bylaws committee consisted of Jens Miller, Poul B. Christensen and Jorgen Schierbeck, and was chaired by Kjeld Lysholt from The Danish Art Club.

Garry Elmberg's financial statement at year-end 1980 also showed that Ole Kristensen had repaid the Community Centre the \$6,000.

By the 20th Anniversary of the Society in 1982, with the property in Mission disposed of, the focus remained on acquiring a lot that included a building or on which a Danish Hall could be built. At an April 28, 1983 Special Meeting the following recommendation was passed:

This assembly would like the Board of Directors of the Danish Community Centre to approach the Dania Society regarding the negotiations between the Dania Society and the Danish Community Centre in order to go together on a Danish Hall on the piece of property presently owned by Mrs. Wise, and to look into the possibility of getting a grant from the government for this purpose.

Despite the failed attempt to acquire the Wise property and other setbacks, the dream of having a hall for the Danish Community was kept alive and finally in January 1992, a year in which the society would celebrate its 30th anniversary, the Danish Community Centre purchased the old Elks Hall in Cloverdale, B.C. and took possession in June 1992.

“On June 15, 1984, the Danish Community Centre celebrated the inauguration of their new flag. The date was selected for “Valdemarsdag”, the anniversary of the day “Dannebrog” supposedly fell down from heaven. The ceremony started shortly after 7:30pm with two Royal Guards bringing in the flag. The Danish Consul, Finn Petersen, put in the first nail for the Queen, the second nail by Pastor Arendt for the people, the third nail by D.C.C. President Garry Elmberg. After the ceremony Ebba Sipple sang “Vift Stolt Paa Codans Bølger & I Danmark Er Jeg Født”. There were several speeches and humour during the dinner; it was also remembered that the 15th of June was the tenth anniversary of the New Dania Home, and President Herluf Pedersen said a few choice words about that.”



*Royal Guard Knud Nielsen
Presenting the new flag*

“One of the first members of the Dania Ladies Auxiliary, Marie Overgaard, was invited for the occasion, and Karl Kristensen, President of the Danish Brotherhood, also paid tribute to Mrs,

Overgaard because she was one of the ladies who donated and embroidered the first Danish Flag for Lodge 328 of Vancouver. Mrs. Overgaard mentioned that this flag was used often for different occasions during the war years, when all connections with Denmark were cut off.” Author – Svend Gerslund (1984)

Over the years the Danish Canadian Community Centre of Vancouver changed its name several times to, Danish Community Centre of B.C. and then finally in 2000 to Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C. The society hosted and sponsored numerous events including: Valentine's dances, Spring Dinners and Dances, Harvest Festivals, Pub Nights, ballroom dance lessons, Danish cooking classes, New Year's Parties, Whist Drives, Children's Christmas Parties, and the Annual Grundslovs Fest.



40th Anniversary Party held in Cloverdale Hall

It had been my original intention to chronicle the various events and Annual General Meetings of the society in this article, but that would take too much space and eventually bore you the reader. The Charts on Page 127 show the properties purchased and sold and those who served as Presidents of the society.

As mentioned earlier the main focus over the years 1980 to 1992 was the acquisition of a Danish House or Hall for the membership to use and enjoy. With the election of Al Paquette, a practicing lawyer by profession, as president in 1986, that search took on a new life. Finally in June of 1992 an acquisition became a reality with the purchase of the Cloverdale Elks Hall for the sum of \$185,000. To assist with the financing of the purchase, the Cloverdale Elks Society carried a \$35,000 mortgage.

The Cloverdale Hall served the membership well, but an aging and dwindling membership and a shrinking pool of active and engaged volunteers, led the Board of Directors with the approval of the membership to sell the property in 2007, the 45th anniversary year of the organization's founding. The membership said goodbye with a final dinner/dance in September 2007.



The Cloverdale Elks Hall

The sale of the Cloverdale Hall for \$635,000 changed the dynamics of the governing of the society. Time and a combination of factors that included the founding of the Scandinavian Centre in 1996 in the Vancouver suburb of Burnaby, with its more central location, large soccer field, proximity to the Danish Lutheran Church and Dania Home, more modern kitchen facility, meeting rooms, large library, room for expansion,

parking, etc., resulted in the marginalization of the society. New prospective members gravitated to the new Danish House at the Scandinavian Centre and its successful Kroaften Pub Nights that had been pioneered by the Danish Community Centre.

After the sale of the Hall the primary focus became how best to serve the dwindling membership in the larger context of the Danish Community and its various clubs and organizations since one of the original mandates of the Community Centre was to serve as an umbrella organization to the various clubs.

The Board of Directors and the membership at the first annual general meeting after the sale of the Hall held in April 2008 formulated a plan to preserve the capital from the sale and use the interest from the investment of the funds realized from the sale, to start a grant program. The intent was to serve as a facilitator of culture, charity, education, and philanthropy within the Danish community. A scholarship program was entered into jointly with the once rival Danish House Society one of the owners of the Scandinavian Centre. As well the Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C. continued to host and organize the Annual Grundlovs Fest no longer held at the Peace Arch Park, but held instead on the grounds of the Scandinavian Centre, and collaborated with the Danish House Society on a joint Children's Christmas Party at the Scandinavian Centre known as the Christmas by the Fireside.



Interior of the Cloverdale Hall



Children's Christmas Party in Cloverdale Hall

Grants were given out to successful applicant organizations on a yearly basis and the amounts given were sometimes less than the amount applied for in order to maximize the number of organizations benefitting. Recipient organizations over the years included: the local Danish Sisterhood and Danish Brotherhood Lodges, the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby, the Granly Lutheran Church in Surrey, the Royal Danish Guards, the Danish House Society, the Scandinavian Dancers, The Tivoli Singers, Dania Home, and even the Pacific Region of the Federation.

Finally, with less than 80 members at the start of 2020, the decision was made and approved by the dwindling mostly non-active membership to dissolve the society and individual members received a small share of the remaining assets with the bulk of the funds disbursed according to the recommendations of a panel of trustees that consisted of Sandra Alexander, Margit Hansson, Kjeld Federiksen and Leo Pedersen.

So, the story of 58 years of Community Service comes to an end and the legacy of the Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C. is that it left the Danish Community as a whole less divided and more united than ever before. The original mission as defined by the founders has been fulfilled. Thank You for a fine 58 years and a job well done! Mange Tak!!

Danish Canadian Community Centre of B.C. - Photos



*Board of Directors 1983-84
Standing L to R: Peter Praegel, Svend Gerslund, Ulf
Jessen, Marie Johansen, Karen Elmberg
Seated L to R: Erik Esmann, Garry Elmberg, Fred
Hansen*



*Annual Children's Christmas Party
c. 1970s*



*A Meeting at the Centre: September 15, 1998
Standing L to R:
Ole Molhoj, Poul Erik Rasmussen, Poul B.
Christensen, Karen Elmberg, Niels Jorgensen,
Seated Left to R:
Emmy Wegner, Solvejg Nielsen, Inge Patrong*

DCCC NEWS
Volume 43 Number 3 Incorporated 1962 May - June 2005

Grundlovsfest - Sunday, June 5th 2005

Board of Directors for 2005

Board of Directors for 2005: (Left to Right)
Lilly Bruhn, 1st Vice-President; Ella Wolder, Director; Karen Elmberg, Director;
Leo Pedersen, Treasurer; Inge Patrong, President; Knud Elgaard, Director;
Ed Kuhlman, Secretary; Linda Kuhlman, Director; and Uwe Bruhn, Director.
Absent: Vic Friesen, 2nd Vice-President; Lykke Callaghan, Director; and
Jack Larsen, Director.

Hall Address: 17672 - 57 Ave., Surrey (Cloverdale), B.C. Phone: (604) 576-1962
P.O. Box 34087 Clover Square Village, 17790 #10 Highway, Surrey, B.C. V3S 8C4
Internet: <http://www.danishcanadiancc.org> Email: board@danishcanadiancc.org

DCCC Newsletter: May-June 2005

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2020 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Danish Federation was held on Saturday, September 26, 2020, via a ZOOM conference call. The technical services were graciously provided by Michael Bonde of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. The meeting was chaired by Danish Federation Vice-President Ed Kuhlman and recorded by National Secretary Aase Christensen. Treasurer Sune Overgaard presented the financial statements, which showed a profit of \$962, up from a deficit of \$19,807 the year before. The change was primarily due to the earnings of \$19,651 on a five-year bank investment. The financial statements were reviewed by Gert M. Andersen, former president of the Ontario Region. The elections were chaired by Larry Kjearsgaard, president of the Alberta Region. Elected were Rolf Christensen, Ed Kuhlman, Aase Christensen and Sune Overgaard, respectively as National President, National Vice-President, National Secretary and National Treasurer.

Carl Sorensen of Edmonton, Chair of the Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee reported on the activities of the Committee and highlighted the field trip in July to Churchill, Manitoba, the wintering site of Jens Munk and his crew in the winter of 1619-1620. Rolf Christensen reported on the Knud Rasmussen Committee and updated the participants on the status of Knud Michelsen's book about Knud Rasmussen and the Fifth Thule Expedition. The meeting concluded with Tom Hedekar, President of the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club inviting us to hold our Annual General Meeting and Conference in Nanaimo from May 27-30, 2021. The status of where the country is at with the Covid-19 pandemic will of course have an impact on whether this event can in fact take place. We will be optimistic!

As Club Reports were not presented at this annual general meeting National Secretary Aase Christensen asked member organizations of the Danish Federation to send her a report covering the period from May 2019 to September 2020, with a deadline for submissions of November 30, 2020. The Report should focus on news worthy events and be no longer than 400 words. These Club Reports will be printed in the 2021 Heritage Book which we plan to publish in 2021.

Stay well and safe!

Aase Christensen, National Secretary, and
Rolf Buschardt Christensen, National President



Reports from the Member Organizations

Submitted in Lieu of Presentations at the Annual General Meeting held Via Zoom Video Conferencing on Saturday, September 26, 2020

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

In June 2020, Founders Day in New Denmark, N.B., did not take place as Covid-19 restrictions did not allow us to get together. Even though our New Denmark Museum was closed to the public we were able to employ a student. She worked tirelessly over the summer working on projects within the museum. Once again in June 2021 Founders Day will not take place as we wait to get vaccinated. Nevertheless, we will again be hiring a student, and the student will continue work on projects within the Museum. Moreover, we will be doing renovations to our barn over the summer, the work being done in kind. Looking ahead, the 150th Anniversary of our ancestors arriving in New Denmark will be celebrated in June 2022. We are planning a five-day celebration including such things as a Memorial Service, an Ecumenical Church Service, a parade, a family dance, a pie contest, children's activities, fireworks etc. In short, we are looking forward to many celebrations in June 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Jensen, President

2. Danish Canadian Society, Montreal

The past year has indeed been different due to the current pandemic and this report is in many ways a "non-report". All the Society's regular functions were cancelled and the board's one and only meeting (AGM) was conducted via Zoom. Members have reached out to each other, and the board, via phone calls and social media and we got many interesting glimpses into people's lives during the pandemic. Many of our members have not been able to see family and friends, which has been difficult. The situation in Quebec is easing up as more people are getting vaccinated. At the time of writing Quebec will be going mostly Orange in a few days, and some zones are already Yellow. With this in mind we hope to be able to celebrate Christmas as our first activity since the pandemic began. I would like to convey a personal thank you to those who have kept me up to date during this unusual year. Best wishes to members and friends of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada and hoping 2022 will return to normal for everyone.

Respectfully submitted by Ole Larsen, President, Danish Canadian Society, Montreal

3. The Danish Club of Montreal

I am pleased to report on the activities of the Danish Club of Montreal for 2020/2021. The year began with great enthusiasm for the club's monthly smørrebrød lunch at the Black Watch Regiment in downtown Montreal. We had a great number of attendees the first months of January, February and March of 2020. From April onward due to the Covid 19 Pandemic we have stopped our monthly lunches indefinitely until there is an officially safe reopening of food and restaurant establishments in Montreal. The annual Canada Day Parade 2020 was cancelled by the City of Montreal where each year we look forward to sharing the event with the Danish Canadian Society and approximately thirty local Danish Montrealers (of all ages) dressed in Viking costumes parading on Sainte Catherine Street with the Vinland Viking Ship Float.

Our Danish Club annual soccer tournament was cancelled due to Covid, as we customarily hold the games at Ovide Park in Pointe Claire where our team has played against the Norwegian Club, the Finnish Club, and where we hold our intra-Denmark games between the Sjaelland and Fyn teams, followed by a picnic, beer and snaps.

Our AGM was successfully held in November by ZOOM with the Board of Directors elected and re-elected by acclamation. In December we held a Christmas club gathering via ZOOM. Since January, we have implemented our monthly club gatherings via ZOOM and the participation and fellowship amongst our members remain strong and steadfast, particularly due to the need for socialization via online means.

Our club continues with its paid membership as it was unanimously voted at the AGM in favour to keep annual fees in place despite restrictions arising from the Covid 19 Pandemic. Our club's finances remain strong. Almost all our club's outgoing and incoming payments are by eTransfer, making accounting and administration time negligible. The website domain name for our club has changed from www.danishclubmontreal.com to www.danishclubmontreal.org. We would enjoy hearing from you. You may email us at info@danishclubmontreal.org.

Submitted by Kren Claūsen, President

4. The Danish Club of Ottawa

The year 2020 was a year of much change in the Danish Club of Ottawa, the global pandemic having forced the cancellation of all our social events. September's AGM via Zoom saw a couple of new Officers being added to the Board of Directors: Lena Devlen as Secretary and Maxine Evans as Treasurer which filled positions left vacant. Returning to the Board are David Bournes as President, Lene Kelly as Vice President, Marianne Bournes, Rosann Kristensen, Svend Kristensen, Jeff Jessen and Ernst Jacobsen as Directors. Vibeke Reid is the co-ordinator of club memberships.

We, like all social clubs, have had to adapt to trying to provide our members with continued communication through our new formats, Viking News and Zoom meetings for the AGM and the Board of Directors.

We were able to get our new Danish Club of Ottawa website, Facebook and Instagram pages up and running all through the hard work and dogged determination of Lene Kelly. Unfortunately, all activities for the near future will remain on hold including The Queen's Birthday Gala, Spring

FEDERATION AGM & 40th ANNIVERSARY

Potluck, St. Hans, Kubbe in the Park and Pub Night as well as Seniors Luncheon and Bingo Night.

This year's AGM will in all likelihood be a virtual meeting as in 2020. Unfortunately we will still be at the mercy of the pandemic unless things change dramatically. We are currently planning a tentative date in November 2021 for our Danish Christmas Bazaar which we had to cancel in fall 2020. Maybe Canada will have achieved herd immunity and we will be able to proceed. Wishing all good health, and stay safe, get your vaccination as soon as you are able it is quite a seamless process once you are on the list.

Respectfully submitted by David Bournes, President, The Danish Club of Ottawa

5. The Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto



Greetings from The Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto: during an unusual time and a pandemic that has resulted in challenging times for all of us. The first three quarters of the year progressed well with good attendance for our church services followed by our weekly activities - Church Cafe, Golden Age Club, Folk Dancing, Film Days and The Opera Lunches. We celebrated the 800th Anniversary of Dannebrog in June 2019.

Throughout the year we try to celebrate our traditions. Those who come to our church will not only celebrate our Sunday church service followed by a lunch but also such events as St. Hans, Welcome Back Fest, Thanksgiving Supper, Lucia, Juletræsfeest and Fastelavn. Twice a year the bazaars result in \$30,000 profit for our church.

New initiatives were started by Pastor Simon Kangas Larsen but were barely begun when covid interrupted them. Some of the new groups were Family Choir, Play and Pizza, Danish School for Young and Old and Hygge Meetings for Danes new to Toronto. Mid March 2020 changed all our lives. Churches were closed everywhere. All events were cancelled. In order to keep some of the bazaar open Pastor Simon asked those interested to order their Imports through him. In the fall people could order open faced sandwiches also. For a few weeks church services could be held if they followed all the rules. Now again, we are closed down and have to rely on 20-minute services on the internet. Needless to say, all are hoping that Covid-19 will soon be under control, and life can get back to normal. Our Website is at: <https://danishchurchtoronto.ca>.



Respectfully Submitted by Liselotte Østergaard

8. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch

We started the summer of 2019 with the yearly Constitution Day, which was wonderful as always. It was a warm and sunny day, attended by 750 adults and 175 children. We raised the price of entrance from \$5 to \$10, which really helped with fundraising. At the AGM, the Planning Committee presented a report of options for the growth and sustainability of Sunset Villa. The report can be read at <http://www.sunsetvilla.org/members-page.html>. In the summer we continued our Danish dinner dances, followed by Duck Bingo in October. The campground was open, and all sites were rented! We also modernized the design of the bi-monthly Bulletin, which was a much welcome change. In November the seniors' apartments had a vacancy, which was renovated and rented to a member. There was an increase in price to \$900 per month, which is still below market value, and is needed to keep Sunset Villa sustainable.

In December, we held the second annual Nordic Christmas Market. Unfortunately, there was a heavy snowfall/hailstorm that day, but that did not stop 300 people from coming to enjoy Danish food and Nisser! We decided to try again the next weekend, and 600 more people came. It was a big success, and has become more popular than Constitution Day!

That concluded 2020, but we had no idea what would hit us next: Covid-19 in 2020! Every year The Danish Place restaurant opens in March, but within three weeks of opening there were government orders to close it! This brought about an unpleasant reality: that operating a restaurant in 2020 was not financially viable and The Danish Place gave notice to vacate. In an effort to keep a Danish restaurant going at Sunset Villa, a fundraiser was held using GoFundMe. The outcome was hugely successful, raising \$139,000. The Danish Place agreed to open again, and money was provided monthly. But by October it was clear that business, with the many restrictive government mandated rules (which changed often and suddenly!) was again not viable. The operators (Kristine Mathers, Jacob Beck and Joanne Moyes) gave notice to close their business in November. This was a hugely upsetting and sad time for all involved. Only three years ago (Jan 2018) they took this venture on and elevated the dining experience with renovations, which attracted so many new customers. Along the way, Sunset Villa benefited, experiencing a renaissance. Our Membership grew as we piggy-backed on their incredible marketing skills and social media presence. We also benefited from their tireless promotion of Sunset Villa to their customers and helping with gift shop sales. The presence of next generation Danes was stronger than it had been in years. It also attracted some younger members to volunteer, including on the Board. Working with the restaurant as partners on events was not only interesting, but a joy. The three years were very special because of them. And we thank each of them, Kristine, Jacob and Joanne for all they did! And of course, Anna and Benny as well who always helped their kids at the restaurant! The upside, if we can see any during this difficult time, is that there is still money left from the fundraiser for a future operator, and that The Danish Place gave Sunset Villa all chattels, branding and social media, so that the restaurant can be rented as a "turnkey" operation. We are currently looking for an operator!

Fortunately, Covid-19 did not affect our campground operation. The government did not shut down camping in 2020, and with all sites rented the campground was a great respite for those who tired of staying home. It gave people a chance to be in nature, which all of us really needed since the borders were closed worldwide.

In December we held a modified Nordic Market, whereby the Baker and our Danish Butik (gift shop) were open, and there were sandwiches for sale "to go", operated by Jessica Jensen,

(President Monica Jensen's daughter), and her many helpers. Despite the Covid restrictions, this day was very successful. What will happen at the restaurant in 2021? Stay tuned for what happens next!

Submitted by Lisa Olsen (President to April 2020) and Monica Jensen, Current President

12. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary

This report covers the time period from May 2019 to November 2020. Since May 2019 several things have been taking place at our Club. We have again had many banquets in our facilities throughout the year. We had our annual Stampede celebration July 5th, and as per tradition there was a lunch after the parade. The following day we hosted Stampede Breakfast in our parking lot (put on by volunteers). We had our regular Club closure July 29 to August 22 for everyone to get a break at the same time. On September 18, 2019, we held our annual AGM, where John Steffensen stepped down as president, and Per Andersen was appointed as president of the Board of Directors. The Club hosted a successful Casino on September 20 and 21, and as in previous years it was put on by volunteers. October 2019, we celebrated our general Manager, Peter Christensen's 25th Anniversary with the Club. This was a sold-out event in our large banquet room (Valhalla) with many speeches and cheers. There were lots of smiles and also a few tears during the speeches along with a few videos. The fall business was good as per usual, with a number of Christmas parties booked by different businesses, of which many come back year after year. The Club's Touch of Class Christmas party was a successful event once again. We did not however have sufficient participation to justify a New Years party.

The Club's Speakers Forum continued in 2019 with the last one of 2019 taking place on November 21. The year 2020 started out in a regular fashion, and we had the first Speaker's Forum on February 20, 2020. This turned out to be the last Club function before we were asked to close our doors for business on March 20th, due to COVID 19 as per instruction from the Alberta Government. All employees were temporarily laid off at this time. During the closure, we decided to have our AGM as per usual. With no Club employees, the big job of preparing for this was done by volunteers, led by our manager Peter Christensen and our office manager Eva Mamchur. Sadly John Steffensen, who was still serving on the Board as past president passed away on September 21st, two days before our AGM. When we held our AGM on September 23rd, it was well attended with more than fifty shareholders present in spite of COVID 19. At the time of this writing, we remain closed for business at least until January 2021.

Respectfully submitted by the Management and Per Andersen, President

15. Calgary Naver Club

The Calgary Naver Club is still going strong with 45 members at the moment. We managed to have three good monthly meetings in the beginning of 2020. Then Covid-19 hit hard, and we had to cancel our AGM meeting in April, and up to this date we haven't had a meeting yet, due to that. The Danish Canadian Club is also closed and with all the shut down restrictions that have been in place, we are not sure when we might get together for our AGM. Some of the Navers did get together on a few small camping get-togethers during the summer, which was very nice, and we are hoping to do the same in 2021. Med Kno På Bordet (With knuckles on the table),

Respectfully submitted by Jens Laursen, President

17. Dickson Store Museum, Dickson

This has been an unusual year for the Dickson Store Museum. The pandemic of COVID-19 has cast a long shadow and our community museum has been significantly affected in all the areas of operations. We were unable to put on any of our fundraisers and we were concerned about our financial status. We were fortunate to have tremendous support from our federal, provincial and municipal governments in the form of emergency support funds. We did start having Bingos again and were able to work a Casino last fall. Our “Chase the Ace” at J bar T was suspended in spring then restarted briefly then shut down again. Hopefully, we can finish it this spring. The biggest impact on museum operations, is that we were unable to open for the season, had to lay off our manager, and not hire summer students. We had worked hard in the last years to build up some funds for much needed repairs and renovations. A lot of this was done last summer. The renovations to the



ice cream room will make it possible to easily follow COVID guidelines in food handling. We also went ahead and hired a part time administrative assistant to work with us to get our online presence up to date and to review and update the necessary manuals and policy binders that are required for a safe workplace. The manager was able to resume working part time in the fall and has been busy writing grants and learning new programs associated with computer upgrades.

The Board of directors looks forward to getting back to regular business. We have a lot of new items to accession, and we want to have some interesting displays ready for the upcoming season. We will have input from the community with some new people on the interpretive development committee to help plan exhibits. We hope to put on some community events in 2021 but we do have to wait to see if it will be safe to do so.

I am satisfied that we are achieving our objectives. I want to express my gratitude to Board members who have put in countless hours researching possibilities for renovations, meeting with contractors, and shopping for supplies. This was a particularly challenging year for our treasurer, Lynne, who did an excellent job of exploring all the opportunities for not-for-profit organizations to attain relief funding from many levels of government. This enabled us to carry on without our normal fundraising. Thank you to board members who have finished their terms. Your work has been greatly appreciated. Welcome to new Board members and thank you to those who continue on the board after many years of service. This long-term commitment ensures stability in the organization.

The Board and Staff at the museum depend on the commitment and hard work of volunteers. I cannot imagine how we can ever thank our volunteers enough for the commitment of time, talent and, resources that have kept us going over the last 30 years. We look forward to 2021 as we finish our renovations and once again offer the museum as the interpretation of our history and a meeting place for community members and visitors. 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 our projects.

Submitted by Antonia Nissen, President

Well 2020 has certainly been a very different year at the museum. I came back to work in February of last year after my surgery. I began the year by writing the grants for our summer students and submitting them. Every year the format and guidelines change for these grants so there is always additions and omissions depending on what is required. The AGM report was also created, and the AGM was held. I then proceeded to get the evaluation written and submitted to Alberta Museums Association for the Operational Staffing Grant. Letters were written to the MLA and Minister of Culture thanking them for the grant money awarded for the 2020 operational staffing grant. I began posting ads on Indeed, Kijiji, university & college job boards for summer students. I had many apply that I responded to, and I had even arranged several interviews. I began planning the new exhibit Back in Time for Dinner by doing some research about what was happening in different years like what were people eating and what products were they using etc. I even watched a few videos on this subject. I set up some little displays and took some photos of them along with finding some interesting old recipes and sent them to Connie to post on Facebook as she was posting for the Back in Time for Dinner exhibit that we were hoping to set up. Then the pandemic hit, and I shortened my working hours at the museum. I brought in one of the bins containing some of the Dickson Drainage records and began going through them but found the records were so musty smelling they needed something put in the bin to absorb the odor. It was suggested by Lynne that I use coffee so I took coffee and placed it in each of the bins. While I was doing that I decided to straighten up the garage some. The file drawers in the museum were getting full so I went through them file by file and disposed of what I could. Then I shredded all of it. It was around this same time I began wondering if we would even be able to open so I began researching and asking some questions. Then the Board made the difficult decision of closing the museum for the season and my hours were cut so I contacted the potential summer staff, told them of this decision. I proceeded to clear things up because the museum would be closed. Throughout the summer I did some volunteering with Antonia at the museum, and we accomplished getting some of the decluttering done and did some work outside in the cabin. I started to work a few hours again in November and December. The Operational Staffing Grant was written and sent to the advisory at Alberta Museums Association for them to review and after six weeks we finally heard back from them. We made the changes they recommended and sent it back as the deadline was fast approaching by then. I am happy to report that we were successful in receiving money for this grant. The money is used to hire a manager year-round. Thank you to the Alberta Museums Association for providing this funding.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors who got so many projects accomplished over the summer. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers who worked at Bingos, the Casino and all the other areas where needed. A special thank to all our members for your continued support. By remaining a member, you keep the museum status as a not-for-profit society under the regulations of Alberta law.

Sharon Lightbown, Manager, Dickson Store Museum

I was very fortunate to join the Dickson Store Museum Society in July of 2020. I have always had a passion for small museums including Historic Markerville, where I have previously worked. This year I have been working hard to update many things in the museum. I updated our website to a more modern look and continue to work on it to make it the best it can possibly be for the society and visitors. With my experience in OHS standards and Food Safety I have been updating our OHS standards to align with the new standards set by the Alberta Government, as well as developing a standard manual for Food Safety Practices for our staff. I have started to assist Lynne in understanding the bookkeeping and financials to better assist the museum and Board. Social Media is a major project I have been working on to increase our digital footprint, which is of the utmost importance in this age and during the pandemic. Over the upcoming months I will have filed many posts to create a regular presence on many Social Media outlets.

I am very excited to continue to assist the museum in many areas as my position continues, especially with the digitization of manuals, updating practices, new marketing areas, social media, just to name a few. I have some very interesting and exciting projects coming up and I can't wait for the members of the society to see what I have been working on. I would like to thank the Board of Directors and Sharon for their support, patience, and expertise since I have started at the society. I am excited for the future and hope that 2021 will be a great year for us.

Submitted by Kayli Henrikson, Administrative Report, Dickson Store Museum

19. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club

The Red Deer Danish Canadian Club membership continues to hold steady at about 80 members. We exist primarily as a social club and hold several events throughout the year including:

Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in February
Spring Campout on the May long weekend
St. Hans Fest in June
Golf Tournament in August
Fall Campout on the September long weekend
Harvest Party in October

We also provide three \$1,000 Bursaries to graduating high school students in our area annually. The Red Deer Club is also proud to be an enthusiastic supporter of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, with six members attending the Winnipeg Conference. In addition, four of our members serve on the executive of the Alberta Region of the Federation.

We highlighted 2019 by celebrated our 60th Anniversary at our Harvest Party. Faye Kjearsgaard and Pernille Christensen put on a fantastic display of the history and accomplishments of our Club. Also, Hanna Giles arranged a banner to be made for the club to use at events.

Unfortunately, four of our members passed away, Hans Mathiesen, Leo Eriksen, Aase Devereaux and Kari Morck, four people who were deeply involved in our Club through the years. They will be sincerely missed.

Our 2020 executive board:

Joanne Nielsen, President

Hanna Giles, Vice President
Birgitte Jensen, Secretary
Larry Kjearsgaard, Treasurer
Other board members: Dorothy Stone and Ester Ouder Kirk

Thank you to outgoing board members Ellen Bonde, past Treasurer, and Larry Kjearsgaard, past president, for your dedicated work well done. Also appreciate that Larry stayed on board becoming Treasurer this term. As of March 2020, we have had to cancel events for the year because of the epidemic. The board has corresponded through emails and zoom meetings. We are updating our members with news through our Teledane and on Facebook. We are hoping to have our AGM in person in February 2021 and start planning events for 2021, but that depends on how we are coping with Covid-19. Like everyone in the world we want to get back to living our lives with more normality again. All our events and 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

21. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton

The year 2019 was both challenging and rewarding for Ansgar Church. We follow the path of most immigrant organizations which are born of the desire for a place where their first language is spoken and their culture and traditions are familiar. As time passes, the need is less. Second and following generations are no longer immigrants. Danish is not the common language, and a Canadian way of life with its culture, tradition and values has become the familiar. Most immigrants' children married Canadians, their children are half-Danish, and successive generations are 1/4, 1/8, etc. These successive generations have little to no need to belong to the immigrant organizations of their parents and grandparents. It is common for immigrant organizations that do not have a continued influx of new members. Ansgar Church has the additional challenge of the generally lessened role of religions in today's Canadian society. Our membership is dwindling, but we are not yet down for the count. We have a core group of regular attendees and many who may infrequently attend Services but absolutely consider Ansgar Church home.

We meet the needs of our membership with weekly Services, two in Danish and 2 or 3 in English each month averaging 32 services, plus numerous gatherings throughout the year. Ansgar Church had five baptisms, one wedding and nine funeral/memorial services in 2019. In addition to religious services, we celebrated Fastelavn, Spring Supper, Christmas Market & Smørrebrød, and observed the 800th anniversary of Dannebrog. We have numerous active groups. Ansgar Church strives to be a welcoming place for Danes, other Lutheran Scandinavians, and the local community.

Maintenance is ongoing and in 2019 we refurbished the church vestibule, rearranged the yard, and added a deck and patio door to the parsonage. So far, 2020 has been quite different, being the year of Covid-19 and cancellations, no Spring Supper, Camp, or Group gatherings, and no Services for several months. Fellowship is an integral part, and we are challenged to provide the opportunity. Services have restarted with each month, one Danish service and one English in-person (Covid protocols in-place) service that is live-streamed, and two recorded on-line Services. Our Board met virtually for several months but is currently meeting in person. We actively encourage our members to keep in touch, there is little more we can do. We struggle

financially but we have hope, our house is filled with the Spirit of God. Wishing you God's blessing,

Respectfully submitted, Valerie Sorensen, President

22. The Danish-Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia

Year 2019 was the last year The Danish-Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia (DCCC) celebrated its normal annual activities. Our board of directors has voted to dissolve our society, which has been approved by our members. For the year 2020 we remain a member of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.



For many years, the Danish-Canadian Community Centre of B.C. has enjoyed a close partnership with the Danish House Society. We jointly held two annual events at the Scandinavian Centre: The awarding of Scholarships and the Christmas by the Fireside event. As well we held the annual Danish Constitution Day celebration (Grundlovsfest) at the Scandinavian Centre. We previously held it at the Peace Arch Park by the United States border.

For years we awarded grants to Danish, Scandinavian and Canadian organizations for cultural purposes. We have about 67 annual and life, individual and corporate members, and we agreed that it is time to disband. Our residual assets will be distributed and greatly benefit the same members and organizations in the Danish/Scandinavian/Canadian community as per our Bylaws. Farewell and best wishes for the future of the Danish Federation and all its members from the Board of Directors of DCCC!

Respectfully submitted by Margit Hansson, President

23. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328 Vancouver

The year 2020 will be remembered for many years to come as the year of the Covid-19 Pandemic. As a consequence, Lodge 328 had the last meeting of the year on March 3, 2020, and when meetings can safely resume remains to be seen. The average age of the members in Lodge 328 is approaching 75-80, definitely in the vulnerable age group and having meetings is way too risky. The membership remained at around 80 in 2020.

As you know, members of Lodge 328 are mainly Danish immigrants but several of the younger members are second generation Danes. A few of the non-Danish members were lucky and married Danish ladies and as such are eligible for membership and interested in the Danish culture. For many years Lodge 328 has supported some good local causes. A couple of local food banks, the two Danish Lutheran Churches and the Ladies Auxiliary at Dania Home. Lodge 328 also supports The Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta.

This year because of the unusual circumstances, with organizations not able to have their normal fund-raising events, Lodge 328 decided to increase the amount of money donated to those organizations. Each of the six received a \$500 cheque in April and that could be repeated later

this year depending on the amount the Lodge receives from the Danish Canadian Community Centre.

The two yearly dinner/dances have also fallen victim to the Pandemic. The Pacific Region meetings and Pacific Northwest District Conventions were also cancelled. So far, no reports of any victims of the virus among Lodge 328 members. We are all looking forward to and hoping for a better 2021. Stay healthy and safe.

Submitted by Kjeld Christensen, Secretary

24. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest

We have not done anything for the last year and will not be doing anything in the foreseeable future.

Submitted by Knud Nielsen, Treasurer

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

May 2019 to September 2020.

As always, Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen is involved in all activities at the church as well as conducting services at the care homes in the area. During the year 2019, we had a weekly Kom-Sammen Group for Danish speakers with outings to local areas. As well, the weekly Bible Study Group, a small group of about ten people who enjoy learning from the Bible. We had Fastelavn Family Church Service with a lot of kids in their costumes, followed by “slå katten af tønden” – and chili con carne lunch.

We had our Income Tax Clinic in both years, and, for a small donation to the church, seniors in the congregation had their tax returns prepared by a professional. We also recognized all hardworking volunteers with a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch.

We had the usual Spring Tea & Bake Sale with over 200 people attending who came to look, visit with each other, buy somebody's old things, and eat open faced smørrebrød. The Knitting Group sold out of the adorable, knitted Viking hats sporting horns. We celebrated Easter with Maundy Dinner and Service – Good Friday Service – and Easter Sunday Service. As well, we hosted a family Easter workshop and treasure hunt. On May 5th we had a Flag Day Service commemorating the end of WWII with local Danish organizations lining up with their flags as everyone entered the church. In June we had a Mother's Day Service as well as Confirmation Sunday – with five confirmands in total. We celebrated a Grundlovsdag Service at the Scandinavian Community Centre followed by a picnic. We celebrated “Sankt Hans” in June with the church participating in the Midsummer Festival at the Scandinavian Centre, and going on a family outing to Cates Park, with a firepit on the beach and singing the traditional Danish Skt. Hans song: “Vi elsker vort land” (always arguing about which melody is the best!).

A Valdemars Dag service, on the 800th anniversary of Dannebrog which dates back to the year 1219, was held on Sunday June 16, 2019. In the fall we had a lovely Harvest Dinner. We held our annual Christmas Workshop and the annual Christmas visit from UBC, when Danish students made æbleskiver for us. We had wonderful Christmas services and a New Year Day's service as the year ended.

The beginning of 2020 had all the same activities and services in the church as we did in 2019. We had our last church service on Sunday, March 15, 2020, and then received the bad news to close the church – and it was mid June before we gingerly tried to have a church service in the downstairs hall. Again, we began to have services in the church, with the pews taped for social distance seating, and only one person per pew, or two if it was a couple – all with masks. As well, in order to keep in touch with the people who want to be part of church life, we set to work phoning everyone who was registered in our computer to get their email, and Pastor Susanne is now able to communicate weekly. We have over 600 people in the computer and can now email the church newsletter to 400 people who have given us their emails, saving both printing and postage costs. In addition, for several months Pastor Susanne and her husband Soren Sondergaard have visited Danes all over British Columbia, to film their story which is emailed in a “Post Card” twice a month. This outreach to the congregation and others who want to be in touch with the church has been the silver lining to our predicament.

Submitted by Ebba Grey, Board Secretary

26. Dania Home, Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby

Greetings from Dania: 2020 marks Dania’s 80th anniversary. Dania has gone from its humble beginnings to a campus of care providing homes and seniors’ care for over 200 residents. Carl Mortensen Manor provides Independent Living, Dania Manor provides Assisted Living Care and Dania Home provides Complex Care and is designated a hospital through the Ministry of Health. The Board is always looking at ways to improve housing and care for our seniors. Together with BC Housing Corporation Dania Society has planning well underway for a brand-new Independent Living home with 155 suites. We are hoping to break ground in 2022. The community at Dania Campus will almost double when construction is complete, and the building is fully occupied. We are looking forward to celebrating our 80th anniversary with everyone when it is once again safe to host large gatherings. Year 2020 has been a difficult year for everyone and Seniors Health Care has been particularly challenged. Dania has been proactive and diligent with cleanliness, and following Government protocols, to keep COVID-19 out of Dania. In late July one staff member tested positive but thankfully our stringent cleaning regiment and proper use of PPE accomplished what they were meant to and enabled us to weather the storm without any further infections. In spite of the many challenges the Dania campus continues to excel with exceptional level of service and care and spirits still high. Throughout these difficult days there have been some rays of sunshine. It was heart warming to see families and neighbourhood restaurants provide meals and snacks for our over-worked staff. An Elvis impersonator serenaded the residents from the parking lot. Pastor Susanne sent her weekly messages. The Burnaby Fire Department did a drive by to celebrate a resident’s 102nd birthday. The many joyous moments give us strength and continue to bind us together as a community. With back-to-back awards of Exemplary status from Accreditation Canada and long waiting lists at the campus of care, Dania is proud of the good standing and reputation it holds in the City of Burnaby and the community at large. For this we are very grateful to our dedicated and loyal staff. They make Dania “home” for all our residents. Dania will be holding its 2020 AGM on October 7th at Carl Mortensen Manor and also via Zoom. We welcome you to become a part of Dania’s success by becoming a member of the Society, a member of the Board of Directors or by making a donation to Dania by contacting us at: info@danialc.ca.

Respectfully submitted, Vena Chopra, President

27. Danish House Society, Burnaby

Greetings! Danish House membership continues to remain in the neighbourhood of 425-450 members and our society continues to enjoy relative stability with regards to the financial picture despite the increasing dollars required each year to pay our share of the Scandinavian Centre's property tax bill. At the DHS AGM held in March, the Board was pleased to welcome Dexada Jorgensen. Dexada brings a wealth of expertise, knowledge, and an extensive volunteer history to our Board. She will be a most welcome addition and we look forward to working with Dexada over the next couple of years and hopefully beyond. We were fortunate to get our AGM in under the wire with regards to the coronavirus pandemic. Danish House expresses its regrets to the Federation, and to the prospective delegates from the various member clubs that the Nanaimo Conference had to be cancelled and to the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club for having their well laid plans and activities postponed. We look forward to attending the 2021 Conference in Nanaimo. Like all clubs around the country, our plans and regular activities have all pretty much come to a standstill including our monthly Kro Aften club nights and our language classes. As in past years, Danish House together with the Danish-Canadian Community Centre of BC continued its scholarship program and awarded seven \$1200 scholarships for 2020. As well DHS also awards two \$2400 scholarships funded by the estates of Ruth and Johannes Pedersen. Danish House is very appreciative of our past relationship and friendship with the DCCC, which goes beyond the scholarship program. The DCCC organized a very special and enjoyable Grundlovsfest celebration at the Scandinavian Centre in June 2019 but due to the coronavirus the 2020 celebration was also a victim of the pandemic. The DCCC's contribution to the 2019 Danish House's Christmas by the Fireside was also very much appreciated. Danish House will continue to participate and share in the success of the various joint events held with the other Houses of the Scandinavian Centre including the Midsummer Festival. The 2020 Festival was cancelled but we again look forward to hosting the Danish Sisterhood, the Danish Lutheran Church, and the Danish Brotherhood in the Danish Tent in June 2021. The 2019 Leif Erikson Festival held in October is a Scandinavian Cultural Society event held each year, the hosting of which rotates among the Nordic countries with 2019 being Denmark's turn. The normal rotation would have had Finland host the 2019 festival, but since 2019 is the 400th anniversary of the Jens Munk expedition, Danish House hosted the event with the showing of the Ole Japp film *Nordvest Xpeditionen* as the main event of the Festival which also included informative presentations regarding the Jens Munk Expedition by Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen and Otto Christensen. The Festival was very well attended and a big success. May 2021, be a successful and enjoyable year for all the member organizations of the Danish Federation.

Respectfully Submitted by Ed Kuhlman, President of the Danish House

28. Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey

Greetings from Granly! All activities were maintained at Granly Church and Hall, until the pandemic. Wednesday Club: normally showing Danish movies, Study Group: (studying Danish Literature), Bible study and the weekly and special church services. Spring and Fall Dinner, Sankt Hans Bonfire and Julestue were all well attended. Our Pastor Ruth Wegeberg Christensen, and her husband Tom Sjøby Jensen, are looking after all church services, and are participating in all our activities. Mid March 2020 all activities were cancelled due to Covid-19. Since April 12th

Church services have been held in the Church Hall or parking lot in order to maintain social distancing.

Submitted by Manfred Hoff, President

29. Danish Sisterhood of America - Dogwood Lodge 179, Vancouver, B.C.

Dogwood lodge #179 in Vancouver is always busy pursuing its goals, motivating our old members and attracting new members. We hold nine meetings a year. We start each meeting by enjoying open face Danish sandwiches and socializing before we conduct the business ritual. In order for our Lodge to grow, we continue to set up display tables at many functions in the community where we hand out application forms and business cards. Our Social Committee is in charge of festivities at our meetings, to retain the interest of our existing members by creating different *Theme* nights and other fun activities. We also hold pot-luck dinners and cultural presentations where our members learn more about our heritage and traditions.

Our local 'Dogwood' newsletter is sent out four times a year, updating us of coming events and other interesting news. We now email it (98%) to all members and send it regular mail to just 2%, to those few without computers, which have saved us a lot of postage.

Our Website was created in 2008 together with a new email address, both used to attract new members and interest, and have received much positive feed-back. The site also includes a Photo Gallery of all of our events.

Our 'Pet Club' was established eight years ago as the very first Lodge to do so. The Danish Sisterhood now has 23 members from Canada and the United States. It is a great little fundraiser and a different way to connect members through their pets. It shows that Danes are a pet-friendly people.



Our Dogwood Manual was created in 2005 and contains the history of our Dogwood Lodge & the Danish Sisterhood of America. It has a photo gallery of all officers, past and present, and includes guidelines for membership, duties of all local officers as well as Convention information. It is a great recruiting tool as well as being educational. The Manual is sent electronically to all members.

Some Monthly highlights since our last Conference in 2019:

2019 – MAY: Is a very busy month for the Sisterhood as the nomination of new officers takes place.

Federation of Danish Canadian Associations: As member of the Danish Federation, and its 36 member organizations, we participated in the 38th Conference, held in Winnipeg.

'Flag Day': We celebrated Flag Day in the Danish Church in Burnaby together with many other local Danish organizations in honour of Denmark's liberation in 1945.

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Alexander Multicultural Festival: For eight years we have been invited to participate in this Festival representing the DS and promoting Denmark and wearing Danish National costumes, which are photographed by the many visitors.

JUNE:

Grundlovsdag: Danish Constitution day was celebrated with a picnic with the Brotherhood and now we also bring our pet- members to the park. The picnic baskets are full of Danish delicacies, beer and ‘Gammel Dansk’ or akvavit - a very festive day.

Midsummer Festival: Again we took part in the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival at the Scandinavian Centre in the Danish tent where we displayed our Lodge banner, various paraphernalia and used this opportunity as our yearly membership drive.

Anniversary: We held a special dinner, honouring our member’s membership anniversaries and their special round birthdays with flowers and tributes.

JULY:

Annual Summer Barbeque: Though we do not hold meetings in July or August, we always hold our Summer Picnic with the Brotherhood. About 40-50 happy Danes enjoyed a real fun day with chicken and salmon on the grill and many delicious desserts.

SEPT:

After the summer holidays, we started our meetings again, and after the business meeting, we began to prepare for our upcoming events and worked on Arts & Crafts for our Fall Bazaar. The evening usually ends with playing games.

OCT:

Halloween: Everyone showed up in festive costume at the Halloween party. There were prizes for the best costume and pictures taken and prizes handed out. A pot-luck dinner was served followed by Halloween desserts in abundance. As a group the Sisterhood attended Kroaften at the Scandinavian Centre and donated a wine basket to the lottery.

NOV:

Bingo: Our yearly Bingo, or in Danish, “Andespil”, was held with the Danish Brotherhood Lodge #328 with ducks, salami and flæskesteg as prizes to the lucky winners. About 120 people attended and the Sisters made about 400 open-faced sandwiches. It was a great opportunity to show new sisters how to make them. The night ended with dancing.



Fall & Christmas Bazaar: was again held at the Scandinavian Centre. The Sisters were busy creating their many different Craft items and baking up a storm of various cookies and cakes which are always sold out within two hours.

DEC:

Christmas Party: Our yearly Christmas party is always very enjoyable in a ‘hyggelig’ atmosphere. We enjoyed typical Flæskesteg and ris à l’amande - even with Mandelgave. During the evening we sang many Danish ‘Julesange’ and exchanged Christmas gifts – drew raffle and door prizes – nobody goes home empty-handed. From the proceeds we donated \$416 to our favourite charity. During this lovely evening we also installed our newly elected Officers.

2020 – JAN: The meeting was cancelled due to heavy snowfall.

FEB: The evening meeting was filled with paper work and updates for our yearly Calendar of Events, membership list, birthday list, updating our Bylaws and simply planning for the balance of the year’s meetings including assignment of committees and new elected Officers duties. A letter is sent to all Danish organizations advising of the new list of Officers.

Financial statement: Our Treasurer handed out the financial statement which is signed by the Trustees. We were grateful for again having received a grant from the Danish Canadian Community Centre. Our yearly memberships of the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta and of The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada were paid and the treasurer started collecting the dues to be sent to National and PNW District as well as preparing for any upcoming Conventions or events, i.e. programs, posters or ads. The evening continued with the theme: Valentine – Love & Hearts – and a special dinner was brought in by one of our Sisters. Afterwards we played a Valentine Trivia game and some word games.

The PNW Bowling Tournament: Our yearly Sisterhood/Brotherhood bowling Tournament between Washington, Oregon and Vancouver took place in Kemore, Washington.

JUL. & AUG: We held two backyard picnics with social distancing.

Effective MAR – SEP: All Meetings cancelled due to Covid 19.

www.danishsisterhood.ca and email: lodge179@danishsisterhood.ca

Respectfully submitted by Delegate: Jannet Tricarico

30. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo

Our Club had a very good year in 2019 in terms of social events. We ran all of the events that we have done in the past and had good turnouts for most of them. Notably, we held our annual Sankt Hans Midsummer Celebration at Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park and had about 65 to 70 members and friends all gathered around one large bonfire on a lovely June evening. Hot dogs and treats were enjoyed by all, and the youngsters finished off the fire, roasting marshmallows. In 2018, we teamed up with our local Sons of Norway “North Star Lodge” and had a huge group of about 120 attend. That in itself was a big success but it was generally felt by both clubs that there were simply too many people around one fire. Perhaps it was that a lot of people didn’t know each other (yet). Sometimes, things can be a little too successful! Financially, we ended the year with more money in the bank than we started with so we are pleased with that because it means that we can suffer some small losses on future events and still carry on as a Club. It is always nice to have a healthy reserve for rainy days.

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Lena Rasmussen continues to maintain www.danishclubnanaimo.com our Club web page and that keeps our “electronic” members and friends up-to-date on current and future events, interesting articles, and news items. Lynn Hedekar continues to post interesting items on our Facebook page that you can find by searching FB for *Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club*. I believe that both our web page and our Facebook page are instrumental in attracting new members to our club. Lena Tsuji continues to publish our Newsletter and has been very successful in reducing the number of copies printed and mailed by encouraging our “electronic” members to receive the newsletter via e-mail. This has been very successful in reducing the cost of the Newsletter and electronic recipients are treated to colour Newsletters versus the B&W version that gets printed and mailed. We seem to lose more members to the great beyond than we gain but some years are better than others. Our current membership sits at around 185 and many of our senior members have yet to get computerized, so communications from the Board still have to go out in both formats, and that’s not likely to change anytime soon.

Our Club was off to a great start in 2020, but then the pandemic arrived and that changed the way we all do things. Social gatherings became impossible and when you have a Club that exists for “social gatherings”, that’s basically the end of that! Back in the spring of 2019, our Club agreed to host the Danish Federation Conference & AGM in Nanaimo. We formed a big Host Committee and soon laid plans. We had arranged a fantastic program when the pandemic forced the Danish Federation to cancel the entire event. Later, the Federation Board asked our Club if we would consider hosting this event in May of 2021 and we agreed to do that. That changed the “cancellation” into a “postponement” so, at this point in time, we have circled May 27 to 30, 2021 for the Conference and AGM in Nanaimo. With the uncertainty of the future with respect to the pandemic, we are hopeful that the situation will ease in time to allow a “go ahead” early in the New Year in order to provide time to re-initiate all of our, well laid, plans for next May. Before the pandemic interfered with social gatherings, our Club did manage one event in 2020 and that was our Annual General Meeting held in March 2020. We had the usual turnout and got through the basic business required at an AGM including the election of officers. Our slate of officers for 2020 is as follows:

President:	Tom Hedekar
Vice President:	Carsten Krogh
Secretary:	Lena Tsuji
Treasurer:	Rebecca Taylor
Director:	John Jensen
Director:	Darlene O’Neill
Director:	Louise Krogh
Director:	Hakon Philipsen

Our Board has had a couple of electronic meetings via Skype this year and of course, the main topic was the social events schedule. At both meetings, it was decided to cancel future social events until the pandemic eases and the social distancing rules are relaxed. The age demographic in our Club is quite high and it was felt that it would be irresponsible to expose our members to possible infection of the Covid-19 virus, so we are exercising an abundance of caution in that respect. At our last Board meeting a motion was passed to forego collecting membership dues for the 2020 calendar year. Members who have already paid their dues for 2020 will have those dues transferred to their account for 2021; ditto for our faithful Newsletter advertisers. It was felt that since our Club is not able to offer any events or functions to our members, then they should not

be required to pay any dues. We have however published a Fall Newsletter to help members keep in touch and stay informed. We look forward to getting back together for fun times and good food! As our BC Provincial Health Officer is now famous for saying: "Be Kind, Be Calm and Stay Safe"!

Respectfully submitted by Tom Hedekar, President

31. Danish Social Club of Victoria

These past few months have seen our world turned upside down by the coronavirus, and sadly, our Danish Club of Victoria has been caught in the devastation of social normalcy, including the disruption of our planned schedule of events for much of the year 2020. We never dreamed of such a calamity last year in May 2019 when we enjoyed yet another successful Kroaften with the usual offerings of delightfully decorated open-faced sandwiches created by the gifted ladies in the kitchen led by Annemari Hermans. And what would summer in Victoria be without yet another delightful Sommerfest in the lush and fragrant surroundings of the Frederiksens' beautiful garden? It was hugely atmospheric, and delicious offerings and jovial chatter abounded. Then, in September, our club organized a Scandinavian pot luck event which drew a full house with happy Danes, Norwegians, and Swedes eating and drinking the night away at Norway House. And, in November, for the first time, male volunteers organized and produced a dinner of frikadeller, red cabbage, potatoes, etc. served by these same men dressed like penguins in black pants, white shirts, and bowties. Expectedly, the ladies loved it and asked for more of the same next year. The year ended with the traditional "Store Julebord", thanks to the effort of the dedicated kitchen volunteers. Much hygge abounded throughout the memorable evening. Sadly, we ended the year on a sour note, inasmuch as our club lost five members during 2019, a rate of membership attrition that bodes ill for the future.

The new year started well enough with a successful Membership Appreciation Dinner in January, followed by a well-attended Fastelavn event in February (16 children and 37 adults), and we thank Jens Lorentsen for making a beautiful barrel, and Bent and Shirley Andersen for loading it up with goodies. Yet, dark clouds filled the sky, and it was with great sorrow that we had to cancel March Kroaften and events to follow until the pandemic fizzles out, and we can all return to normalcy. We pray that it will happen soon. Then in July we awarded a \$2000 bursary to Brennan Riddle, an outstanding student, athlete, and volunteer from Whistler, whose grandmother is a member of our club.

Respectfully submitted, Finn Sander, Vice President



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

Pacific Region

Since the Federation Conference in May 2019 the Pacific Region held only one meeting. It was on Vancouver Island in the home of Henny Andersen and John Mikkelsen. The meeting was attended by a total of 25 enthusiastic guests and representatives with the traditional Danish lunch following the meeting. The Annual General Meeting and Danish lunch scheduled at Ella Wolder's new home on the mainland for March 16, 2020, was cancelled due to the pandemic. Among our worries were the members and representatives travelling on the ferry from Vancouver Island. We did have an election of officers via email with the result that our current officers kept their positions for another year. They are Jannet Tricarico, Secretary; Kjeld Christensen, Treasurer; Henny Andersen, Director; and myself, Margit Hansson, President. Our past President, Solvejg Nielsen, sadly, passed away in June 2020.

Our September meeting which would have been held on Vancouver Island was cancelled for the same reason. Informative reports from our Danish/Scandinavian/Canadian organizations are distributed via email. Articles for the Heritage Book, and current and future conferences and seminars, are always items for similar considerations. Best wishes to all for 2021.

Submitted by Margit Hansson, President

Ontario Region

Greetings: from the board of the Ontario Region. We all miss getting together with friends during these covid times, so we want to send you this brief greeting to let you know that we are thinking of you and hoping you are well and safe. As you are well aware Ontario is still in lockdown, so we are unable to have our regular meetings in the spring and in the fall. Perhaps in the late fall 2021, we will be able to get together again. It will then be two years since we last met in person. You will have heard that our annual Danish Federation Conference scheduled for May in Nanaimo has again been postponed - until spring of 2022. We hope it can be held at that time and that many of us will again be able to attend and celebrate the end of Covid-19. In the meantime, the Danish Federation meetings have been successfully conducted by Zoom, but we do miss that important personal contact, which our regular meetings provide. Thank Goodness for Facetime, Zoom and social media, they have made being isolated more bearable. We have come a long way since the Spanish flu in 1919! Let us hope we are seeing the end.

Best regards, Eva Terp, President of Ontario Region

Report to Board of Directors

Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee

Subsequent to a presentation by Otto Christensen to the 2017 Conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, the Federation Board established the Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee submitted a report to the 2018 Federation Conference (Halifax) and to the 2019 Federation Conference (Winnipeg), also published in those respective years' *Heritage Book*. A report was also prepared for the anticipated 2020 Conference but was not considered by the Conference as it was cancelled; however, it was published in that year's *Heritage Book*. The purpose of this current report is to report to the Federation's Board per the Board's establishing motion.

The Steering Committee has been very active, seized by the objective as stated in the Board's motion and by the enthusiasm for the project both among members of the Committee and among others. It has been extremely exciting. As Chair of the Steering Committee I am pleased to have been a part of that – and to provide this concluding report.

Following this is Attachment 1 which contains detailed information on the work of the Committee and others. The list is lengthy, but members of the Board of the Federation and of the Danish-background community in Canada will be interested to read about, and be inspired by all these activities. It is also likely that some activities and items which could have been included have been inadvertently overlooked or omitted!

While the Committee and its individual members have been in the forefront of most of the initiatives and activities, there are others – both individuals and organizations – who have contributed significantly, both to the initiatives listed and in their own local initiatives.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee

Carl Sorensen
Chair, Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee
Federation of Danish Associations in Canada
February 2021

Details of Initiatives Undertaken by or Supported by the Jens Munk Commemorative Steering Committee

Initiatives Completed in Canada:

- The Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta, featured the Jens Munk Expedition at its 2019 summer season theme.
- Submission of two formal applications to the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada:
 - For the designation of Jens Munk as a National Historic Person;
 - For the addition of the Jens Munk Expedition's "overwintering site" to the existing Prince of Wales Fort National Historic Site;
 - On the advice of staff supporting the Board, those two applications were changed to one application, for designation of the Wintering of the Jens Munk Expedition as a National Historic Event. The Steering Committee was advised that the subsequent application was supported by the staff committee advising the Board, and was submitted to the Board.
 - The combined one application was not supported by the Board, and was therefore not forwarded on to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change for approval.
- Submission of a formal application to Canada Post for Production of posters, banners and other display material for use at Federation Conferences and made available to local organizations across Canada.
- Canada Post to issue a stamp commemorating - the 1619-1620 Jens Munk Expedition.
 - The Federation was advised that this application was not among those submitted to the Canada Post Board for approval, and therefore there would be no commemorative stamp.
- Re-publication of the Royal Ontario Museum's 1980 publication *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620*:
 - Negotiated and received a substantial money grant from the Royal Danish Embassy to Canada in support of the re-publication of *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620*, and in support of materials for registrants for the 2019 Federation Conference.
 - Solicited and received private donations in support of the re-publication of *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620*.
 - Negotiated with the Royal Ontario Museum for permission to digitize the 1980 edition and to publish a new edition.
 - Helle Wilson digitized the original document and Carl Sorensen worked with her to insert the maps and to format the digitized document. Helle Wilson, Otto Christensen, Rolf Christensen and Carl Sorensen edited the document and prepared it for publication.
 - The *Journal* was published through the involvement and support of Ed Kuhlman.
 - Copies were provided in the registration packages for all registrants at the 2019 Federation Conference.

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- Complimentary copies were provided to a wide variety of individuals, organizations (including academic institutions, libraries and archives) across Canada. Over 40 copies to various libraries across Canada as well as to a few libraries in Denmark and the United States. A copy is with Library and Archives Canada (as well as a copy of the 1980 original). Some of the libraries, museums and archives expressed their thanks and appreciation.
- The book was offered for sale, and Federation member clubs received copies to sell in their local areas.
- Ed Kuhlman has sold *Journals* and still has some on hand.
- Promotion through FaceBook and website:
 - Creation of a Jens Munk 400th Anniversary FaceBook site, with many followers, created and managed by Otto Christensen from the Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg, which gave the 400th Anniversary a public exposure.
 - Creation of a Jens Munk 400th Expedition page on the Danish Canadian Museum's website: <https://thedanishcanadianmuseum.com/jens-munk-expedition/>
- Connected with officials of the Government of Manitoba to explore and develop their interest in the Jens Munk Expedition 400th Anniversary Commemoration.
- Winnipeg area Committee members (Helle Wilson, Karl Sorensen, Otto Christensen) together with Susan Person of the Winnipeg Danish Canadian Club, augmented as useful by phone communication and emails including Carl Sorensen, Ed Kuhlman and Rolf Christensen, continued in initiating and coordinating ideas and making connections.
- Ongoing writing and contribution of various “Jens Munk” articles for newsletters, bulletins, etc., including:
 - Articles written for *Church and Life* (the publication of the Danish Interest Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
 - An article (focused on Rasmus Jensen) in the December 2019 issue of *The Canada Lutheran*, the official publication of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (Wendy Christensen).
 - Connected with the digital editor of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's publication *Canadian Geographic* and website for the inclusion of an article respecting the Expedition.
 - Connected with the publisher of the private *Scandinavian Press* (Seattle) and through him with freelance writer John Bechtel for the production of an issue almost exclusively devoted to the Jens Munk Expedition. *Scandinavian Press* subsequently provided good coverage and advertising (free) of the (then) upcoming Winnipeg-Churchill tour
- Researched Jens Munk descendants in Canada.
- Supported the Winnipeg Danish Canadian Club to highlighting the Jens Munk Expedition in Manitoba and in supporting the Club's highlighting the Commemoration at the 2019 Federation Conference (Winnipeg).
- Article about Ole Japp and Jens Munk, written by Danish freelance journalist Anette Lillevang Kristiansen was published in a Winnipeg publication:
<https://www.communitynewscommons.org/our-city/environment/arctic-explorer-jens-munk-will-always-be-in-my-heart/>

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- Anette Lillevang Kristiansen went to the Royal Library in Copenhagen, where she took photos of Jens Munk's diary. These photos were used in Winnipeg exhibits.
 - An article about the Jens Munk commemoration published in the Winnipeg Historical Society's magazine *Manitoba History*.
 - An article was published in a local Winnipeg community newspaper by Trevor Smith:
<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/our-communities/souwester/correspondent/Jens-Munk--the-grandfather-of-Manitoba-513049721.html>
 - Travel Manitoba Jens Munk exhibit at The Forks, Winnipeg (grand opening May 25, 2019).
 - Jens Munk display at the Millennium Library, Winnipeg, including power point presentation at the Library.
 - Creation of Jens Munk T-shirts and tote bags for all Conference registrants.
 - Purchase of Jens Munk Rose (garden flower) for planting in various prominent spots in Winnipeg; publicizing the rose's availability and encouraging others across Canada to purchase and plant it.
 - An article by a garden specialist about the Jens Munk Rose and about the Jens Munk commemoration in the *Winnipeg Free Press*.
 - Negotiated with a Winnipeg micro-brewery for the brewing of a "Jens Munk" beer.
- Connected with Anette Lillevang Kristiansen, and a film-maker in Denmark, Ole Japp; both having a strong personal interest in the Jens Munk story, about a film produced by film-maker Ole Japp. The film-maker had recently created an action movie based on the Expedition (*NordvestXpeditionen*).
 - With the permission of Ole Japp, Helle Wilson produced English-language "dubbing" to insert in the movie. The insertion of the dubbing was carried out, coordinated by Otto Christensen.
 - Screening of *NordvestXpeditionen* at the Gimli Film Festival and at various other venues across Canada – most particularly various club members of the Federation.
 - The movie is available at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/thenorthwestxpedition> for downloading and rent for \$8.06 or for purchase for \$26.87.
- Various members of the Steering Committee gave Jens Munk presentations at various venues across Canada, principally to events at various club members of the Federation.
 - There was a presentation by Otto Christensen to the annual Speaker's Event of the Scandinavian Studies Association affiliated with the University of Alberta.
 - Rolf Christensen gave a talk about Jens Munk and his search for the Northwest Passage to the annual Gala of the Canadian Nordic Society in Ottawa. The Ambassadors of Denmark, Norway and Finland attended,
- Co-operated with Parks Canada and the Churchill community to re-install the provincial commemorative plaque erected as a Centennial project in 1967.
- Worked with Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage to erect a new plaque to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Expedition.
- Encouraged, supported and participated in of a variety of important activities across Canada, such as:

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- Presentation on Jens Munk at the Federation's Danish Heritage Seminar in Winnipeg following the 2019 Conference.
- Local Federation member organizations developing their own commemoration-related activities;
- Supporting the Danish Canadian Museum, Dickson, Alberta, in developing appropriate displays and activities related to the Jens Munk Expedition;
- Connecting with interested officials, persons and museum at Churchill, Manitoba.
- Otto Christensen, in partnership with the Manitoba Historical Society, worked with a Winnipeg tour company "Frontiers North" in organizing and promoting a four-day "group tour" from Winnipeg to Churchill, Manitoba in July 2020.
 - This was provided without any Committee or Federation financial support.
 - Nine individuals participated.
 - The tour was led by a knowledgeable tour guide, himself interested in the Jens Munk Expedition.
 - The principal purpose of the tour was to gain a firsthand impression of the Churchill area and river, and Hudson Bay, the part of Canada where the Expedition overwintered 1619-1620.
 - That impression included a 7 km hike through bog and muskeg and rocky outcrops along the north side of the river, from a point across from the town and upstream to the area of the overwintering site.
 - In addition to the Expedition-related activities, the tour included a number of unique features and activities in the area: a kodiak-boat beluga whale watching excursion on the river and Bay; a guided tour of Prince of Wales Fort; a guided tour of the abandoned, extensive former Churchill rocket launch and atmospheric research installation; a "tundra buggy" excursion and wildlife viewing out over the tundra along the Bay; time spent in the local museum; learning from a local Dené historian and expert the tragic story, sites, and consequences of the government-sponsored relocation of Dené people still within peoples' memory.

Initiatives in Denmark:

(This section is likely not as complete as it should be, because of the report-writer's not being directly involved, and relying on information provided from Denmark from time to time. However, it illustrates some of the initiatives undertaken, and categories of activity.)

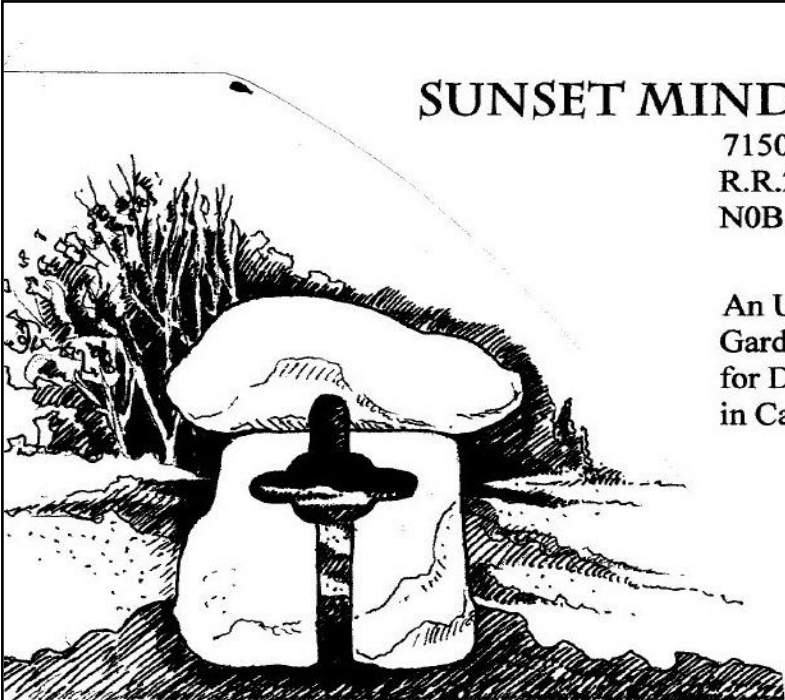
- Gunnar Kristensen coordinated a group of interested individuals in Denmark to work with him on projects and publicity in Denmark, with the objective of publicizing and promoting knowledge of the Expedition and the 400th Anniversary "jubilæum".
- Further contacts for the same purpose through connections made in Denmark by Helle Wilson, and through Carl Sorensen's connections to Danes Worldwide.
- Sven Erik Jensen and a group of people, successors to the previous Danish Canadian Society, separate from Gunnar Kristensen's group, explored other possibilities.
- Danish contacts worked with the council of Holmen's Kirke, Copenhagen, for the installation of a memorial plaque on the church; the church from which the Jens Munk Expedition set out after a worship service in May 1619. (This is a well-known and historic Copenhagen church, across the canal from Christiansborg Palace which is the home of the Danish parliament. The church itself celebrated its 400th anniversary in 2019.)

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- This was finally not possible due to the cost estimated by the church council, and the lack of funds to produce and install the plaque.
- Events took place in schools and libraires, and by various lecturers to highlight the anniversary of the 1619-1620 Expedition.
- Danish TV and radio featured various broadcasts during the year.
- Explored the possibility of a new book about Jens Munk authored by an associate of the Danish National Museum.
- Worked towards restoration and greater prominence of the Jens Munk Mindevarde (Memorial Cairn) in Strandegård Dyrehave, south of Fakse Ladeplads, south of Copenhagen (erected in 1960 by the Danish Canadian Society). Aimed at publicity, improved highway signage, possibly production of brochures and articles drawing attention to the Cairn. (Sven Erik Jensen forwarded the August 3, 2019 Ringsted *Dagbladet*, containing a good article from an interview with Jensen, about the Expedition and the Cairn.)
- The movie *NordvestXpedition* was shown at various venues in Denmark, such as libraries.
- Rolf Christensen wrote an article “Jens Munk’s Search for the Northwest Passage” which was published in Danes Worldwide’s magazine *Danes*, no. 2, July 2019. (*Danes* is distributed worldwide.)

Further Possible Initiatives:

- Connecting with the publication *Canada’s History* for publication of articles. Carl Sorensen is pursuing this.
- Connecting with various individuals who have previously been involved in researching the “overwintering site”, with the view towards pursuing further archaeological excavation and research of the site.



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Danish Federation

40th Anniversary

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The year 2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. Such a milestone provides an opportunity to look back at the accomplishments over those forty years, as well as an occasion to reflect on the Danish Federation's future as we move forward.

Over the last one-hundred years a good number of Danes in Canada have had a dream of establishing a national umbrella organization to link together all of the existing Danish organizations across Canada. This dream finally came true at Sunset Villa in Puslinch, Ontario, on June 7, 1981, when thirteen delegates, representing Danish organizations from across Canada, participated in the founding meeting of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

The primary aim of the Danish Federation was to bring together all existing Danish organizations within Canada; that is: to create a permanent network of cooperation among them. The Federation is therefore a Club of Clubs, making it the 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 ventures. Indeed, a Federation would be able to coordinate joint projects, and also to take on major projects, which could not be handled by one organization alone, or might better be coordinated by a national organization. The Danish Federation has tried to provide inspiration to its member organizations; it has sponsored one-week heritage seminars, published an annual 200-page Heritage Book, and has encouraged its member organizations to host annual conferences with specific themes.

I began working on this national initiative when I was Secretary of the Danish Club of Ottawa, having the full support of Leif Janichen, the President of the Club at the time. In 1980 when Leif stepped down, I was elected President of the Danish Club of Ottawa and began devoting my time to realize this old dream. The first task had been to compile a list of all Danish associations in Canada. Information was obtained from representatives of Dansk Samvirke, the Multiculturalism Directorate as well as various associations and private individuals. A major advantage in this endeavour was that I was a member of the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver, the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver and had been secretary of the Royal Danish Guards' Association Pacific Northwest. Moreover, I had been in contact with DKU Secretary General Egon Christiansen and Editor Jonna Melander and had written articles in both DKU's *Kirkehilsen* and in *Modersmaalet*, the Danish language newspaper in Toronto.

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As well, I had established personal contacts with Esther Machacynski and Victor Barmer, the presidents of the Danish Clubs in respectively Kingston and Montreal, who both supported the establishment of a Danish Federation. At the Danish Constitution Day VIP luncheon at Sunset Villa in June 1980 I stood up and spoke about a Danish Federation. Supporters of the initiative present at the luncheon included Esther Machacynski, Egon Christiansen, who was visiting Canada, and Herbert Rasmussen, President of Sunset Villa.



L to R: Jørgen Birk Andersen, Herbert Rasmussen, Rolf Buschardt Christensen, and Poul B. Christensen in the Sunset Villa Board Room at the founding of the Danish Federation, June 7, 1981

There was no Internet in 1980, so during the next twelve months I reached out to the various Danish associations across Canada by phone, by letter and in person, with the proposal to establish a national umbrella organization. The proposal was supported and welcomed by many. Some added good ideas, others came with encouragement, while a few expressed skepticism about a project, which had been tried before, and failed. And two were opposed, namely Pastor Olaf Poulsen of Grimsby, who had tried to establish a Danish Canadian Synod, as well as Axel Thøgersen, president of the Montreal Club, who had seen Jan Eisenhardt's previous effort in Montreal come to naught.

The proposal was discussed at board meetings, at general meetings, and written about in newsletters from Montreal to Vancouver. Letters, either encouraging the endeavour or asking for more information were received. Egon Christiansen, the Secretary General of DKU fully supported the initiative as did Niels Alsted, Secretary General of Dansk Samvirke in Copenhagen (now Danes Worldwide). There was an inquiry from the Danish Canadian Society in Copenhagen, as well as the Scandinavian Canadian Friendship Association in Kolding, which

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indicated its interest in joining such a Federation. The next step was to bring the idea to life and convene a founding meeting.

Sunset Villa in Puslinch, Ontario, offered to host the founding meeting in connection with the Constitution Day celebrations on the first Sunday in June of 1981. Sunset Villa was the perfect setting with a lovely 52-acre park, retirement homes as well as a restaurant with a Garderstue. Sunset Villa was known to host one of the largest Danish Constitution Day events in Canada and many representatives from other Danish organizations would be present.

In April 1981 I sent out a notice of the founding meeting on behalf of ten Danish organizations. The notice of the founding meeting was sent to 28 Danish associations in Canada, in addition to "*Modersmaalet*" and "*Danmarksposten*". The call resulted in thirteen delegates attending the founding meeting, some representing more than one organization. In attendance were the following: Herbert Rasmussen (Sunset Villa Association); Jørgen Birk Andersen (Eastern Canada Royal Danish Guards' Association); Svend Berg (Danish Canadian Society, Montreal); Les Bonke (The Danish Canadian



L to R: Esther Machacynski, Martha Larsen, Les Bonke and Alice Lyvang at the founding of the Danish Federation

Club, Calgary and The Danish Society Dania in Edmonton); Poul B. Christensen (The Danish Community Centre of Vancouver, The Danish Brotherhood in America, Vancouver Lodge 328; Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest and the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver); Rolf Buschardt Christensen (The Danish Club of Ottawa and The New Denmark Historical Society of New Denmark, N.B.); Martha Larsen (The Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby); Ole Larsen (The Danish Club, Montreal); Alice Lyvang (The Danish Canadian Club of Waterloo County); Esther Machacynski (The Danish-Canadian Club of Kingston); Jonna Melander and Eva Terp (*Modersmaalet*); and Søren Søndergaard (Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto).

The founding meeting commenced in the Board Room at 15:30 with Herbert Rasmussen, President of Sunset Villa, bidding everyone welcome. Poul B. Christensen was elected to chair the meeting. Martha Larsen, a former secretary of Sunset Villa, was elected to take the minutes of the meeting. In regard to adopting bylaws, it was decided to work from the bylaws proposed by the Danish Community Centre of Vancouver. After some discussion and negotiation on various issues the bylaws were adopted as presented.

The official name decided on was "Forbundet af Danske Foreninger i Canada" and in English the "Federation of Danish Associations in Canada", while in French it would be "Fédération des Associations Danoises du Canada". All Danish organizations in Canada could become a member of the Federation. The annual membership fee was set at \$100 for organizations with more than 50 members and \$50 for those with less than 50 members. Nordic associations in Canada and

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associations in Denmark could join as Associate Members, pay the same membership fee and enjoy all the benefits and rights, with one exception, they would not have voting rights at the AGM.



*L to R: Alice Lyvang, Jonna Melander, Eva Terp,
at founding meeting*

A Board of Directors of the Federation would consist of a President, Secretary and Treasurer plus five regional presidents and five board members. The five regional presidents would be elected by the member organizations in each of the five regions representing Pacific, Prairies, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic. (Later Manitoba/Saskatchewan was added as a Region). The five board members would also be elected in the five regions.

The first elected Board of Directors of the Danish Federation were: Rolf Buschardt Christensen of Ottawa, President; Martha Larsen of Hamilton, Secretary; and Esther Machacynski of Kingston, Treasurer. Appointed the first Honorary Director of the Federation

was Consul Donn Larsen, Edmonton, who at a meeting at the Danish Embassy in Ottawa had strongly supported the initiative, as had Danish Ambassador Vagn Korsbæk.

At the founding meeting I informed the group that I had applied for and felt very confident that we would receive a federal grant from Secretary of State for Multiculturalism, as they had indicated their support of the creation of a Danish Federation. The grant was approved, and it was in this way possible to reimburse travel expenses for delegates from across the country, including the representatives from Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver.

One of the Danish Federation's first tasks was to update the list of all Danish associations in Canada, as well as to inform these associations about the formation of the Federation. The updated list of Danish organizations in Canada was distributed to all the Federation's member organizations. The Board also went to work on organizing the first Danish Canadian Conference, to be held in Vancouver.

In preparation for the Vancouver Conference, I attended a meeting of Danish organizations at the Danish Lutheran Church on 19th Avenue in Vancouver on December 15, 1981. In attendance at this meeting was the President of the Pacific Region, Poul B. Christensen; Ulf Jessen (Royal Danish Guards); Garry Elmberg (Danish Community Centre); Mogens B. Mogensen (Danish Brotherhood) and Danish Consul Finn K. Petersen. The theme was "Why Organize? The Role of Ethnocultural Organizations in an Evolving Canada".

One annual activity is the national *Danish Canadian Conference*, where members from organizations across Canada get together to discuss specific issues and common projects. The Conference themes vary each year and have dealt with the preservation and promotion of our heritage, documenting our history, youth involvement, communications, our identity and fundraising. In connection with each Conference the Federation has published a *Heritage Book*, which each conference participant receives a copy of, with articles, reports, biographies and

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histories relating to the Danes in Canada. For the last twenty-five years the annual Heritage Book has been about 200 pages in length and has been sold by the various member organizations. The Federation also publishes annually a useful *Directory of Danish Organizations in Canada*, available free upon request.



*Group Photo: outside St. Peter's Lutheran Church (est. 1905) in New Denmark, N.B.
Taken in connection with the 1985 Danish Canadian Conference*

The Annual Conferences and Highlights of the Forty Years

1st Danish Conference: – May 1982 - Hosted by the Federation's Pacific Region at the Bosman's Motor Hotel on Howe Street in downtown Vancouver. President of the Federation's Pacific Region, Poul B. Christensen chaired the Conference. There were participants from all over Canada as well as from New Denmark (New Denmark Historical Society) and Old Denmark (Scandinavian Canadian Friendship Association). The bylaws were approved, and the executive was re-elected. One priority of the meeting was getting Danes appointed to the various Multicultural Councils across Canada, which happened in British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario. The Danish Federation believes that it was the first national Danish Canadian Conference ever held in Canada.

2nd Danish Conference: – May 1983 - Hosted by the Danish Canadian Society Montreal and The Danish Club of Montreal at the Quality Inn in Montreal. The two main organizers were Svend

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Berg and Erling Nielsen. Just prior to the Conference, the Danish Federation had been incorporated federally in March. To commemorate the 200th birthday of the well-known Danish pastor, poet and historian, N.F.S. Grundtvig, the Federation paid for Dr. K.E. Bugge, to visit Canada, where he gave lectures in Toronto and Vancouver on Grundtvig and the Danish folk school movement.

3rd Danish Conference: – June 1984 - Hosted by The Danish Canadian Club of Calgary. President Les Bonke, made sure everyone received a white cowboy hat! Participants included Jan Eisenhardt from Montreal and Esther Thesberg from Dickson. Moreover, it was decided that the Danish Federation should nominate a deserving candidate for the King Christian X Jubilee Foundation of 1937, which was administered by the Consulate General in Montreal. Later the Danish Federation nominated another couple of candidates, all of whom were given a free flight to Denmark.

4th Danish Conference: – June 1985 - Hosted by the New Denmark Historical Society, in the oldest Danish settlement in Canada, established in New Brunswick in 1872. At this conference it was decided that each member of the Danish Federation should appoint a historian from their organization to collect and maintain the association's historical and biographical materials. This task was very much encouraged by two of the main speakers, Dr. Edward Laine from Public Archives of Canada and Prof. Kell Antoft, Dalhousie University.

5th Danish Conference: – May 1986 - Held at Valhalla Inn hotel in Toronto, with the theme “Youth and how to get youth involved”. Four young people participated and spoke. Interesting speakers included Dr. Lillian Ma, Chinese Canadian National Council, Arne Dyhrberg, Dansk Samvirke, Margeret Dvorsky, Slovak Canadian National Council, and Danish Consul General



The Dickson Store Museum, 2003

Erling Harild Nielsen. In connection with the Conference, a grant of \$6,000 was received from The Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and a \$2,000 grant was received from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Citizenship. These grants helped to offset the cost of hosting the Conference and to partially reimburse out of province delegates for their travel expenses. Esther Thesberg of Innisfail, Alberta, spoke about The Danish Heritage Society of Dickson's project to establish a Danish Canadian National Museum. This proposal was enthusiastically received.

During the summer of 1986 Danish actress Anne Jensen visited New Denmark, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver giving talks about Hans Christian Andersen as well as about the popular contemporary poet Benny Andersen.

6th Danish Conference: – June 1987 - Hosted by, The Scandinavian Canadian Friendship Association at Koldinghus Castle in Kolding, Denmark. In connection with the conference there was a parade through the main pedestrian street in Kolding, a special display and talk at the main

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library in Kolding, as well as an exhibition from New Denmark at the museum at Koldinghus Castle. One of the keynote speakers was Canadian Ambassador Dorothy Armstrong.

7th Danish Conference: – May 1988 - Hosted by The Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre in Winnipeg. It was at this conference that delegates from across Canada supported a proposal from the Danish Heritage Society of Dickson to establish a Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. Moreover, the Winnipeg Club set in motion an annual tradition. They presented the Danish Federation with a plaque on which was mounted a miniature Danish mailbox and bronze plates with the name and year of each conference that had been held. A bronze plate is added each year and circulated from one Conference host to the next, collecting a bit of money in the little mailbox to start of the funding for the following year's conference.

8th Danish Conference: – May 1989 - Held at the Skyline Hotel in Ottawa, making it a Capital Event with a record 85 delegates. The theme of the conference was “What does the future hold for Danish Canadian Organization in Canada?”. Mr. Navin Perekh, Canadian Ethnocultural Council, spoke about the future of ethnic organizations and Mrs. Elvira Sanchez de Malicki conducted a workshop on The Revival of Dormant Organizations. Immediately following the conference, the first Heritage Seminar was held at Geneva Park in Orillia, organized by National Secretary Martha Larsen and Toronto Pastor Emilie Esbjørn. Speakers included Prof. Hans Møller of McGill, Prof. Erik Jorgensen, University of Guelph and Pastor Poul Berg Sundgaard, Grimsby.

9th Danish Conference: – May 1990 - Held in Vancouver for the second time. The issue that DKU pastors from Denmark were no longer automatically granted Landed Immigrant Status was brought forth. In August I initiated a meeting with the Counsellor at the Danish Embassy in Ottawa and government officials from Immigration Canada to solve the issue. Nevertheless the issue had to be dealt with again on the margins of the February 1991 meeting.

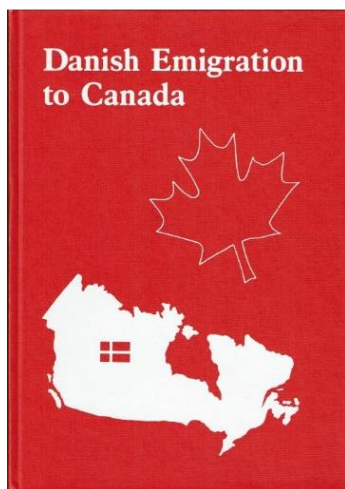


Royal Danish Guards Drum Corps lead the Danish Canadian Parade through the streets of Kolding, 1987

In February 1991 the Danish Federation held a special national meeting at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto. This meeting resulted from a request to the Danish Federation from the federal government, then led by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, for input into Keith Spicer's Citizens' Forum on Canada's Future. The meeting went smoothly as there were hardly any divergent views and the Danish Federation produced a six-page report on Canada's future. A

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copy of this report was understandably shared with all the member organizations of the Danish Federation.



10th Danish Conference: – June 1991 - Hosted by Dansk Samvirke (Danes Worldwide) in Copenhagen. The Conference theme was Danish Culture and Danish Identity, with prominent speakers. Visiting Denmark was an inspiration and at the same time gave participants an opportunity to visit family, friends, archives and museums. The Danish Emigration Archives in Aalborg published the book *Danish Emigration to Canada*, which was distributed to all participants. The Danish Federation sold about 900 copies of that book in Canada.

On October 14, 1991, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark visited Dickson and officially opened the Dickson Store Museum, unveiling a beautiful bronze plaque. It is estimated that close to 3,000 people attended the unveiling. It was an immensely proud moment for Esther Thesberg, but also for Gordon Christiansen, who had donated his general store to the museum.

11th Danish Conference: – June 1992 - Hosted by the Danish Heritage Society of Dickson in Innisfail, Alberta. There were visits to Dickson, Spruce View and Markerville. The Danish Canadian National Museum Society was founded at this conference. Elected first President of the Museum was Svend E. Nielsen. Workshops were held to discuss various aspects relating to a museum. It was decided that the Museum's first General Meeting would be held in conjunction with the Danish Federation's Conference. During the following year regional representatives across Canada were elected to the Museum's Board.

12th Danish Conference: – May 1993 - Hosted by the Danish-Canadian Club of Kingston. Martha Larsen stepped down as secretary and Betty Kjearsgaard of Edmonton was elected to the Board of Directors as the new secretary. Martha Larsen became the first Dane to donate material to the National Archives of Canada by donating documents which related directly to the Danish community and Danish organizations along with all the historic files of the Danish Federation.



National Archivist Jean-Pierre Wallot & Rolf B. Christensen, sign Deed of Gift at Archives, November 2, 1994

In addition, Martha Larsen donated to the Archives an impressive collection of personal letters, which she had written to her family in Denmark over a 40-year period. The family had saved all her letters and then sent them all back to her in a package.

13th Danish Conference: – May 1994 - Hosted by The Danish Canadian Society Dania and the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church at the Mayfield Inn in Edmonton. Svend and Lili Nielsen had produced a record 366-page Heritage Book, full of information about the Danes in Edmonton. At

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L to R: Queen Margrethe II, Gordon Christiansen and Prince Henrik, the Queen opening the Dickson Store Museum 1991

the Conference the delegates were informed that the Government of Ontario had restricted coverage of the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) to permanent residents. The new policy did not cover foreign clergy or short-term visas, therefore, affecting the Danish pastors in Toronto and Grimsby. In the weeks following the conference, the Danish Federation was in contact with other concerned groups, diplomats, civil servants and politicians regarding the matter. In July, Ontario Premier Bob Rae announced the restoration of OHIP coverage for most foreign workers and clergy, including their families.

In November, following Martha Larsen's example, the President and the Treasurer of the Danish Federation donated material relating to the Federation to the National Archives of Canada. All the Danish Federation material at the Archives is open to the public.

14th Danish Conference: – May 1995 - Hosted by the Danish Canadian Society Montreal and The Danish Club, Montreal. A noticeable innovation had evolved in the publishing of the 1995 Heritage Book. Editor Morten Holm produced the book on a personal computer with material being received via email or on a disk! At an official ceremony at the Mount Stephen Club the Danish Federation was presented with a banner (Fane) from Danmarks-Samfundet in Denmark, thanks to Ole Larsen.

15th Danish Conference: – June 1996 - Hosted by Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club in Nanaimo, British Columbia. In attendance was Jens Witthøfft Nielsen, Dansk Samvirke, Gunnar Kristensen, Scandinavian Canadian Friendship Association and Minister Counsellor Otto H. Larsen from the Danish Embassy in Ottawa. Mr. Larsen assisted with the inauguration of the Danish Canadian Museum's new Fane. Betty Kjearsgaard stepped down as secretary and Eva Terp of Toronto was elected secretary. Eva had been a delegate for many years and was one of the founding members of the Danish Federation.

16th Danish Conference: – June 1997 - Hosted by The New Denmark Historical Society. New Denmark and its 125th anniversary as a Danish settlement provided the backdrop for the Conference in conjunctions with their anniversary celebrations. One of the highlights was the re-enactment of the arrival of the first Danes to New Denmark. Among the dignitaries were Lieutenant Governor Marilyn Trenholme Counsell, New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna and Danish Ambassador Jørgen M. Behnke. Elected to the new position of Vice-President of the Danish Federation was Børge Christensen of Winnipeg.

17th Danish Conference: – May 1998 - Hosted by the Danish Canadian Club of Winnipeg. The Danish Federation announced the launching of its first website. A substantial donation was made to the Danish Canadian Museum at the Museum Fundraiser. Ms. Leslie Hughes, a well-known

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Winnipeg freelance broadcaster, spoke about the “Changing Face of Canada” which was the theme of the Conference. The Saturday luncheon speaker was Danish-born Peter Kaufmann, a candidate for the position of Winnipeg Mayor.

18th Danish Conference: – May 1999 - Hosted by the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary. The theme of the conference was “Danish Traditions in the New Millennium”. One of the guest speakers was Dr. James Iversen, President of the Danish American Heritage Society, who spoke about the Danish Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa. It was always a pleasure to visit Calgary and the organizing committee, headed by Karen Glowa, did not disappoint the 75 registered delegates. The dress code for the Saturday night dinner and dance was Western Duds.



The Danish Federation plaque at Pier 21 in Halifax, with a poem by Edith Wulff of Hamilton, Ontario

19th Danish Conference: – June 2000 - Hosted by the Danish Emigration Archives in Aalborg, Denmark, with most of the delegates enjoying a stay at Slotshotellet. The chosen theme was “How to Trace Your Danish Roots”. The Archives published, in cooperation with the Danish Federation, the book *In Denmark Born - To Canada Sworn*, containing an article about emigration as well as about forty Danish Canadian biographies. At this point the Danish Federation had grown to 42 member organizations which included three in Denmark and two in the United States.

20th Danish Conference: – May 2001- Hosted by Sunset Villa Association in Puslinch. The Danish Federation celebrated its twentieth anniversary, so it was quite fitting to return to Sunset Villa where the founding meeting had taken place. The Conference culminated with the celebration of Danish Constitution Day at Sunset Villa, where the keynote speaker was Danish Ambassador Svend Roed Nielsen. The Danish Federation presented Sunset Villa with a plaque in recognition of twenty years of support. During the conference, a decision was made that the

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Danish Federation should place an official plaque at Pier 21, the former immigration shed in Halifax where nearly 50,000 Danish immigrants had landed between 1928 and 1971.

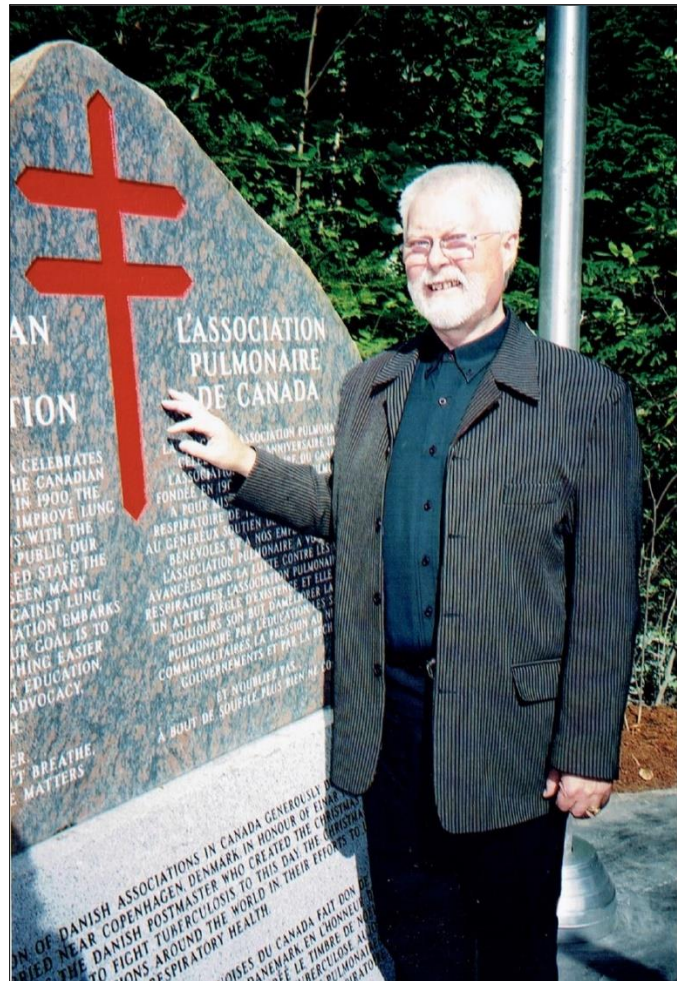
21st Danish Conference: – May 2002 - Hosted by the Red Deer Danish Canadian Club. This was the biggest conference to date, with 90 registered delegates. An impressive 192 people had signed up for lunch on Sunday and the Danish Federation printed 600 copies of the Heritage Book. Sunday, May 26th was a memorable day, and became a historic day, as Museum President Kirsten Wohlgemuth bid over 700 people welcome to the grand opening of the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson.

On August 30, 2002 the Danish Federation plaque, with an inscription by Edith Wulff of Hamilton, Ontario, was unveiled at Pier 21 in a beautiful ceremony, followed by a tour of Pier 21 and a formal sit-down dinner at the elegant Nova Scotian Hotel.

22nd Danish Conference: – June 2003 - Hosted by the Pass Lake Historical Society at the historic Prince Arthur Hotel in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Pass Lake is an old Danish settlement founded in 1924 outside Thunder Bay. The Conference theme was Taking Action. Saturday afternoon four workshops focussed on the Future, Membership, Fundraising and Federation Activities.

The Danish Federation had the year before donated a four-tonne stone from Denmark to the Canadian Lung Association for a monument in the Association's Plaza in Rockwood Park in Saint John, N.B. The Lung Association monument, with inscriptions in English, French and Danish, was unveiled at a ceremony on August 23, 2003, followed by a formal dinner in the evening.

23rd Danish Conference – May 2004: - Hosted jointly by the Danish Canadian Society and The Danish Club in Montreal. The Conference theme was "Human Rights" and Peter Aage Jørgensen of St. Lambert, Quebec, spoke eloquently about the desirability of dual citizenship for Danes. Eva Terp stepped down as secretary and newly elected secretary was Ella Wolder of Langley.



*Pastor Poul Berg Sundgaard, Grimsby
Obtained the stone for the Canadian Lung Association
Monument in Saint John, 2003*

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L to R: Solvejg Nielsen, Esther Machacynski, Rolf Christensen, Poul B. Christensen, Ole Larsen, Svend Berg, Soren Sondergaard and Eva Terp, Seated: Edith Wulff and Ambassador Poul Erik Dam Kristensen

24th Danish Conference: – May 2005 - Hosted by the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa, and cosponsored by Dana College and the Danish American Heritage Society. Events were held at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. Two of the highlights were seeing the beautiful and impressive Danish Museum in Elk Horn and watching the parade down the main street in Elk Horn, which was commemorating Hans Christian Andersen's 200th birthday.

25th Danish Conference: – May 2006 - Hosted by the Federation's Pacific Region in Vancouver. The Danish Federation celebrated its 25th Anniversary and in honour of that milestone the Federation's Pacific Region presented all the founding members of the Danish Federation with a Certificate of Appreciation. Danish Ambassador Poul Erik Dam Kristensen delivered a presentation about exports to Canada (among them pharmaceuticals and akvavit) as well as the dispute over Hans Island and the controversy over *Jyllands Posten's* cartoons of the prophet Mohammed.

26th Danish Conference: – May 2007 - Hosted by the Danish Canadian Society Dania and Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church at the Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, in downtown Edmonton. The theme of the conference was "Honouring our Traditions". A record selling of 200 copies of the Heritage Books was set by Svend B. Nielsen!

On a sad note, Martha Larsen, one of the founders of the Danish Federation and its first secretary, passed away on August 15, 2007. Martha had telephoned me from her hospital bed to say goodbye. In March 1984, less than fifteen months after she had stepped down as secretary, she signed a new Will and Testament in which she stated her desire to give the residue of her estate to the Danish Federation. Thanks to Martha, the Danish Federation has been able to be sustainable. The funds received from Martha Larsen's estate have permitted the Danish Federation to support the Heritage Seminars and the printing of the Heritage Books.

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27th Danish Conference: – May 2008: - Hosted by the Danish Club of Ottawa at the Delta Hotel and Suites in downtown Ottawa. On the first evening of the conference Danish Ambassador Poul Erik Dam Kristensen hosted a reception at his residence. The Saturday luncheon speaker was award-winning reporter Joël-Denis Bellavance from *La Presse*, who spoke about being a journalist in Ottawa. Over 90 people attended the Banquet Saturday evening at the Delta Hotel. The Ole Larsen Trio from Montreal provided background music as well as dancing music. An Elvis Presley impersonator, who looked and sang like the King, got the Banquet hopping and entertained for nearly one hour. At the annual general meeting the Federation President reported that during the past year Dual Citizenship for Danes, voting rights for Danes outside the European Union and the availability of Akvavit in Canada had been issues of concern to the Danish Federation. On these issues the Danish Federation worked closely with the Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Toronto and Danes Worldwide in Copenhagen. 28th Danish



*Danish Bishop Steen Skovsgaard consecrating the new Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary, May 2011
In the foreground to the right: Pastor Charlotte Berg of the Calgary congregation*

Conference: – May 2009 - Hosted by the Red Deer Danish Canadian Club at the Black Knight Inn in Red Deer, Alberta. The Red Deer Club was celebrating its 50th anniversary. About 145 people attended the banquet Saturday night. Friday night's entertainment was auctioneer Peder Bang (Leo Eriksen) who conducted a successful fundraiser for the Museum.

During the summer of 2009 a unique event took place, with Egon Sommer of Ponoka, Alberta, hauling the Viking Ship *Freydis Joanna* across Canada, from Halifax to Dickson. The event helped publicize both the Danish community in Canada and the Museum in Dickson. A big thank

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you was extended to Egon Sommer, Carl Sorensen and the many host organizations across Canada who displayed the Viking Ship. The ship had come all the way from Roskilde, where it was built, finally reaching its permanent destination at the Museum in Dickson.

29th Danish Conference: – May 2010 - Hosted by the Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The theme was “Human Rights” as the Canadian Museum for Human Rights was to be built in Winnipeg. The Conference ended with smørrebrød, beer and snaps at the Scandinavian Centre where Helle Wilson sang and entertained, to much applause. Sadly, during the year two stalwart supporters of the Danish Federation and the Museum, Elsie Dahl and Sharon Thesberg, had passed away.

30th Danish Conference: – May 2011- Hosted by the Danish Canadian Club of Calgary with a marvelous banquet on the Saturday evening at the Calgary Club. Sunday morning a bus tour of vibrant Calgary had been arranged. The tour ended at the Sharon Danish Lutheran Church on 10th Avenue, which was then inaugurated in beautiful sunshine by Danish Bishop Steen Skovsgaard as the new home of the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary.

In October of 2011, the Danish Brotherhood in Vancouver dedicated a plaque in memory of Carl Brinck Christensen in the beautiful Memorial Garden by the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby. Carl Brinck Christensen, who had been a leader of the Danish colony at Cape Scott at the turn of the previous century, had played a major part in both the Brotherhood and the Vancouver Church in the 1920s and 30s.



*The plaque commemorating the founding of the Danish Federation
Unveiled at Sunset Villa in April 2013 in connection with an Ontario Region Meeting*

31st Danish Conference: – May 2012 - Hosted by the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto with the theme “Vikings in Canada”. The organizing committee was headed by Sune Overgaard and Liselotte Ostergaard. Friday was Museum Day and it ended with a highly successful fundraiser

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at the Madsen's Greenhouse in Newmarket. At the annual general meeting Ella Wolder and Bendix Andersen stepped down and elected new secretary and treasurer were Aase Christensen and Sune Overgaard.

At the Ontario Region Meeting on April 27, 2013, a beautiful plaque was unveiled, on a large stone during a ceremony at Sunset Villa to commemorate the founding of the Danish Federation.

32nd Danish Conference: – May 2013 - Hosted by the Danish Social Club of Victoria at the Ramada Inn, Victoria, B.C., with 77 participants. Bendix Andersen, the previous president of the club, served as chair of the organizing committee. At the annual general meeting, Ole Larsen stepped down as vice-president after fourteen years, and elected vice-president was Gert M. Andersen of Waterloo. The Danish Federation's bylaws were amended, expanding the board, and revised as required by law, according to the new Federal Corporations Act.

33rd Danish Conference: – May 2014 - Hosted by the Danish Club of Ottawa with the theme "Getting Involved". A lovely reception for the participants was held at the residence of Danish Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen. Ottawa City Councillor Tim Tierney spoke about "Getting Involved Locally" while Barbara McInnes, former CEO of the Community Foundation, spoke about "Achieving Success by Getting Involved" and James Bissett of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society gave a talk on Canadian immigration history and policies.

In the fall of 2014, a complete set of the Heritage Books, covering the years 1982 to 2014 were donated to The Royal Library (Det Kongelige Bibliotek) in Copenhagen, the Library generously paying for the shipping.



Danish Federation Board of Directors at Conference, Victoria, May 2013

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34th Danish Conference: – May 2015 - Hosted by the Danish House Society, with co-hosts the Danish Lutheran Church, Dania Home and the Scandinavian Centre, at the Inn at the Quay in New Westminster, British Columbia. The new editor of the 2015 Heritage Book was Ed Kuhlman of Port Coquitlam. Svend Berg of Montreal had been editor for the past eleven years.

In June of 2015, the Danish Federation organized speaking engagements in Toronto and Vancouver for Anne Marie Dalgaard, Secretary General of Danes Worldwide, who spoke about their popular summer school for children living outside Denmark and about Danish Dual Citizenship, which came into effect that September.

35th Danish Conference: – May 2016 - Hosted by the Danish Club of Montreal, and co-sponsored by the Danish Canadian Society, Saint Ansgar Lutheran Church and DABGO Social Club of Montreal, with Kren Clausen chairing the organizing committee. The timely theme was “Renewal and Sustainability”. The conference was officially opened by Danish Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen in charming Old Montreal.

In the Fall of 2016 when I attended the Weekend Retreat at the Museum in Dickson, I also visited the Glenbow Archives in Calgary. The curator of the Archives expressed a keen desire to have a complete set of the Danish Federation Heritage Books, so a complete set was donated to the Glenbow Archives, which kindly paid for the shipping of the books.

36th Danish Conference: – May 2017 - Hosted by the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, on the 25th anniversary of its founding. Their chosen theme was “Step into the Saga”. A high point of the Conference was the official opening of the Nielsen CPR House at the Museum. This historic house was a major acquisition for the Museum, as it represents an important aspect of immigration and settlement of the Canadian West. At the AGM, I reported that the Danish Federation had lost four member organizations and a fifth was struggling to survive and had therefore suspended its membership. The Danish Lutheran Congregation at St. John’s Church in Waterloo, the Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula in Grimsby, the Battlefords Danish Canadian Club in North Battleford, and the Calgary Danish Businessmen’s Association had been dissolved, while the Royal Danish Guards’ Association Eastern Canada had been forced to scale down its involvement.

37th Danish Conference: – May 2018 - Hosted by the Danish Federation. The idea of the Federation hosting a Conference came from Larry Kjeersgaard of Markerville, President of the Alberta Region. Larry chaired the organizing committee, with help from others, including Birgit Ballantyne in Halifax. The theme was “Where We Met Canada”. The AGM was held at Pier 21 where the delegates were treated to a lecture about the old immigration shed and a tour. Gert M. Andersen stepped down as Vice-president of the Danish Federation and Ed Kuhlman of Port Coquitlam became the newly elected Vice-president. Carl Sorensen, Chair of the Jens Munk Commemoration Steering Committee, established by the Danish Federation, gave an overview of activities to date and plans for the 400th anniversary of Jens Munk’s search for the Northwest Passage. There was a bus tour to Peggy’s Cove and the cemetery with the victims of the Titanic.

38th Danish Conference: – May 2019 - Hosted by the Danish Canadian Club of Manitoba at the Hotel Fort Garry in Winnipeg. The Danish Federation commemorated the 1619 Jens Munk Expedition in search of the Northwest Passage by republishing *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620* by W.A. Kenyon. The Winnipeg Club had produced a Jens Munk Conference Bag and T-shirt, and had facilitated a Jens Munk presentation and exhibit at the main public library and an

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exhibit at the Forks. Conference speakers included Carl Sorensen, Fred Ford, President of the Manitoba Inuit Association, Prof. David Barber and Ambassador Thomas Winkler. A distinct highlight of the conference was the flag-raising ceremony in front of Winnipeg City Hall, conducted by Mayor Brian Bowman, Karl Sorensen of Winnipeg, and Danish Ambassador Thomas Winkler, to commemorate the 800th anniversary of Dannebrog.

39th Danish Conference: – This conference was to be hosted by the Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club in Nanaimo, British Columbia. The Conference was cancelled due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus in Canada in March 2020. The Nanaimo Club kindly rescheduled the Conference for May 2021, which yet again had to be postponed to May 2022 due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, in order to commemorate the centennial of Knud Rasmussen's 1921-1924 Fifth Thule Expedition across Arctic North America, the Danish Federation established in 2020 a Knud Rasmussen Committee. It goes without saying, that staying open and active during the pandemic has been a challenge for all the member organizations of the Danish Federation. Many have held meetings on the internet, often via Zoom and coming up with many innovative ways of staying in touch with their members, such as videos on YouTube.

The Danish Federation and the annual Heritage Seminars



Participants at the Heritage Seminar held at Harrison Hot Springs, B.C., 2006

The annual Heritage Seminar, which the Danish Federation has organized every year since 1989, is a five-day educational, inspiring and fun-filled course about Danish culture and history, as well as, Canadian and international topics. An important aspect of the seminar is the friendship that quickly develops among the participants from across Canada and the United States. Lectures and films are usually in English while many of the songs are in Danish and are already well

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known by many of the participants. The Heritage Seminars are modelled on the residential Folk High Schools in Denmark, which were created in the 19th century, based on the ideas of N.F.S. Grundtvig and Christen Kold.

The first and second Heritage Seminars were held at Geneva Park, near Orillia, Ontario. The following Seminars have been held all across Canada at interesting and beautiful settings such as Banff, Crieff, Devon, Montebello, Ladysmith, New Denmark, Gimli, Canmore, Ancaster, Thunder Bay, Val-Morin, Blair, Harrison Hot Springs, Jasper, Drumheller, Parksville, Lake Couchiching, Calabogie, Orford, Halifax and Winnipeg.

The generous donation from the estate of Martha Larsen (passed away on August 15, 2007), who was one of the founders of the Danish Federation and its first secretary, has enabled the Danish Federation to continue to support the Heritage Seminars.

The Danish Federation and the Museums



Danish Federation Conference delegates visit Danish Canadian Museum, Dickson, Alberta in May, 2009

Esther Thesberg of Innisfail, Alberta, who I had met in the early 1980s, felt very passionate about saving the General Store in Dickson when it closed. Carl and Laura Christiansen, two of the original settlers in Dickson, had opened the general store in 1909 and it contributed considerably to the development of the community. The store had closed in 1980. Esther attended the Danish Conference in Calgary in 1984 where she spoke about her efforts to save the General Store and turn it into a museum. Restoration of the General Store began 1987 and the Dickson Store Museum was officially opened on October 14, 1991 by Queen Margrethe II of Denmark with the unveiling of a beautiful bronze plaque. It is estimated that close to 3,000

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people attended the unveiling. It was an immensely proud moment for Esther Thesberg, but also for Gordon Christiansen, who had donated his general store to the museum.



Board of Directors, Danish Canadian National Museum, May 2006

On January 31, 1986, I wrote a formal letter to Esther Thesberg proposing that The Danish Heritage Society of Dickson enlarge its vision and take on the task of a National Museum. The Danish Heritage Society of Dickson held its first Annual General Meeting on February 18, 1986, where the members decided that the Society should join the Danish Federation. It was also decided at this meeting to establish a National Museum in Dickson, with a mandate to collect, preserve and display objects relevant to the Danes in Canada. The National Museum was on the agenda of the Danish Federation's Conference in Toronto in May 1986 with Esther speaking about the establishment of a National Museum. On the Monday following the Conference I met with Esther, where I then suggested the establishment of a National Advisory Council for the National Museum. Also in 1986, the Danish Heritage Society of Dickson commissioned a Feasibility Study. It was completed by architect David Murray in January 1987, and included a proposal to establish a National Museum.

The proposal for a Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson was presented at the Danish Federation's Conference in Winnipeg in 1988. The Danish Heritage Society of Dickson was adamant that the plans for a national museum would only proceed under the provision that there was support from across Canada. There was indeed support for such an undertaking across Canada. There was no hesitation; the Danish Federation fully endorsed the plan.

A significant event took place in conjunction with the 1992 Danish Canadian Conference as the delegates founded the Danish Canadian National Museum Society. Elected first President of the Museum was Svend E. Nielsen. The Museum also decided that its Annual General Meetings would be held at the Danish Federation's Conferences. Each year time at the Danish Federation Conferences has been allocated to the Museum for its Annual General Meetings as well as

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fundraising events. A “Buy-a-Brick” campaign was launched at the Danish Federation Conference in 1993. This was a successful fundraising event which continued for many years.

In the fall of 1993, the Museum purchased the former girls Dormitory in Dickson. At the Danish Canadian Conference in 1998, various member organizations of the Danish Federation as well as individuals donated \$32,000 to the Danish Canadian Museum allowing the Museum to pay off the balance of the \$150,000 cost of the Dormitory property in Dickson. The next challenge was then to raise funds to renovate the former dormitory and turn it into a Danish Canadian Museum. At the Museum’s first Weekend Retreat in 1999 the discussion focussed on Collection Policy, as the Museum needed artifacts to tell the story of Danish Canadians. One fundraising initiative from the Danish Federation’s Ontario Region produced a cookbook which raised over \$7,000, which was then donated to the Museum at the 2001 Conference. The cookbook with traditional Danish recipes was also for sale at the Museum. In total the cookbook raised over \$10,000.



Danish Federation Board of Directors, Halifax, 2018

May 26, 2002 was a memorable day, and became a historic day, as Museum President Kirsten Wohlgemuth bid over 700 people welcome to the Grand Opening of the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta. The Danish Federation remains a strong supporter of the Dickson Store Museum and the Danish Canadian National Museum, as do many individuals and clubs.

Danish Federation Board of Directors 1981 to 2021

National President - Rolf Buschardt Christensen - June 1981 to Present

National Vice-President - Børge Christensen (1997 to 1999); Ole Larsen (1999 to 2013); Gert Andersen (2013 to 2018); Ed Kuhlman (2018 to Present)

National Treasurer – Esther Machacynski (1981 to 2005); Annie Kruus (2005 to 2008); Sue-Anne Nielsen (2008 to 2011); Bendix Andersen (2011 to 2012); Sune Overgaard (2012 to Present)

National Secretary - Martha Larsen (1981 to 1993); Betty Kjearsgaard (1993 to 1996); Eva Terp (1996 to 2004); Ella Wolder (2004 to 2012); Aase Christensen (2012 to Present)

The Challenges Ahead

The Danish Federation foresees many challenges in the coming years. One is that there is virtually no Danish immigration to Canada, therefore, to maintain viable organizations, second and third generation Danes will have to step up to assure the survival of the member organizations. Most of the work and activities are now done in English, with very few members having even a fair knowledge of the Danish language. The Danish organizations write their newsletters in English, including the five DSUK congregations with Danish pastors.

Increasingly the focus will no longer be supporting and serving immigrants, but nourishing Danish Canadians who are interested in their Danish heritage. In the future the interest will be in genealogy, history and exploring Danish customs and traditions, as well as preserving them. Danish organizations will have to focus more of their attention and their activities on Danish Canadians than on Danish immigrants. Gradually Danish organizations will change from being primarily Danish immigrant organizations to being Danish Canadian organizations with few or no services for new-comers. Only if the Danish organizations succeed in attracting the involvement of second, third and fourth generations will there continue to be Danish organizations in Canada.

It is wonderful to see the many dedicated individuals, whose personal roots are not specifically Danish, take an active part in many of the member organizations of the Danish Federation, often in leadership roles. The Dickson Store Museum, the Danish Canadian Museum, New Denmark Historical Society, Sunset Villa, The Danish House Society and the Red Deer Club are excellent examples. The Bethany Care Centre, Ansgar Villa, Dana Villa as well as Dania Home long ago ceased to cater to the specific needs of Danish seniors, but now serve the larger community around them, caring for seniors of all ethnic backgrounds.

A major issue of many of the Danish organizations across Canada is that fewer and fewer members attend AGMs, therefore making it difficult to fill all the positions required to form a Board of Directors. Over the last couple of decades some Danish organizations have been forced to disband as they were unable to form a Board of Directors to carry on. It is likely that we will see other Danish organizations across Canada being dissolved within the next decade or two. Yet, we have also seen rather inactive organizations being revived by just one or two dynamic personalities, blooming after many members had given up any hope of revival.

We are pleased that generally speaking all Danish organizations in Canada are members, who unwaveringly support the work and purpose of the Danish Federation. So, with a viable Danish Federation, which exists for the enjoyment and benefit of all, we can truly say that June 7, 1981, at Sunset Villa was a historic day: the day when the Danes finally got a national organization: the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

Scandinavian Cultural Society joins Federation

Ed Kuhlman – President

At the Annual General Meeting of the Scandinavian Cultural Society in February of 2020 I was honored with election to the position of President. I was excited about the year ahead and about all of the wonderful exhibits and shows planned for the year. Instead the pandemic arrived and prevented us from hosting any events.

A new year brought hope that with a successful vaccination program restrictions would soon be lifted and we could all get back to work hosting events again. The 2020 and 2021 Scandinavian Centre Midsummer Festivals, in which our Society plays an active part with Genealogy sessions and a Troll Garden for the youngsters, were both cancelled. As well the Art and Photography Show had to be cancelled and the next exhibit in the Nordic Spirit Heritage Exhibits series was put on hold until restrictions are lifted. These exhibits illustrate in photos and accompanying text the experiences and hardships of the thousands of Nordic and Scandinavian immigrants that have made Canada their new home. One of these exhibits was on display at the 2015 Federation Conference in New Westminster, BC.

One item of business, thanks to Zoom, that continued, is of course Board meetings. After a lively discussion about the Jens Munk Expedition and the active role played by the Federation in promoting a re-publication of the Jens Munk Journal, I took it upon myself to propose that our Society, though not strictly Danish, but nevertheless with a Danish component inherent in our mission to promote Nordic Cultures, become a member of the Federation. The Board of Directors unanimously approved and an application for membership was submitted to and approved by the Federation.

Our Board is very excited about becoming a member of the Federation and sees it as an opportunity to expand the network necessary for all Cultural Societies to survive and thrive. The waves of immigrants that have come to our rich country are all aging and slowly leaving us one by one. Now it is a question of telling the story of those immigrants and a question of getting their 2nd and 3rd generation offspring involved. That is what the mission is of the Nordic Spirit Exhibits to tell various aspects of the trials, tribulations, hardships, joys and successes of those adventurers. This is a mission also served by the Federation Heritage Books and by the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta. So it is only natural that we should become partners in this mission and cooperate with each other to preserve and tell these stories. The Scandinavian Cultural Society looks forward to working with our new partners and is pleased to become the newest member of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

We say hello and wish all the member organizations of the Federation success in their endeavors and look forward to attending future Conferences to meet the delegates of these organizations and build upon our new friendships.

Esther Christensen, Toronto

Angela Shewchuk, Calgary

I am Esther's granddaughter and I have been given the privilege of saying a few words about Esther, or Grandma Christensen as we called her growing up. I do not have to tell anyone here what a special person Esther Christensen was and there is no way that I am going to be able do her 102 years of living any justice in this short tribute; but in going over my Grandmother's life these past few days as I prepared to write this, I was reminded of so many wonderful memories and learned some really interesting things about my grandmother that many of you may or may not have known. I am going to do my best to keep this brief, but it was 102 years so you might want to get comfortable.

Living to the ripe age of 102 (almost 103) years is an accomplishment in no uncertain terms; but it is how Esther lived those 102 years that is the real story. Let us start at the beginning; Esther Christensen came into this world on December 12, 1915. She was born in Copenhagen to Henrik and Ingeborg Hansen. She was their first-born. After Esther came her sister Gerta and then her brothers, Morris and John.

Esther Christensen, née Hansen, passed away on October 4, 2018. My knowledge of what life was like for the Hansen family and for our Grandmother as a young girl growing up in Denmark is limited apart from some of the stories that she shared with me over the years on her visits with us out West. Grandma loved Christmas. She would describe to me that as a young girl living in Denmark her father would go out on Christmas



Esther Hansen: 18 years old

Eve to find the perfect tree to chop down and bring home. The tree would be set up in the main part of the house and the family would decorate it complete with Danish flags, handmade folded paper decorations and actual live candles. After the tree was decorated and lit up the family would circle around the tree admiring it and sing carols and of course, enjoy some of the traditional tasty offerings enjoyed on Christmas Eve such as Almond Kringle and ris-à-l'amande (cold rice pudding). I remember at a young age envisioning Grandma Christensen's Christmas's as a young girl and how cozy and special this would have been and even though it sounds a bit storybook-ish, I believe that this was how it was. I know that Christmas was a special time for Esther, and I have no doubt that these memories would have contributed to that. Esther upheld

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many of the traditions of her Danish heritage and in the case of some of the traditional holiday dishes; our family (thanks to our mom Mary) still incorporates those special items at our Christmas Dinner every year. Without fail the rice pudding and Danish style red cabbage always make an appearance. These traditions never let me forget my Danish heritage and I am not even going to get into the ‘open face sandwiches’ that were eaten over my lifetime.

In 1929 the Hansen family immigrated to Canada. I cannot say exactly why they decided to come other than the obvious reason that they came for what they thought would be a better life. Esther was 14 years old when she made the voyage to Canada with her mother Ingeborg and her younger siblings Gerta, Morris and John. Thanks to some family tree records that were done on the Hansen side and some digging around, I was able to find the actual records of the Hansen’s arrival in Canada. Esther’s father (our great grandfather) Henrik Hansen arrived on April 14, 1929 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the Cunard Line’s *RMS Scythia* — arriving ahead of his wife and children by roughly two and a half months to establish the family’s new home in Canada. Henrik purchased 100 acres of land in New Brunswick for the family to live on and farm and he then sent for his wife and children to come over. He was 42 years old. Esther’s mother Ingeborg and the four children left Denmark on the *RMS Ascania* on June 17th and arrived June 29th, 1929 in Quebec City. Tragically, Henrik passed away due to health complications on June 28th just one day before the family arrived in Canada. The loss of a parent during our childhood would be devastating enough. But imagine having just landed in a new country (where you did not even speak the language) with your mother and three younger siblings after a long voyage at sea, ready to start a new life and losing your father that same day. I cannot imagine the grief and fear that this young family must have faced on that day and in the days to come. In Esther’s words, they ‘didn’t know what they were going to do’. The loss of her husband and father of her children, left Ester’s mother Ingeborg in dire circumstances being a newly landed immigrant, widowed with four relatively young children in her care. With little or no money on hand, the Hansen family made their way to a Danish Settlement in New Brunswick located east of the St. John River in Victoria County called New Denmark. In New Denmark, Esther and her siblings were split up for a time as they were taken in by families in the area that could take on one more mouth to feed. Esther’s mother Ingeborg was taken in by a Danish pastor and his family where I understand she would have cooked and cleaned.



*Henrik Eli Hansen’s grave
New Denmark, N.B.*

Eventually, Ingeborg was able to sell the 100-acre farm that Henrik had purchased for their family and the Hansen’s moved to Toronto (as many Danish Immigrants were doing at that time). Esther’s mother Ingeborg bought a house which she converted into a boarding home to provide room and board to young Danish immigrants as a means to bring some money into the household. This was not the end of hard times for the Hansen family by any means but at least they were all back together. Timing wise, we are now in the early 1930s. Historically speaking,

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the Great Depression reached Canada beginning in late 1929 and reached its height in 1933 when unemployment soared to a high of approximately 27%. 1933 would have placed Esther at 18 years of age and I know from her accounts that she worked as soon as she legally could as she was the only family member who worked outside the home at that time. Esther worked in factories in the Toronto area and would give all of her earnings to her mother which would have been a significant contribution to the family income to provide for Esther and her three younger siblings.



*Toronto Centennial 1834 – 1934
Magnus far right holding Union Jack, Esther front row second from left*

It would have been in those years in Toronto when Esther would have met Magnus Oscar Christensen. Our grandfather Magnus (or ‘Mac’ as everyone called him) came to Canada from Jutland in 1929, the same year as Esther. Magnus arrived in St. John, New Brunswick, on March 30, 1929 on the CPR’s *SS Duchess of York*. Mac and Esther were married in 1938 and moved into a rented apartment on Wychwood Avenue in York. Mac began his working life in Canada as a butcher and worked in this capacity at Canadian Dressed Meats (CDM) in his earlier years here. My dad (Len) shared with me that his father Mac had dreamed of being in the Air Force but his limited education, due to immigrating to Canada, ruled that out unfortunately. By 1939, Esther and Magnus had their first child (our Dad) Len, then Leonard (Lennie as Grandma would call him) and Henrik. Soon after with the start of the Second World War, Mac left his job at CDM to contribute to the war effort and began working at Goodyear where he made tires for Lancaster Bombers for approximately three years before returning to his former job at CDM. This is where Mac worked until he was 66 or 67 years old, before he officially retired as the plant superintendent. By all accounts, Mac was sad to retire. He loved his work and the industry, and I know he was very valued and respected. By the time our father (Len) had started kindergarten the young Christensen family moved to Magnus’ parents farm in Streetsville where they lived for approximately two years and during which time their second son, Brian was born in 1945. By 1947 Mac and Esther purchased their first house on Linsmore Crescent in East York where they lived for roughly ten years before moving to Elvaston Drive in North York where they lived for 26 and a half years. If I do the math, I think that Brian and Len would have been around 10 and 15 years of age when they moved to Elvaston Drive. No doubt this would have been a busy time, and I know from some of my grandmother’s stories that young Len and Brian

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constantly kept her on her toes. This was likely why she so easily took to being very physically active when she and Mac reached retirement age. It is my understanding that Esther worked in the home performing the endless jobs involved in raising boys and making their house a home. Esther liked to stay busy and I am told that during these years she was quite involved with the Danish Lutheran Church and would often help with catering functions. This would be the start of an extensive life of volunteering that became a huge part of Esther's life in the years to come.



*Esther and Magnus Christensen
Married at St. Ansgar Church
Toronto: July 16, 1938*

As young children growing up in Calgary, my brothers and I remember special times when our Grandparents would come to visit. I remember one Christmas in particular when our grandparents came to spend Christmas with us, and our dad took all five of us kids for a drive to view the Christmas light display at Confederation Park. When we arrived home, Santa had been to our home and left all of our presents under the tree. This would have been reminiscent of a Danish Christmas with the celebration on Christmas Eve. However, the subsequent chaos that no doubt would have ensued with me and my four brothers likely did not at all resemble the tranquil, story-book style Christmas Eves of Esther's childhood, but I'm sure they enjoyed that Christmas none the less. I also remember from those days of our Grandparents' trips to visit us in Calgary that they would always treat us to a lovely meal out at Swiss Chalet which was probably a very welcome, albeit chaotic break from the kitchen for my mom back in those days. We always looked forward to this special treat with Grandma and Grandpa Christensen. By 1981 after Mac had officially retired, they purchased their condominium at 55 Skymark Drive in Willowdale. Mac and Esther loved their new place and their new lifestyle in retirement. Mac

stayed busy socializing with some of the men he came to know in the building as well as getting involved with some of the maintenance issues which his vast work experience would have lent itself to. Esther took to swimming in the building's Olympic size swimming pool like (as the saying goes) a 'fish to water'. I don't think that there was a day that went by if she could help it that Esther did not go down to the pool for a swim. Mac was 69 and Esther was 66 when they moved to their condo on Skymark Drive. To think that at 66 years of age, my grandmother started a daily routine of physical activity in the form of swimming that continued well into her 90's is amazing. In fact, shortly after moving to their condo, Esther took on teaching the Seniors Aqua-size class which she continued right up until her 95th birthday (when she officially retired).

Sadly grandfather Mac passed away in 1983 after enjoying only two or so years in their new home and an active life of retirement. Mac and Esther had been married for roughly 45 years when our Grandma had to say goodbye to her beloved husband. In her usual style, our grandmother carried on and continued to exercise and stay active and give of herself in her volunteer pursuits, while maintaining an active family and social life. Esther would come and visit our family for a couple or so weeks each year, which were special times for me in particular. Growing up our family home was busy with five children ... four of them active boys and I really enjoyed connecting with my Grandma on those visits. I have so many great

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memories. I definitely enjoyed and benefited from the one-on-one time with my grandma and it is during those years that I really gained a better understanding and deeper relationship with her though all of the stories and accounts of her life that she shared with us and with me personally. One of the many things I admire in my grandmother is her resiliency and strength. In 1986, a parent's worst nightmare came true for Esther in losing her youngest son Brian who was 40 years old. He was Len's younger brother, husband to Linda and father to our cousins Jeffery and Adam. To any parent, the loss of a child is probably the worst event that could happen to any of us. I know that our grandma was no exception to this truth. Despite this, and through what could only be described as an incredibly difficult time in her life, she carried on. I really believe that Esther's life experiences taught her not to take anything for granted. Her fierce independence, commitment to family, healthy living and an intensely practical approach to life are a testament to that. Never

one to be extravagant (in fact the opposite), Esther was very disciplined with her money and was always financially independent in her life which, considering she lived to be two months short of 103 years old is remarkable. Despite being a disciplined spender, our grandmother enjoyed quite a bit of travelling over the course of her lifetime, travelling to many far off as well as nearby places of interest. Some of her notable trips were multiple trips to Denmark, New Zealand, Mexico, Alaska, Germany and Fiji just to name a few. Many of these trips would have been after losing our grandfather (Mac) so this travel would have been throughout her late 60s and well into her 70's (perhaps even into her 80's) which is remarkable to me. Esther also came to visit our family out west in Calgary and then to Winnipeg where we moved in 1986. I know she also spent a lot of time up at Brad and Linda's cottage on Muldrew Lake with grandsons Jeff and Adam and always enjoyed those special getaways.

Incredibly, Esther lived independently in her condo on Skymark Drive until the age of 95 at which time she moved into Swan Lake Retirement home in Markham. I know that Esther loved her time at Swan Lake and in the summer of 2010, our sons Christian and Alex (Esther's great grandsons) and I made a trip to Toronto and had some great visits with her there. That trip was the last time that Esther would have seen her great grandsons apart from pictures, but she always remembered everyone. Despite how large the family grew (and by the time you reach 100 or so years of age, your extended family can get quite large) Esther remembered all of her great grandchildren on special occasions. In fact, not a birthday or Christmas went by without a personally written card or greeting for her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren until she physically could no longer write.

There is so much to this special lady's life. Over her 102-year lifetime, Esther witnessed incredible chapters in our world's history, prohibition, the Great Depression, WWII, the moon landing, computers, the internet just to name a few. It is incredible to think how different the world was when Esther came into it in 1915, compared to how she left it in 2018. Despite the changes and challenges that faced Esther Christensen in her 102 years of living, and there were



Magnus Christensen was a butcher

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Esther Christensen
12 DEC 1915 – 4 OCT 2018

many, she always rose above, accepted, moved forward and above all, did the right thing. I always tell my kids, “If you want to feel good about yourself, do good things”. Esther truly was a shining example of this. When I think of whom my grandmother was as a person, the following words come to mind: strong, survivor, resilient, generous, loyal, decent, proud, independent, talented, intelligent, caring and humble. Moreover, it goes without saying that you do not reach almost 103 years of age without a having a healthy sense of humor, so we cannot leave that out!

Esther, you were a Wife, Mother, Mother-in-Law, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Sister, Daughter, Daughter-in-Law, Aunt, Friend, and Volunteer. You were all of those things in your life and so much more. Simply put, yours was a life well lived, and a life lived well. Today we are not saying goodbye but saying thank you for the special person you were to so many of us. Today is not a sad goodbye but a celebration of your remarkable and inspiring life.

The Danish Brotherhood Lodge 328, Vancouver



The Board of Directors

Front Row Left: Flemming El Nur, Niels Jensen, President Peter Jensen, Kjeld Christensen, Bill Dagoe
Back Row Left: Bent Østergaard, Keld Jensen, Arne Møller, Manfred Hoff

Annette Lauridsen, Langley

Ebba Grey

Annette Holten Lauridsen, née Normose, born on July 19, 1946, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, passed away peacefully on October 1, 2020 at the age of 74, after a nearly decade-long battle with liver cancer. She is survived by her



husband Arne, her sister Marianne, children Steen, Bo and Susan, daughters-in-law Jenny and Beverly, grandchildren Megan, Amanda, Riley, Kacey, Uma, Henry and Ryann, as well as extended family in Canada and Denmark. Annette was the older of two daughters of Gydda and Arne Normose. Her mother, Gydda, was a seamstress, and father Arne worked as a sign painter. Her father later started his own sign shop, but found the taxes in Denmark to be excessive to make his business work. He had a friend who recently had immigrated to Ottawa in Canada, and apparently the tax situation there was much better, so in 1959 Gydda and Arne decided to follow their friends to Canada. On arrival in Canada, Annette aged 13, her sister Marianne, and their parents stayed with their

friends in Ottawa for a few weeks until they found a place of their own. A few years later, the family moved to the west coast of Canada and settled in Surrey, British Columbia.

Annette met her husband-to-be, Arne Lauridsen, at a Danish Constitution Day picnic at Peace Arch Park, in White Rock, British Columbia attended by 3,000 celebrants. Since Annette was still attending school, Arne signed up to work on a freighter sailing around South America while he waited for his bride. This would be Arne's second journey around South America, having completed two previous trips to Japan with his brother Leo.

In 1965, Annette and Arne were married in the Danish Church in Vancouver celebrating with 35 guests. A month later, their honeymoon was a week-long train trip across the continent from Vancouver to New York, and then another week on the last Christmas ship "Bergensfjord" to Copenhagen. It had been six years since Annette left Denmark at 13 years of age, and she looked forward to visiting her grandparents in Aalborg. They spent Christmas with Arne's parents, Johannes and Kirstine Lauridsen, and the newlyweds rented an apartment and stayed in Ringkøbing for six months before returning to Vancouver. While in Denmark, Annette and Arne were interviewed by the local newspaper in Ringkøbing because they had both immigrated to Canada separately, and had met and married a fellow Dane there. They were even considering

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Annette and Arne Lauridsen

perhaps staying in Denmark, but ultimately decided to return to Vancouver.

Arne and Annette had three children. Son Steen was born in 1968, and married Jenny in 1996. They are the parents of two daughters, Megan (20) and Amanda (17); both are currently in university. Son Bo was born in 1972, and married Beverly in 2007, and they are the parents of daughter, Uma (11) and son Henry (10). Daughter Susan was born in 1974 in Seoul, Korea, and was adopted in 1975 at 7 months old by Annette and Arne. Susan is divorced, and has a son Riley (16), a daughter Kacey (14), and a daughter Ryann (8).

Annette had been a bank teller at the Bank of Nova Scotia in New Westminster but became a stay-at-home mom once the kids came along. As a stay-at-home mom Annette also did some daycare for other children.

Annette was a daring person and I think you can safely add another adjective – brave. After the kids had grown up, she heard about opportunities for correctional officers, so she signed up and went through the training which she finished, and in the process, was awarded first place for marksmanship. She worked for several years as a correctional officer for male prisoners at Matsqui Institution, a Federal medium-security facility in Abbotsford, British Columbia, and then Mission Institution, also a Federal prison for males, with a capacity for 550 inmates, 324 in medium security and 216 in minimum security.

Annette enjoyed maintaining and preserving her Danish culture and heritage. She combined this with her teaching skills, becoming a teacher for Granly's "Danmark Skole" in the early '80s. In an article she wrote she states that as most of the kids were born in Canada, they did not have much knowledge of the Danish language, or Danish culture. It was decided, between Pastor Jens Arendt, Gerda Nancke and Annette, to have two weeks of summer school from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm – a day camp.

They agreed to share the work according to their talents. Pastor Arendt was the daily story teller of Danish Viking history, etc. Gerda was good with sewing, cooking and crafts, and taught the kids to make frikadeller, build tiny Danish farm houses, and taught the girls to embroider their names on their aprons. Annette taught Danish, songs and folk dancing. The "Danmark Skole" was well loved by the kids who attended, as well as their parents. It was two weeks of fun, games and learning – a real delight.



Annette on the right, at her correctional officer graduation

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Annette at Danmark Skole, Granly Church, Surrey, early 1980s

After focusing on being a mom to her three kids, Annette went back to school. Annette loved learning and was a keen student. She was a member of Mensa. In 1994 Annette earned a Bachelor of General Studies and a certificate in Literacy Instruction from Simon Fraser University. In 1998 Annette earned a diploma in Adult Education from the University of British Columbia. After a while, an opportunity opened up for her to teach adult education to the inmates. Later, she was offered a teaching position at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, teaching math and English. She retired from teaching at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in 2006 at age 60.

After focusing on being a mom to her three kids, Annette went back to school. Annette loved learning and was a keen student. She was a member of Mensa. In 1994 Annette earned a Bachelor of General Studies and a certificate in Literacy Instruction from Simon Fraser University. In 1998 Annette earned a diploma in Adult Education from the University of British Columbia. After a while, an opportunity opened up for her to teach adult education to the inmates. Later, she was offered a teaching position at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, teaching math and English. She retired from teaching at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in 2006 at age 60.



Annette at Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Around 1990, Annette and Arne bought a new Hunter 30' sailboat and named her *North Wind*. They joined the False Creek Yacht Club, and enjoyed the next ten years cruising English Bay and the Gulf Islands with family and friends. They also participated regularly in the False Creek Yacht Club's Thursday Night Fun Race series.

Annette has also served several years on the boards of the Danish Church in Burnaby, and the Danish House Society where she was tasked with organizing and hiring the teachers for the Danish language classes. She made it a very successful component of the Danish House Society. As well, she served on the Danish House Scholarship Committee.

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Arne and Annette loved to travel, and visited many places around the world including England, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal, many places in the US and Canada, Mexico, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Panama, many Caribbean Islands, China, including the Great Wall and Forbidden City, Vietnam, Russia, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, and probably a few more. Farthest North: Longyearbyen on Svalbard, previously known as Spitsbergen, in arctic Norway (78 degrees North), where it was daylight for 24 hours when they visited on a cruise. Farthest South: Cape Horn at the southernmost headland of the Tierra del Fuego archipelago off Chile in South America (56 degrees South).



Arne and Annette on board the North Wind

Arne and Annette visited Denmark many times over the years. On Annette's last trip to Denmark in August 2019 she was accompanied by her husband Arne and granddaughters Megan and Amanda to attend the annual Lauridsen family reunion. Arne is one of nine children, having six brothers and two sisters. Annette's last vacation was a train trip across Canada with Arne in the fall of 2019.

In her spare time, Annette enjoyed socializing with friends and family, and participating in and organizing many community activities. Arne and Annette were always welcoming hosts, and over the years have hosted about 30 different Japanese exchange students.

Following her cancer diagnosis, Annette continued as best she could to live her life to the fullest without outward complaints of her discomfort due to her illness. She was a non-complainer, always upbeat and smiling. She will be missed by many, but especially by her beloved husband, Arne.



Annette, children & grandchildren, Harrison Hot Springs, 2017

John Viggo Steffensen

1942 – 2020

Serena Steffensen, Calgary

John Steffensen will be remembered by his deep sense of devotion, integrity, honesty, and for being precise, methodical, highly intelligent and good humoured.



The earliest memories of my father growing up in Calgary were that he was a serious man and seemed very tall to me. He was always very strict and rigid when it came to following house protocols and chores. I attribute this to him being raised in the Canadian rural countryside with deep Danish roots; hence a high work ethic and no nonsense - get the damn job done and done right attitude. I was always wired to be more emotional and affectionate which was natural to me, so it took me years to understand and perhaps more importantly to respect his drive for logic and order. He had more of a combination of a farmer's practical smarts and an engineer's mind set. This all became very important with the challenges of raising a

family and navigating a high pressure petroleum career through the various decades of ups and downs and recessions within the industry. With his steady hand on the wheel, he commanded this exceptionally.

As a young man he harnessed the trade of being a skilled carpenter and his training for accuracy, precision, and planning served him well throughout his life. Everything was kept in sound order with military-like planning and meticulous attention.

He was also an incredibly principled man with the clearest sense of doing the right thing, the fair thing, the honest thing and probably most important; the decent thing.

Whether it was to his profession or his many years of involvement with the Danish Club, John was always fully committed to be deeply devoted and focused. He loved his golf mates and his socials at the Danish club and beyond.

However it was his devotion to his life partner Lillian, my mom, which was the most evident and impressive. In the past five years her mental health had severely deteriorated, and John was steadfast to a fault of looking after her well beyond what was reasonable. He would shrug and take it all in stride as if the newspaper wasn't delivered that morning. His efforts in this were nothing short of heroic.

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In the later years of his life my father became more gentle, encouraging and affectionate and always found humour in the keystone cops activities of all of my pets; whether my cats or my dogs that he and Lillian would babysit from time to time. Their clownish antics kept him enthralled. Finally his thirst for knowledge was insatiable and he was always much more informed on the latest world news items than half of the CBC journalists in Canada.

John Viggo Steffensen was born in Olds on October 9, 1942, to Viggo and Eda Steffensen (1908-2002). Viggo Steffensen, who had been born on a farm in Ulfborg, Denmark, on November 11, 1906, was a prominent builder, involved in constructing the first hospital in Olds, as well as the popular Elks Hall, the Kemp Block on the main commercial street in addition to the Roman Catholic Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the United Church.

Viggo and Eda Margrethe, née Oster, had three children, Elsa Marie Christie, née Steffensen (1936-2009), Eric Bertel Steffensen (1938-2015) and then in 1942 John, who went on to study Business Administration and Management at Mount Royal College in Calgary. On October 10, 1964, the day after his 22nd birthday, John married Lillian Mae Hawley. After that John worked in the oil fields, which took John and Lillian to Houston, Texas, for a few years. In time John worked for Chevron Geophysical, Petro Canada, Dome Petroleum, Amoco as well as BP.



*John Steffensen, handing cheque to Steve Morck,
Danish Canadian Museum, Dickson, 2015*

Calgary was their base and John and Lillian had two children, Serena and Greg. After retirement John took a contract to work in Cairo, Egypt, for a few years. An incomparable experience!

John and Lillian were members of the Danish Canadian Club of Calgary. In 2012, when Ben Kromand was president of the club, John was elected to the Board of Directors. In 2014 John was elected president, and served as such until 2019. During that time John and Lillian attended the Danish Federation's annual conferences across Canada as well as the two yearly Alberta meetings held at the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson. John made sure that the Calgary Club continued to be a dependable and generous supporter of the Museum.

In closing I simply want to say that I remember John as a generous, kind father with deep belly laughs and as the most devoted husband to my mom. I will miss my father very much.

Torben Wittrup, Toronto

Evan Wittrup

Torben Wittrup was the only child of Danish immigrants. He was born and raised in Canada, yet he was immensely proud and very connected to his Danish heritage. Torben grew up in the northern mining town of Timmins, Ontario, where he started his long and illustrious career in radio broadcasting.



Torben's father, Christian (Chris) Oluf Andersen Wittrup (1898-1973) was born in Hornum, Denmark, on July 29, 1898. Chris was raised on the family farm near Hornum, half way between Aars and Løgstør. He served in the Danish National Service, and worked in a cryolite mine in Ivittuut (formerly Ivigtut) in Greenland before returning to Denmark to start a car rental business. Torben's mother, Olga Laura Nielsen (1901-1968) was born in Aalborg on September 9, 1901. She did not like her given name, so she went by her middle name, Laura, when she moved to Canada. Chris and Laura married on November 12, 1926 in Aalborg, Denmark.

On February 16, 1927 Chris and Laura boarded the White Star Line's *SS Pennland*, which sailed from Southampton, England, to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The *Pennland* arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax on February 27, 1927. Immediately upon arrival, they travelled by train to Montreal before moving to Walkerville, Ontario, to pursue job opportunities in automotive manufacturing. Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler all had assembly plants in Walkerville. Chris was hired at the Chrysler plant in Walkerville. Walkerville was founded by Hiram Walker in the late 1800s and was amalgamated with Windsor in 1935.

Torben Wittrup was born on September 7, 1930 at the Metropolitan General hospital in Walkerville. His time in Walkerville was short as job opportunities in the automotive industry dwindled during the Great Depression. Thanks to the Scandinavian network, Chris heard about mining opportunities in northern Ontario, so in the winter of 1931, Chris, Laura, and their newborn son, Torben, packed their things and moved to Timmins. Because of his previous mining experience in Greenland as a driller/blaster, Chris immediately found work at the Hollinger Gold Mine in Timmins.

Around the same time that the Wittrup family moved to Timmins, another family with Danish roots, the Buchmann family, moved to the town of Schumacher, located immediately to the east of Timmins.

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Karl Emil Buchmann (1896-1966) was born on October 5, 1898 in the town of Nakskov on the island of Lolland, Denmark. He immigrated to Canada when he was 16 years old, “looking for an adventure”. He joined his cousin, Axel Clausen, who was working in the forestry industry in northern Quebec. Karl attended Mount Allison University and then the University of Toronto. He graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1923. Karl and Astrid, née Horning, Buchmann moved from Kirkland Lake, Ontario, to Schumacher in 1932. Karl was a mining engineer who worked at the Buffalo Ankerite and the McIntyre Gold Mines in Schumacher. Karl and Astrid had both immigrated to Canada from Denmark at different times, and they met each other in Canada. The Buchmann family consisted of Peter (1937-1998), Jenny Anne, Karol, and David. Unbeknownst to Torben, Jenny Anne Buchmann, living in the next town to him in Schumacher, would later become a big part of his life.

Astrid (1906-1979) Horning was born on May 28, 1906 in Aalborg and trained as a “children’s nurse”. She immigrated to Canada and met and married Karl in Canada. They were married in the United Church in Kirkland Lake, Ontario. Karl worked as an engineer at the Lakeshore Gold Mine in Kirkland Lake.

During the time the Wittrup family lived in Timmins, it was the epitome of the “cultural mosaic” of Canada. It was a melting pot of Danes, Swedes, Finns, Italians, Poles, Norwegians, Russians, Chinese, Ukrainians, and of course French Canadians. Everyone looked out for one and another, and everyone got along with each other. Many of the children that lived in his neighbourhood were French Canadian so Torben spoke English, French and Danish when he was at home. This was the environment that he grew up in, and it shaped and influenced his personality and his outlook on life. He attended Moneta Public School and later attended Timmins High and Vocational School.

During the summer of 1937, when Torben was 6½ years old, he travelled back to Denmark with his mother for six months from May to October. This was his first exposure to Denmark, Danish culture, and his Danish relatives. Because Torben was immersed in the Danish culture for six months, he became accustomed to speaking the Danish language. When he returned to Timmins, he had to “relearn” the English language. He retained his ability to read, write and speak Danish throughout his life.

During the 1930s and 1940s, the only electronic media was the radio. Torben’s window on the world was the programming on CBC radio and his short-wave radio. The seeds for his future career in radio broadcasting were thus sown during his formative years listening to the radio.

Upon graduating from Timmins High and Vocational School in June 1949 at the age of 18 years, it was decided with his parents that higher education was not an option they could afford. One day during the summer of 1949, Torben answered an advertisement in the local newspaper for an “office boy” position at the local Timmins radio station CKGB, which was owned by the Thomson family. He applied and got the job. This was the start of his radio broadcasting career which would span 44 years.

Not long after joining CKGB, he was approached by the radio station general manager who asked him “how would you like to go on the air?” He could not believe his luck. He accepted the offer and immediately started with on air commercials and newscasts. In addition, he performed all sorts of duties at the radio station including writing the material for programming, commercials, and newscasts.

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During his High School years and after graduation, when he was working at the radio station, Torben was involved with the local theatre community. It was after a performance of the play “See How They Run” that he met a young lady backstage, Jenny Anne Buchmann.

In 1953 Jenny Anne moved to Toronto and shortly thereafter, Torben accepted a promotion to become the Chief Announcer at CKWS radio in Kingston, Ontario. Both CKGB and CKWS were in the Thomson chain of radio stations. In the fall of 1954 Torben was offered the position of Chief Newscaster at the newly created television station CKWS - TV in Kingston.



Torben Wittrup, TV Station CKWS, Kingston - ca. 1954

Torben and Jenny Anne were married in Toronto on October 16, 1954 at the Broadview United Church. Their wedding happened just days before Hurricane Hazel hit Toronto. Mark, their first son, was born on May 24, 1955 at the Kingston General Hospital.

Despite his new career in television at CKWS – TV in Kingston, Torben answered the call of the big city and he moved to Toronto with his new family. After working in broadcasting jobs at All Canada Radio, CKEY and CHFI, Torben landed a job at radio station CFRB in the summer of 1959. Torben worked at CFRB during the “golden years” from 1959 to his retirement in December 1992. During this time, CFRB commanded the largest radio audience in Canada of over one million listeners in the greater Toronto area, southern Ontario and the northern United States.

During his 34-year career at CFRB he reported on the news events of the 1960s, 70s, 80s and the early 90s. This included tragic events like the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., the Viet Nam War, as well as the Mississauga train

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Prime Minister Pierre E. Trudeau, Torben and Gordon Sinclair, 1972

derailment. The inspirational and notable events included the last time the Leafs won the Stanley Cup in 1967, Canada's Centennial, countless elections, the first men landing on the moon in 1968 and the Blue Jays winning their first World Series in October 1992. His colleagues and friends included Gordon Sinclair, Betty Kennedy, Jack Dennett and top-rated morning man Wally Crouter, Charles Templeton, and Pierre Burton. Torben also had the pleasure of working with CFRB summer "good news" reporters Wendy Mesley, Valerie Pringle and Mary Ito.

Torben was known for his distinct smooth voice, proper enunciation and impeccable vocabulary. He put a great deal of care and attention into the preparation and delivery of each newscast to ensure they were an accurate accounting of the news on that day. He had a large audience listening to his two newscasts at 8:00 am and 6:00 pm each day. It is still common for people to say, "I remember your dad, our whole family listened to him...Torben Wittrup with the news".



Chris and Laura Wittrup, Timmins, ca. 1960

During their years in Toronto from 1953 to 2019, Torben and Jenny moved into a home in the Beaches and raised a family of three children, Mark (1955), Evan (1956), and Karen (1958-1977). In fall of 1980, Torben and Jenny purchased their beloved cottage in Prince Edward County, aptly named "Sommerhus". Torben was an avid stamp collector, classical music buff, chef extraordinaire (soups, crepes and klejner were his specialities) and an avid Leafs and Raptors fan.

Torben and Jenny's signature Danish tradition was the annual family Danish Christmas party and "smorgasbord" held at their home. They were the consummate host and hostess. Everyone was welcome, the more the merrier. This was the connection with our Danish Canadian relatives and our introduction to Danish culinary classics such as, "frikadeller" (meatballs), "rødkål" (red

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cabbage), “smørrebrød” sandwiches topped with “røget laks” (smoked salmon), “røget ål” (smoked eel), “maatjesharing” (pickled herring), “leverpostej” (paté) all washed down with Tuborg beer and Akvavit. Then there were the desserts, “rødgrød med fløde” (red currant berry pudding), “æblekage” (apple cake), “citronfromage” as well as “klejner” (deep fried cookies).

In his later years Torben collaborated with Jennifer Campbell, Heritage Memoirs, Coburg, Ontario, in writing his memoirs. Torben and Jennifer spent a good portion of 2019 working on this project. Torben’s persona is best captured in his own words written in the last paragraph of his memoirs. His words, paraphrased for brevity are:

“I would like to be remembered for what I did... I worked my way up from a small radio station in Timmins to the big city radio station CFRB. I would also like to be remembered for my sense of humour (note - he always worked his bad word puns into a conversation)... I have tried to be sensitive and kind to people... Honesty and kindness are important to me... Live and let live. So I write “- 30 -” to this story... The term “-30-” is an old newspaper term that marks the end of a news story. But only for that story, for there are I hope many more stories to come.”



Jenny Anne and Torben Wittrup

Torben passed away on January 26, 2021 from the medical complications resulting from an accidental fall. He is remembered as a wonderful husband, a loving father and grandfather and a Canadian who was proud of his Danish heritage. Torben is survived by his wife, Jenny Anne, who still resides in the Beaches area of Toronto.

Short Obituaries

Hans Benny Busch Andersen, Ajax **1934 – 2020**

Hans Benny Busch Andersen, 85, husband of the late Sonja (née Simonsen) of Ajax, passed away on January 24, 2020, at Lakeridge Health in Oshawa. He was born on May 20, 1934, in Copenhagen. Benny and his wife and young son immigrated to Canada in 1957, where they came to Toronto to start a new life. Benny worked many jobs such as building radio towers across Canada, owning his own pool company, real estate agent and iron worker by trade - Local 721 for 55 years. He is survived by his three children, Tim (Gladys), John (Patricia) and Ingrid (Mark); his seven grandchildren, Rebecca, Kevin (Samantha), Brett, Caitlin (Travis), Madison (Troy), Benjamin and Mikayla. He is also survived by his two great-grandchildren, John Avery and Dylan Asher; predeceased by daughter-in-law Diane Andersen. A memorial service was held on February 22, 2020, at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto.

Henry Arne Andersen, Mount Forest, Ontario **1927 – 2020**

Henry Arne Andersen was born on September 6, 1927 in Ørslev Mark, near Middelfart, Fyn, Denmark. He died at Strathcona Long Term Care on September 17, 2020 in Mount Forest, Ontario. The beloved husband of Rosa Andersen, Henry married Rosa (née Rose Karen Hansen Sandlykke) in Odense on April 30, 1949. Rosa was born on February 4, 1930 in Tanderup Sogn near Middelfart. Henry was the loving father of Yvonne (Clifford) Ellsom, Conny (Allen) Letkeman and Hans Andersen (Poppy Varey). Dearly loved by his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; predeceased by his daughter-in-law Arlene Graham-Andersen (2018). Cremation has taken place and a family interment will be held at Sunset Villa Mindepark. Those wishing to make a donation in memory of Henry are asked to consider the Sunset Villa Association.

Ketty Marie Bodker, née Jensen, Edmonton **1922 – 2019**

Ketty Marie Bodker, née Jensen, was born on January 1, 1922, in Oue, half way between Hobro and Hadsund in Denmark. She passed away on March 24, 2019 at Capital Care Grandview, Edmonton. The funeral service was held at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church on April 3, 2019.

Carl Clifford Boggild, Toronto **1922 – 2019**

Carl Clifford Boggild died peacefully at the K1 West Veteran's Wing of the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, on September 3, 2019. Carl was born in Randers, Denmark, on November 3, 1922, to Esther Fjerdingsstad and Hans Boggild. The family, which by then

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included four boys, Kai, Carl, Vilhelm and Paul, immigrated to Canada in 1928, settling in Lockeport, Nova Scotia. After completing high school, Carl worked for the Bank of Nova Scotia and W.H. Schwartz & Sons. He enlisted in the RCAF in January 1942 and achieved the rank of Flight Lieutenant. On his 6th sortie as a navigator in a Lancaster bomber, he was shot down over Nuremberg. He evaded capture by hiding in barns in the German countryside until he was discovered on August 28, 1943, and was sent to Stalag Luft III. He was one of the prisoners who worked on the famous "Great Escape" of March 1944. But he was always grateful that he "didn't draw a straw" for the escape. When the Germans were relocating the camp due to the proximity of the allied forces, Carl and a fellow prisoner did manage to escape, and Carl returned to England in early May 1945. It was then that he learned the sad news that his brother Vilhelm, enlisted in the Army, had been killed in March 1945. When Carl returned to Canada and recommenced work at W.H.Schwartz & Sons, he met Betty Grandy. Carl and Betty married and moved to Ottawa and Montreal where they raised their five children. Following his tenure as General Manager of W.H.Schwartz & Sons, Carl started his own company in the food service sector, known for its "Chef Mate" mustard and the now ubiquitous squeeze lemon. After the sale of that company, Carl and Betty moved to Burlington, Ontario, where they enjoyed a more leisurely life of travel and gardening. Despite being a dedicated entrepreneur, Carl taught his children to love the natural world and all of its inhabitants, and to respect others, practice conservation and moderation. He and Betty taught them all to swim, boat, and water-ski at the beloved family cottage at Lac Baron in the Laurentians. Carl particularly enjoyed skiing and tennis, well into his 70's. Carl lost his beloved wife, Betty, to cancer in 1980. In 1982, Carl met and married Helen Grand Kent and together they took pleasure in 28 years of extended family gatherings in Bracebridge, Lake Muskoka and Marathon, Amelia Island and Palm Beach, Fla. Carl and Helen also enjoyed trips to Denmark and Ireland before Helen's death in 2010. In 2013, Carl moved to Sunnybrook Veteran's Centre where he received excellent care from so many dedicated and caring professionals and made many good friends, especially delighting in the company of Prof. Donald 'Digger' Gorman. Carl was predeceased by his parents, his wives, his brothers, his son David, his grandson Matthew, his daughter-in-law Dale Gardner and many relatives and friends. Left to miss this terrific presence in our lives and to mourn this intelligent, generous, optimistic, kind, pragmatic, humorous, loving, husband, father, stepfather, father-in-law, uncle, grandfather and great grandfather are his children Michael (Kathy), Kriss (Sean), Suzanne (Ross) and Kim; and grandchildren: Andrea (Steve), Brendan (Sarah), Natasha (Trevor), Norah, Emma, Kai (Janine) and Lars (Samantha); and great grandchildren Jacob, Isaac, Ben, Hannah, Isobel and Nina. Also left to mourn are stepchildren James, John, Robert, Richard, Rosemary Grand, Martin Kent and their spouses and families; Carl's in-laws Rosalie and "Steve", and many nieces and nephews and extended family in Denmark. A Memorial Service was held at Mount Pleasant Visitation Centre on September 14, 2019. Private interment for the family will be held at a later date.

Erik Christian Jagd Carl, Barrie 1925 – 2020

Erik Christian Jagd Carl was born in Denmark on June 16, 1925. He died on April 30, 2020. He grew up in Vintre Møller, near Lejre, on a farm with his mother Else, Aunt Marie and sisters, Birthe and Kirsten. He served in the Danish Army. After the Second World War, he married June Jensen and they had two sons in Denmark, Niels (1951) and Jens (1954). After immigrating

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to Canada in 1956, they came to Toronto to live with Jens and Petra Enslev, a Danish family that provided a starting point for Danes new to Canada. In 1959, they had a third son Martin. Erik worked during the day and attended night school at the University of Toronto, to upgrade his accounting certifications. They rented accommodations on Kingston Road, Main Street and Thorncliffe Park before buying their home on Manor Road. Erik worked as a financial analyst at Phillips in Leaside, Coca-Cola in Thorncliffe Park and Inco in the First Canadian Place in downtown Toronto. Erik was first and foremost a family man. He dedicated his life to serving the needs of his family. June and Erik did everything with family in mind and we are eternally grateful for their support. They built a cottage on Hidden Lake Road in Craighleith, and the boys had great summer memories as a result. They sold the cottage in order to buy the family home on Manor Road, where they spent many happy years. June passed away in 2007 and Erik eventually moved to Barrie for the last six years of his life. Papa, as he became known in later life, enjoyed a rich relationship with his grandchildren. He is survived by his sons, Niels (former daughter-in-law Mary), Jens (Linda) and Martin (Eileen), and his grandchildren, Angela (Don), Emily, Christian (Curniss), Eric, Jessica, Mackenzie (Jake), Whitney (Evan) and great-grandchildren, Dillon and Pearl. The family also wishes to acknowledge the love and support of Danish-Canadian relatives John and Martha Mortensen and family. Many thanks: to the Danish Church in Toronto and Sunset Villa in Puslinch, for their support of the Danish community. Your service meant a lot to Erik Carl. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Papa. God Bless you!

Margaret Chester, née Henriksen, West Vancouver 1932 – 2020

Margaret Eli Hoover (known as Margaret Chester within the Danish community), passed away peacefully on August 19, 2020, in Victoria, B.C., at the age of 88. Margaret was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on July 21, 1932, the first Canadian born child of Danish immigrants, Christian and Kristina Henriksen. The family relocated to the Kootenay region of B.C. when Margaret was a year old. Margaret started her working career as a secretary and grew in it over the years through hard work and continuing education until she became a professional human resources practitioner. Her career culminated with a successful independent business providing human resources services in Vancouver for her last ten working years. Margaret was an avid gardener creating a beautiful garden at her West Vancouver home and attaining the status of Master Gardener, volunteering many hours mentoring others across the Lower Mainland. Margaret was proud of her Danish roots, travelling to Denmark many times during her adult life, connecting with her family there. In addition to passing on this love of Denmark to her children and grandchildren she kept her Danish connection alive through membership in the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver and volunteering on the Board and as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary for the Dania Home Society in Burnaby, for which she had a particular passion. Her exercise group, the Better Bones Bunch, became a beloved social group and she often hosted them at her home for one of her fabulous meals. She was an amazing cook and entertainer. In 2018, Margaret and her husband Stan relocated to Victoria. Margaret will be missed by her loving husband Stan Chester, children Randy (Gloria), Cheryl (Gary), Lori (David), Patti (John), and step-daughter Tsan, brother William, sisters Olga and Mary (Chuck), grandchildren Seanna, Sarah (Dan), Rob (Amber), Neil, Paul (Jennifer), Melissa (Blair), Daniel (Carla), Zoe, Devon, Phoebe, Kaden and Corbin, great-grandchildren Ashley, Noah, Skyler, Harlin, Henry, Everett,

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Violet, Sophie, Maddy and Kellan, and numerous nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her parents, sister Kris and brother Aksel Vagtberg Henriksen. Due to Covid-19 no service was held.

Gert Strømfeldt Christensen, Newmarket 1947 – 2018

Gert Strømfeldt Christensen passed away in Newmarket, Ontario, on August 3, 2018. He was born in Vejle, Denmark, on April 10, 1947, and moved to Toronto in May 1974. Gert was a loving husband to Margarita, loving father to Allan Strømfeldt and Bryan Strømfeldt, dear father-in-law to Leslie and cherished farfar to Henley Strømfeldt. He was passionate both in his professional career in engineering as well as his outdoor hobbies, including fishing and camping. Gert enjoyed spending time with his extended family, showing his flair for cooking and sharing Danish traditions at the annual Christmas dinner. Gert's ready-to-help personality, generosity and positive outlook on life will be missed. During his sickness, his positivity was strength to his family. His ashes will be scattered on the west coast of Denmark; a lake in Southern Ontario where he enjoyed countless memories with his family, and at Noosa Heads, Queensland, Australia, where he wanted to spend retirement. A celebration of life was held on August 12th.

Julius Johan "Far" Christensen, Oshawa 1918 – 2016

Julius Johan "Far" (Dad) Christensen passed away peacefully at Lakeridge Health Oshawa on July 5, 2016. He was born on December 24, 1918. He was predeceased by his loving wife Erna. Fondly remembered by his children Kirsten (Gunnar) Sonderskov, Kurt (Linda) Christensen, Lis (predeceased) (Rick) Schofield, Tove (John) Hopmans, Ruth (Larry) Farrow, Elsebeth (Wayne) Farrow, Carl Johan (predeceased) (Darlene) Christensen, and by his many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. He was interred at Zion Cemetery.

Lis Kryger Christensen, née Rasmussen, Killam 1931 – 2014

Lis Kryger Christensen, née Rasmussen, was born on April 26, 1931, in Copenhagen, Denmark. Lis passed away peacefully on July 22, 2014, after a brief battle with cancer. Lis was the older of two children. Lis lived in Denmark for 43 years raising her three children, Bente, Jan and Jesper, from a previous marriage. Lis worked as a supervisor for a data company, which was owned by Bent Christensen. Through company functions, Lis got to know the Christensen family well and became good friends with Bent's sister, Ellen. Ellen insisted that Lis would be the perfect match for her brother, who was living in Canada. Ellen hosted an "engagement" party for Lis and Svend, unbeknownst to Svend, and six months later, in December 1972, the "couple" met for the first time. Four months later, Lis quit her job, threw her belongings and Jessie into the trunk, and moved to Killam, Alberta, to become a farmer's wife. Lis and Svend were married on July 17, 1973. Lis quickly learned that life on the farm was vastly different from her life in Denmark, and her job description quickly grew. She became everything from Svend's right hand woman to gardener, bookkeeper, and master chef. As skilled as she was at cooking, Lis was unable to master the art of baking; she served many "pound" cakes, bookends, and treats that even the dog

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would not eat, although she was an expert at making skinny pancakes and æbleskiver. Family was important to Lis, and her and Svend hosted many family get-togethers at their house, particularly around Christmas time. One special tradition during Christmas, among others, was creating and decorating gingerbread houses with her grandchildren. When Lis was not occupied with her family, she enjoyed sewing, knitting, quilting, and bowling. She and Svend also enjoyed traveling, and they visited many places together in North America, Europe and Australia. She is survived by her husband Svend, brother Ove Rasmussen (Yvonne), Denmark, daughter Bente Lundy (Melvin), Sedgewick, Alberta, sons Jan Nielsen, Denmark, and Jesper Nielsen (Meredith), Killam, Alberta, grandchildren Tina Lundy, Denmark, Anders Lundy (Michelle), Edmonton, Nikkie Kryger, Denmark, Lasse Nielsen, Denmark, Chelsea Nielsen, Strathmore, Alberta, Brittany Nielsen, Camrose, Alex Nielsen, Killam, and great-grandchildren Piper Lundy, Edmonton, Loa Kryger, Denmark, and Oliver Lundy, Edmonton. A memorial service was held at the Sedgewick United Church in Sedgewick on August 2, 2014.

Kenny Christiansen, Edmonton 1952 – 2020

After a courageous battle with cancer Kenny Christiansen died on February 13, 2020, at the age of 67. He was born on December 6, 1952. Kenny will be remembered by his childhood sweetheart, best friend and wife of 47 years, Wendy Christiansen; children, Michael (Brienne) and Tim (Misty); grandchildren, Liam, Seth, Maeva, Oliver, Bjørn and Torvin; siblings, Fred (Marge), Lise (Ivor) Bosvik, Jytte (Lionel) Bourassa and Alan (Lila) Christiansen; and numerous nieces and nephews; predeceased by parents, Svend and Grethe Christiansen. A Celebration of Kenny's Life was held February 29 at Park Memorial Chapel, 9709-111 Avenue, Edmonton, with inurnment in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Liljan Margrethe Christiansen, Burnaby 1928 – 2019

This incredible lady left us early Saturday, April 13, 2019. Liljan Margrethe Christiansen was born on December 29, 1928. She was a successful dressmaker and watercolour artist. She passed away just five weeks before celebrating her 70th wedding anniversary. Liljan is survived by her husband, Flemming Christiansen, sons Henrik and Thom and daughter Eva. Liljan leaves five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Sara Christiansen, née Andersen, Newmarket 1937 – 2018

Sara Christiansen, née Andersen, passed away on March 28, 2018, at age 81. She was born on March 21, 1937, just outside Middelfart. She grew up in Viby and after school she apprenticed as a dressmaker. She met Bent Christiansen and they were engaged New Year's Eve 1956. After his tour of duty in the Danish Army he immigrated to Canada on July 1, 1957, settling in Maple, Ontario. Sara followed and landed at Pier 21 in Halifax on March 15, 1958. They were married by Pastor Poul Overgaard-Thomsen on March 22, 1958. They had three children, Kim, Annelise and Poul. Bent found work at Precast Concrete in Maple. Unfortunately he died in 1988. She was

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the loving mother of Kim, Poul and Lise and mother-in-law of Ken Sampson and the cherished grandmother of Ryan and Jacob. Sara's short biography is found in the 2012 Heritage Book.

Bernd Voike Cramer, Vancouver 1932 – 2020

Bernd (Bernie) Voike Cramer, 87, of Vancouver went peacefully in the early hours of February 6, 2020, after a long and fulfilling life. He was born on August 7, 1932. Bernie is survived by his wife, Ruth Cramer, daughters Sonia Cramer and Sharole Tylor, son-in-law Aaron Haras, and grandchildren Amalia, Malina and Carsten. A Memorial Service, officiated by Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen, took place on March 14, 2020, at The Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver.

Anne Vibeke de Demeter, née Beyerholm, Toronto 1923 – 2019

Anne Vibeke (Vibe) de Demeter (née Beyerholm) passed away peacefully, at the Extendicare Bayview nursing home August 24, 2019, in her 96th year. Although a Danish citizen, who lived most of her formative years in Copenhagen, Vibe was actually born in Genoa, Italy, on September 8, 1923. Having immigrated to Canada in 1952 she spent many years working as a haematology lab technician, before retraining and then graduating as a registered nurse in 1979. Beloved wife of Gábor Demeter de Szödemeter (de Demeter) for 56 years, until his death, in 2002, loving mother of Garrick (Joan) and Dorrit and grandmother of Johanna, Vibe will be lovingly remembered by her family and friends. Special thanks go to Dorrit for the additional, daily medical care that she so selflessly provided, during Vibe's declining years, as well as to the staff at Extendicare Bayview for all their care during Vibe's almost-eleven-year stay.

Karen Marie Enevoldsen, née Boye, Shelbourne 1919 – 2017

Karen Marie Enevoldsen, née Boye, passed away in Shelbourne on October 27, 2017. She was born on a farm near Vig, Sjællands Odde, on August 31, 1919. She was married to Jorgen Enevoldsen, and they had four children, Mogens, Elsa, Vagn and Dorte. Jorgen Enevoldsen was born in Denmark on March 30, 1920, and died suddenly on January 13, 2001. Karen Marie was a folk dancer and danced with the Scandinavian Folk Dancers in Toronto. She played the piano since her youth and in 1996 her son Mogens bought her an accordion.

Paul Fisker, Edmonton 1928 – 2019

Paul Fisker, born in Denmark on May 6, 1928, passed away in Edmonton on October 29, 2019, at the age of 91 years. Paul and his wife Birgit left Denmark in 1953, heading for Canada. They fell in love with what they saw and decided to stay. They brought their love of quality furniture with them, and decided to introduce Edmonton to their passion for great design and craftsmanship. Scandia Furniture, which opened in November 1968, offers a selection of high

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quality modern furniture for the living room, dining room, bedroom and home office. Paul was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, he will be dearly missed. Paul is survived by his wife Birgit, brother Jens (Birgitte), daughter Lisa, son Eric, grandchildren Reed (Danielle), Shawn, Cierra, great grandson Chase, numerous nieces, nephews and friends. A memorial service was held for Paul on November 27 at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church.

Aage Frandsen, Edmonton **1931 – 2017**

Aage Frandsen passed away on August 17, 2017. He was born on November 18, 1931. Aage was predeceased by his wife Gunhild and son Frank. He is survived by his children Dan (Judy), Lene (Karl), Dennis (Lana), his sister Lissi (Anders), his grandchildren Martin (Nichola), Darrell (Melissa), Robin (Andrew), Jay, Alyssa, Evans, and his great-grandchildren Ethan, Eliza, Elsa and Dylan. He also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends. The service was held at Trinity Funeral Home. Aage's wife, Gunhild Frandsen was born on February 26, 1933, and died on August 31, 1998. She is buried in the Namao Cemetery in Edmonton.

Frank Holm Frandsen, Edmonton **1965 – 2013**

Frank Holm Frandsen passed away on January 1, 2013. He was born on September 15, 1965. Frank was predeceased by his mother Gunhild Frandsen. Frank is survived by his son Evans Frandsen, his father Aage Frandsen, his brothers Dan (Judy) and Dennis (Janice), and his sister Lene (Karl) Jensen, and leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends. The funeral service was held at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton, on January 19, 2013.

George Berdel Frislev, Calgary **1932 – 2016**

Georg Berdel Frislev of Calgary passed away on January 29, 2016, at the age of 83. Born in Aarhus, Denmark, on June 24, 1932, George immigrated to Canada through Pier 21 in Halifax in 1951. He worked on a farm in Saskatchewan, went logging in BC, and worked in the oilfields in Alberta before being hired by Otis Elevators in Calgary, where he worked for over thirty-five years, retiring as Superintendent of Construction, Service and Maintenance for Southern Alberta. In 1957 George married Myra Corrigan and together they had three sons, Michael, David and Mark and four grandchildren: Karina, James [Michael, Stacey], Lance, and Blake [David, Tammy]. George was a loving husband to Myra for fifty-eight years. George is survived by three sisters, Kirsten and Anita in Denmark and Gudrun in Calgary along with many nieces and nephews. He believed in hard work, loved golf and having a beer with the boys. George had a whimsical sense of humour and was quick to give his friends funny but apt nicknames. He was happiest when he was building something including the beloved family log cabin at Fairmount Hot Springs, B.C. In memory of George a tree was planted at Fish Creek Provincial Park.

**Gerda Glenn, née Christensen, Richmond Hill
1925 – 2019**

Gerda Glenn, née Christensen passed away peacefully at Richmond Hill on November 2, 2019, at the age of 94. She was born on June 29, 1925. Gerda was predeceased by her parents Johannes and Anna Christensen, her brothers Ewald and Borge Christensen, her sister Jenny Oldrup, and her beloved niece Kate Faustrup, all of Denmark; her first husband Maurice Pryor (1977); and her loving husband of 31 years, John T. Glenn (2013). She is remembered by Maurice's daughters Lois Thompson and Aileen Worrall. Gerda was loved and will be greatly missed by John's family, daughters Carol Lowery (Biff), Judy Glenn and Pam Sinclair (Reg), and grandchildren Bob Lowery (Lacey MacRae), Tom Lowery, Catherine Lowery (Chris Maton) and Elizabeth Sinclair (Andrew Lucko). She is also remembered by her beloved nephews Jan Oldrup and Klaus Oldrup and their families in Denmark. Long-time member of the Toronto Granite Club, Gerda will be remembered for her outstanding curling and lawn bowling skills. Above all she will be remembered for her kindness and generosity. A private family service has been held. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Toronto.

**Chris Hale, Edmonton
1942 – 2019**

Professor Christopher S. Hale, who passed away in Edmonton on July 16, 2019, was born in Michigan on December 9, 1942. He was educated at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he received a BA in 1964. He then went on to pursue graduate studies at the University of Chicago, where he received his MA in 1967 and his PhD in 1972 in Germanic Languages (specializing primarily in Norwegian and Icelandic philology). He came to the University of Alberta in 1970 as Assistant Professor in Scandinavian Studies in the Department of Germanic Languages, where he taught a variety of courses in Scandinavian language, literature, and culture. Chris retired from the University of Alberta in 2012, and had a post-retirement appointment until 2014. Chris's academic research centered on: Norwegian language, Scandinavian philology, literature, and culture. His publications ranged from Norwegian and Icelandic naming traditions to Scandinavian immigration to Canada to the works of Aksel Sandemose. In 2005 Chris published the book: "*Aksel Sandemose and Canada. A Scandinavian writer's perceptions of the Canadian Prairies in the 1920s.*" He was a founding member and first president of the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada (established in 1982), and was a long-standing member of the Canadian Institute for Nordic Studies. In memory of Chris, and in recognition of his many contributions to the AASSC, a conference paper that corresponds with Chris' research interests will be selected annually by the Program Committee and introduced during the conference as the Honorary Chris Hale Paper, beginning in 2020. Chris's tireless efforts to promote Scandinavian language and culture in Canada were recognized formally in 2008, when the King of Norway named Chris an Officer of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit for his contributions to the advancement of knowledge about Norwegian language and culture in Canada. Above all, Chris loved teaching, and was cherished by his students. The announcement of his passing was met with an outpouring of messages from the many undergraduate and graduate students Chris taught during the course of his long career, which emphasize the deep impact Chris made on their experience at the University of Alberta. Chris attended the Danish Federation Conferences in Kingston in 1993

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and in Calgary in 2011. In May 1995 Chris was headmaster of the Danish Federation's Heritage Seminar at Monte Bello, Quebec; and in 2003 he was headmaster of the Heritage Seminar in Thunder Bay.

Borge Erik Hansen, Edmonton 1929 – 2017

Borge (Bob) Erik Hansen passed away on November 14, 2017. He was born October 23, 1929, in Fredericia, Denmark. He was predeceased by his parents, Frimond and Astrid, brother Eigel (Nana) and sister Lise. Borge will be missed by Mette, his wife of 65 years, and their four children, Erik (Rose), Connie (Orlen), Diane (Wendy) and Peter. Borge loved being a grandfather to Sarah (Andy), Amanda (Chris), Jesse, Carly (Bryce), Lee (Mona) and Jake. He was also fortunate enough to get to know his two great-grandsons Gavin and Porter. Borge will be remembered fondly by his brother George (Birte) and numerous friends and extended family members both in Canada and Denmark. Borge and Mette immigrated to Canada from Denmark in 1956 and became Canadian citizens in 1963. Borge ran a small business for many years with his two sons before retiring in 1998. His greatest love was camping and travelling with Mette in their trailer. They took many trips over the years with the highlight being their trip across Canada. Cremation has taken place and a family celebration will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Borge's name to Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church.

Lilly Hansen, Edmonton 1918 – 2018

Lilly Hansen passed away peacefully at home on June 27, 2018. She was born on January 2, 1918. Lilly was predeceased by her husband Einer Hansen in 1990 and siblings Ester, Metty, Tage, Sigvald, Oskar, Hemand, Hedvig and Thora in Denmark, also recently predeceased by her nephew Kurt Hansen. She is survived by her nephew Konrad Hansen and nieces and nephews and their families in Canada and Denmark. Lilly was a beautiful lady, generous, kind and loving. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her, especially her family in Denmark and Canada. The funeral service was held July 14, 2018, at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church.

Mette Margrethe Hansen, née Pedersen, Edmonton 1933 – 2019

Our mom and grandmother, Mette Margrethe Hansen, passed away on October 21, 2019. Mom was born December 18, 1933, in Horsens, Denmark. Mette was predeceased by her husband Børge, her parents Sofus and Martha Pedersen and her brother Johann. Mette will be greatly missed by her four children: Erik (Rose), Connie (Orlen), Diane (Wendy) and Peter. Our mother loved being a grandmother to Sarah (Andy), Amanda (Chris), Jesse, Lee, Carly (Bryce) and Jake. She was also lucky to have received three great-grandchildren: Gavin, Emmett and Porter. Mom will be fondly remembered by her extended family in Denmark and her name sake niece Mette Hartvig Pedersen. Mette will be sadly missed by many family and friends both here in Canada and Denmark. Mom and Dad immigrated to Canada in 1956 from Denmark and became

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Canadian citizens in 1963. Mom was the best stay-at-home mom raising her family and ensuring that our dad and our home were well cared for. Mom was always at all our baseball, hockey and basketball games. Later, she never missed the grandchildren's concerts, plays, hockey games or graduations and always proud of all our accomplishments. Mette loved to play cards, knit, dance, work in her garden and travel. Her favorite place to go was Jasper, a place filled with many wonderful family memories. Her and Dad travelled across Canada together and talked often of this trip. As a family, we wish to express our gratitude to the Citadel Care staff who cared and created community around our mother and her family for the past seven years. A Celebration of Life for both our mother Mette and our father Børge was held on Saturday, October 26, 2019, at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

Bernhardt Henriksen, Edmonton 1923 – 2020

Bernhardt Morits Henriksen was born on a farm in Gilbjerg in Hejnsvig Parish, south of Grindsted in Midjutland on February 22, 1923, to Jens Peter Henriksen and Thyra Kamila Henriksen. He lived most of his adult life in Edmonton where he passed away on February 3, 2020. He was a loving husband and father. Bernard is survived by his two daughters Susanne and Linda, three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A memorial for Bernhardt was held on February 14, 2020, at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, 9554 108A Avenue NW, in Edmonton.

Inger Elisabeth Holm, Toronto 1919 – 2019

Inger Elisabeth Holm died peacefully at Kensington Gardens on August 13, 2019, at the age of 100. She was born in Roskilde on March 10, 1919. Her great joy in life was her family, which includes four children (Erling, Svend, Anne-Marie, and Elsebeth), eleven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Throughout her life, she dedicated herself to serving others. From a small Meals-on-Wheels service to seniors, she founded and became Executive Director of Downsview Services for Seniors, (now Lumacare). In a news release Lumacare stated that it is with a sad heart that Lumacare announces the passing of our founding visionary, Inger Elisabeth Holm. At the age of 100, Inger will not be forgotten. She has left a mark in the many lives through Downsview, North York and beyond! Forty-five years after launching a meals program, Lumacare now helps 3,500 seniors annually and still offers the staple Meals on Wheels program that launched the non-profit into existence. Today, Lumacare's Meals on Wheels program serves approximately 26,000 meals to 683 clients annually. We are grateful for the leadership and desire to make a difference in our community. We will continue in Inger's honour to support seniors and their families to age with dignity.

Jorgen Rebstorf Holm, Orangeville 1935 – 2020

Jorgen Rebstorf Holm died on November 21, 2020, after a brave battle with lung cancer. Born on June 9, 1935, in Copenhagen, he immigrated to Canada with his family, where he started Orangeville Art and Welding, eventually establishing Dufferin Sheet Metal. A loving father to

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his three sons, Soren (Barbara), Klaus (Yvonne) and Allan (Michele), grandfather to Tracylee, Anders (Meghan), Penny, Jens (Jacqueline), Karen and Peter, great-grandfather of twelve, previously married to Rita, brother to predeceased Freddy (Ruth) and Lya. Jorgen's ashes will be interred at Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch, Ontario in spring 2021, at which time a Celebration of Life will be held, date and time to be announced.

Paul Christen Jacobsen, Edmonton 1920 – 2005

Paul Jacobsen, born March 29, 1920, in Karrebæk, Denmark, passed away on March 1, 2005, in Edmonton at the age of 84 years. Paul leaves behind his loving wife of 50 years, Lillian Joan; one son, Keith Jakobsen of Vancouver; two daughters, Ann (Peter) Hickmann of Edmonton and June (Jim) Lypowy of Stony Plain; two grandchildren, Nic and Jaime Lypowy; one brother, Svend (Ellen) Jakobsen; and numerous nieces, nephews and relatives in Denmark. Paul was predeceased by his parents, Hans and Dorthea; two younger brothers, Aksel and Helge; and one sister, Ulla, all of Denmark. In celebration of Paul's life, a memorial service was held on March 8, 2005, at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church.

Lillian Joan Jakobsen, née Pedersen, Edmonton 1930 – 2019

Lillian Joan Jakobsen, née Pedersen, passed away after a brief illness on May 23, 2019, at the age of 89, with family by her side. Joan is survived by her son Keith, daughters Ann (Ken) and June (Jim), two grandchildren, Nic (Lindsay) and Jaime (Brian) and four great-grandchildren, Ben, Will and twins Ozzy and Pearl. Joan is also survived by one sister-in-law Ellen as well as numerous nephews and nieces in Denmark. Joan was predeceased by her husband of 50 years, Paul, and her parents, Else and Einar Pedersen of Skive, Denmark, as well as her brothers Clarence (Grethe), Raymond (Esther) and Louie (Asta) and her sister Marion in Denmark. A Celebration of Joan's life for family and friends was held on June 22, 2019, at the Dutch Canadian Cultural Centre (Nordic Room), 13312-142 Street, Edmonton. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton.

Monique Hudson, née Jensen, Toronto 1941 – 2018

Monique Hudson, née Jensen, passed away in her home in Toronto on September 19, 2018, after a long illness. She was born in Nørre Alslev, Denmark, on February 2, 1941. She will be forever missed by her husband Adrian, her children Frank, Jimmy, Mette, Mike, Peter (Dawn) and Lavernne (Byron), and her grandchildren Kristina, Ryan, Sandra, Ben, Nigel, Teanna, and Wesley. She will also be missed by her family in Denmark. She gave so much to the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto and the congregation is grateful for her outstanding contributions. She was president of the Church Council from 2004 to 2008. A Funeral Service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto on September 24, 2018.

**Andrea Sofie 'Syszen' Jensen, Surrey
1919 – 2003**

Andrea Sofie "Syszen" Jensen was born on July 27, 1919, in Skæve, Denmark. She passed away peacefully on January 29, 2003, at Surrey Memorial Hospital, after a lengthy stay in hospital. Syszen will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 49 years, Frode, children Allan (Janet) and Eric (Gitte), grandchildren Michael, Anna, Thomas, Adam, Luke and Claire and two sisters in Denmark. A memorial service was held on February 1, 2003, at Grantly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey. If desired, donations may be made to the Church.

**Frode Jensen, Surrey
ca. 1926 – 2018**

Frode Jensen passed away on June 5, 2018, at the age of 92. He was one of the founders of the Danish Church at Granly. In 1951 he entered Canada, but brought strong Danish roots with him. It was important for him that the Danish Lutheran Church was represented in Vancouver. He was one of the many literally building Granly and volunteered endlessly for years along with his late wife Syszen. Throughout the years he did a fantastic job around the church, and many people have fond memories of him.

**Svend Aage Jensen, Montreal
1934 – 2020**

Svend Aage Jensen, P. Eng., died after a brief illness at the Hôpital Laurentien in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts on October 16, 2020. Svend was born in Vamdrup, Denmark, on April 19, 1934, the fourth of five children. From 1950 to 1954 he apprenticed and earned his journeyman in the mason trade from the Royal Danish Ministry of Commerce. After serving in the army and receiving his diploma in Civil Engineering in Horsens, Svend immigrated to Canada in April 1959. On board the *MV Batory* he met his soon to be wife, Danuta. Svend and Danuta were married on December 26, 1959, and settled in Montreal where they raised their two children. Svend devoted his life to engineering, working as a mechanical engineer for C.D. Howe Eastern Ltd. out of Montreal where he spent one year in India and time in Vancouver. Later, with the Iron Ore Company of Canada, he divided his weeks between Labrador City and Montreal. When not working Svend spent his days off building the "Country Home" which would eventually become his and Danuta's retirement home where the family would gather for holidays and summer vacations. Predeceased by his wife, Danuta Wichrzycki, Svend leaves behind to mourn his son Peter (Karen) of Carleton Place, Ontario, and daughter Karen (Robert) of Montreal and his four grandchildren, Samantha & Andrew Zielinski and Andrea & Scott Jensen. He will be missed by his companion Thérèse Pilon of St. Jovite. Svend is also survived by family in Denmark, his sister Marie and many nieces, nephews and great nieces and great nephews. A family service was held on October 24th, interment St. Jovite Cemetery, Mont-Tremblant.

**Vera Johanne Jensen, East York
1931 – 2020**

Vera Johanne Jensen was born on June 13, 1931, in Copenhagen. She was married to Poul Jensen, and they were regulars at the meetings of the Golden Age Club at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto. Vera died on January 18, 2020, in East York, Ontario.

**Erik Jorgensen, Toronto
1921 – 2010**

Erik Jorgensen died peacefully at home on May 30, 2010. He was born in Frederiksberg, Copenhagen, on March 9, 1921. Erik is survived by his loving wife of sixty-four years, Ulla Jorgensen, and his brother Otto of Holmes Beach, Florida. He will be greatly missed by his son Tom and daughter-in-law, Sally of Mahone Bay, N.S., Peter Jorgensen and daughter-in-law Audrey, his daughters Winnie Jorgensen and Kathy Byrne and her husband Peter. Erik was the very beloved grandfather of Erik and Christina Southey, Lisa and Maia Jorgensen, Jackson and Christian Byrne and Natalie Jorgensen, great-grandfather of Cicero Paul. Erik's daughter Winnie recalls that, "My Father was part of an underground resistance group which used the code name Holger Danske. His group, at least for a period of time, also included the Danish designer Bjørn Wiinblad. He told us that Wiinblad would draw designs all day when they were in hiding and waiting for instructions. They evidently spent a lot of time simply waiting around. At the end of the day my father would pick up all the sketches and throw them out. Before the end of the war (I do not know for how long) he was part of the resistance which helped Danish Jews flee to Sweden. They hid the Jews under the floorboards of the boats and sailed them across. Towards the end of the war the Germans were beginning to apprehend the Danes involved, so my father's group were told to spend the last three months of the war in Sweden. My father told us how great it was to have real coffee and cigarettes for the first time in ages. He also explained that the various underground troops would not have known the identity of any of the other groups. Only the leader who gave instructions would have known that." In 1955 Erik immigrated to Montreal and eventually to Toronto where he founded Spot Labs, Canada's first motion picture film lab to specialize in television commercials. Erik had a wonderful sense of humour to the end and there was not anything that man could not fix or build, including a home or two. He was one of a kind, and will be sorely missed by all who loved him. The funeral was held June 4, 2010, at the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto.

**Helga Jorgensen, née Madsen, Orillia
1915 – 2019**

Helga Jorgensen, née Madsen, was born in Rørbæk, Denmark, on November 10, 1915. Helga's father was Niels Jensen Madsen, born June 14, 1886, in Verving, Fyn, Denmark. He died October 22, 1966, in Horsens. Her mother was Johanne Marie Madsen, née Poulsen, born on April 27, 1885, in Stenild, Denmark. She died on January 6, 1966, in Lyne, Denmark. Helga married Niels Jorgensen on January 6, 1936, in Lyne, Denmark. Niels was born February 3, 1914, in Hindsig, Denmark, and died December 31, 1977, in Newmarket, Ontario. Niels and Helga had three children, first Margit Hutchison, formerly Mikkelsen, née Overgaard

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Jorgensen, who was born on December 22, 1935, in Lyne, Denmark. Second Vita Overgaard Jorgensen, born June 22, 1939, in Varde, Denmark. She died on December 15, 1944, in Varde, Denmark. Their son Henning Overgaard Jorgensen was born on November 4, 1950, in Varde, Denmark. Margit was married to Jeremiah Hutchison in Washago Canada, June 7, 2003. Margit had been married to Arne Mikkelsen, born on August 17, 1930, in Varde, Denmark. Arne died on February 9, 2002, in Bracebridge, Canada, and they had three children: Michael Mikkelsen, born on March 22, 1962, Toronto, and died March 11, 1974, in Thornhill, Ontario; Joanne (Mikki) Mikkelsen, born on April 6, 1964, in Toronto. Joanne has a son, Kyle Mikkelsen, born May 25, 1986, in Bracebridge. Ontario. Elaine Mikkelsen was born on January 16, 1966, in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Elaine is married to Darrin Kemp. Elaine has three children: Kristin born on July 20, 1990, Strachan, born on December 20, 1992, and Helena, born on November 2, 2007, and Jack, born May 18, 2003. Henning is married to Connie. Helga has three sisters, two who live in Denmark, Jutta and Thora, and Rita who lives in Hamilton. Helga had six sisters and three brothers. Helga was a wonderful dressmaker, made all her sisters' wedding dresses and those of her daughter and daughter-in-law and her grand-daughters. In addition she had her customers. She also enjoyed landscape painting and painted well over 100 pictures. She left Denmark with her husband and son in 1958 and moved to Canada, where her daughter and her husband had immigrated to the year before. After Helga's husband, Niels, passed away she moved to Gravenhurst from Toronto, and lived there until 2017, when she moved to Orillia, where she died November 21, 2019. She was interred at Sunset Mindepark in Puslinch.

Ulla Jorgensen, née Firhøj, Toronto 1923 – 2020

Ulla Jorgensen, née Firhøj, died peacefully in Toronto on September 9, 2020, in her 98th year. (Ulla's father changed his last name from Madsen to Firhøj before she was born.) She was born in Copenhagen on April 11, 1923. Ulla was predeceased by Erik, the love of her life for sixty-four years. Ulla and Erik immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1955. At the time Erik was 34 years old, Ulla 32, Winnie 7 and her older brother 8. Ulla is survived by Erik's brother and his wife, Otto and Judy Jorgensen of Holmes Beach, Florida, and her brother's wife, Anna Firhøj of Mississauga. She will be sorely missed by her sons Tom and Peter Jorgensen and daughters Winnie Jorgensen and Kathy Byrne, (Kathy and Peter are twins, born June 18, 1959.) Ulla was the beloved grandmother of Erik and Christina Southey, Lisa and Maia Jorgensen, and Jackson and Christian Byrne and the great-grandmother of Cicero Paul, and Henry and Evan Leedahl. A private, socially-distanced funeral was held on Saturday, September 19 for immediate family. Ulla worked in early childhood education in both Denmark and Canada. She always had boundless energy and style, and was the matriarch of the large and loving family. The family is grateful for the care provided by the staff of Reikai Centre at Wellesley Place. In lieu of flowers, donations could be given to the front-line covid-19 workers of your choice.

Jytte Kaland, née Vestergaard, Surrey 1937 – 2019

Jytte (Vestergaard) Kaland passed away on August 28, 2019. Her life ended peacefully at home with her family after a long battle with cancer. Jytte was born on July 6, 1937. She will be

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remembered for her devotion to her husband, family and friends. She is survived by her loving husband, John, and their children Randi Dubeau (Len), David Kaland (Wendy), Vonda Feldes (Len), Kathy Kaland, their grandchildren Jessie Shea (Jay), Lisa Dubeau, Ashley Luymes (Jason), Natasha Boettcher (Matt) and great grandchildren, Mason and Hailey. A celebration of life was held on September 8 at the Danish Lutheran Church, Burnaby.

Birte Knudskov, Edmonton

1936 – 2020

Birte Knudskov passed away on November 23, 2020. She was born in Copenhagen on March 31, 1936. She now joins the love of her life, Bruno Knudskov, who died 47 days earlier. Birte is survived by her children, Birger Knudskov (Mette), Britt Mogensen (John), Tina White, and Nette Knudskov; her grandchildren Lisa Ilko (Bryan), Stephanie Mogensen, Adam White (Jordanna), Alex White (Dana) and Corse Bueckert, and great-grandchildren Lenox Ilko, Harrison Ilko and Henrik White, and her sister Lis Hutton. Birte was also predeceased by her parents Gerda and Knud Otto and son-in-law Ken White. A memorial service for immediate family only, due to the pandemic, was held on December 10 at Ansgar Lutheran Church.

Bruno Knudskov, Edmonton

1935 – 2020

On October 7, 2020, Bruno Knudskov passed away peacefully with his family by his side. Bruno was born in Copenhagen on September 6, 1935. He is survived by the love of his life, Birte Knudskov, his wife of 63 years; children, Birger Knudskov (Mette), Britt Mogensen (John), Tina White, and Nette Knudskov; grandchildren, Lisa Ilko (Bryan), Stephanie Mogensen, Adam White (Jordanna), Alex White (Dana) and Corse Buckert; great-grandchildren, Lenox Ilko, Harrison Ilko and Henrik White; brother Bjarne Knudskov; and nephews. Bruno was predeceased by his parents Inger Pedersen and Arne Knudskov, brother Ole Knudskov, niece Lone Isbister, and son-in-law Ken White. A Memorial Service was held for Bruno on October 21, 2020, at the Ansgar Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

Anton (Tony) Kozculab, Edmonton

1928 – 2019

Anton (Tony) Kozculab passed away in Edmonton on Sunday, June 16, 2019, at the age of 91. He was born on June 13, 1928. Tony is survived by his wife Gerda Kozculab, née Johansen. They would have celebrated 65 years of marriage in October. He will be sadly missed by his son Eric (Ann) and daughter Alice (Brian). He was well loved by his four grandchildren Chad and Amanda Kozculab and Emma and Kate Lindsay. Tony was a great storyteller and his last days he spoke fondly of his early days in Canada and the many jobs he had held over the years. He worked most often as a truck driver for Jasper Dairy, Sokil Transportation and Edmonton Transfer. He was an active member of the West Jasper Place Community Association, serving as President, Custodian and Ice man for several years. He was also a dedicated volunteer for the seniors group working at many bingos and casinos. He was an active member of Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church and served on the church board; as well as the board of Ansgar Villa. Tony

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leaves behind many friends and relatives. He loved camping and fishing and sadly outlived many fishing buddies. A funeral service was held July 13 at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church.

Kirsten Kristensen, née Jensen, Surrey 1935 – 2019

Kirsten Kristensen, née Jensen, was born in Silkeborg, Denmark, on December 2, 1935, and passed away peacefully after a brief illness on August 10, 2019, at Surrey Memorial Hospital at the age of 83. Kirsten leaves behind her loving husband of 61 years, Bent Kristensen, cherished children Jens (Kathy), Karen (Vincent), Annette (John) and Michael (Christina) as well as five grandchildren, Colin, Emma, Elisa, Cooper and Jacob, all known as her *lille skatter* (little sweethearts). "Kis" grew up in Silkeborg with her parents, brother Jorgen and sister Lis. They lived in a beautiful setting of forests, streams and lakes. Kirsten's early memories are of many family gatherings and dachshunds running about the house. Kirsten and Bent immigrated to Canada in 1961 with Jens and Karen. When they settled in Surrey, B.C. they had two more children, Annette and Michael. Kirsten and Bent were early members of the Granly Lutheran Church and enjoyed many happy times with the Danish Community. They were hardworking early residents of the growing Surrey area who worked from home on various business endeavours. Their work allowed them to travel annually to Europe and maintain close ties with family in Denmark and Switzerland. The children will always remember Kirsten as the graceful and warm centre of the family, dispensing love and Danish 'hygge' as a way of life. Kirsten's vacations on Orcas Island, where she spent many hours on a sunny oceanfront deck with her family, provided her with many cherished moments. Her manner was quiet and easy, yet she was always top of her class both academically and as a person, always capable and doing her best. She was curious about the world, a patron of the arts, a supporter and volunteer at the Van Dusen Gardens, and a keen reader and bridge player. She created a beautiful home filled with flowers, candles, gardens, dachshunds, art and filled tables with delicious meals, teas and treats. Her love and enjoyment of her family and friends was never in question. She will be missed and remembered. A Service was held on September 27, 2019, at Granly Danish Lutheran Church.

Henny Else "Bitten" Krohn, née Mikkelsen, Ajax 1929 – 2020

Henny Else "Bitten" Krohn passed away on July 10, 2020, at the age of 90. She leaves behind Preben, her loving husband of 64 years, and daughters Hanne (David) and Karen (Brian). She was the adored and greatly loved "Mormor" to five grandchildren – Joel (Samantha), Lesley (Trent), Carolyn, Sarah (Val) and Matthew (Josh). Special and loving sister to Gudrun, Henny was born in Holstebro on August 14, 1929. 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 the Second World War. Upon reaching adulthood she ventured to Copenhagen to work, and while there she met Preben. They married in May 1956. In July 1956 they immigrated to Canada and settled in Toronto, where they raised their two daughters. Henny had many varied interests and talents: needlepoint and tapestry embroidery, sewing, travel, flower arranging, gardening, cooking up wonderful food for the many dinner parties that she and Preben hosted, cottage life on Crystal

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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. For over 60 years she was an active member of the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto, including the ladies auxiliary, bazaars and later the Golden Age Club. As snowbirds, Henny and Preben enjoyed eighteen wonderful winters in Palmetto, Florida, where friends and family would visit. They would spend the warmer months 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. Henny lived her life with dedication to her family and in the centre of family she embraced all aspects of being a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, sister-in-law and friend. She enjoyed life right up to the very last, and her family and friends will remember her warm and loving heart, generosity, optimism and strength. Ever proud of her Danish roots, and at her request, a memorial service was planned at Sunset Villa Mindepark in Puslinch, for September 19, 2020.

Inger Landsperg, Edmonton 1924 - 2018

Inger Landsperg passed away on December 11, 2018, at the age of 94. She was born on April 10, 1924. She will be lovingly remembered by her son Palle (Myra); grandchildren Carrie (Sean), Lee (Crystal), Les (Destany); great-grandchildren Faith, Ethan, Parker, Munro, Mackenzie and Riley. She was predeceased by her son Gert. A memorial service was held on December 21, 2018, at the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

Karen Margrethe Larsen, née Lindgaard, Edmonton 1929 – 2020

Karen Margrethe (Grethe) Larsen, née Lindgaard, passed away on May 12, 2020, to be with her Lord and Saviour. She was born on August 10, 1929, at the Rasmussen home in Sandholt Lyndelse, Fyn, and resided in Edmonton. She came to Canada in 1955 with Jorgen Larsen after being married on September 17, 1954, in her hometown of Sandholt Lyndelse. She formerly lived on a farm in Tilley with Jorgen, where she raised her family and worked on the farm. She was known for her Danish pastries, the beautiful sweaters she knitted, and playing cards with family and friends. She was involved with the Tilley Country Club, the Brooks Outreach Centre, and the Friendship Centre in Tilley. She was able to grow any plant, even a pineapple from the top of a pineapple that she was given by a friend who brought it to her from Hawaii. She enjoyed many trips with family to Denmark, the Dominican Republic and Hawaii. She was predeceased by Jorgen Larsen (husband), Ejner Lindgaard and Marie Sofie Rasmussen (parents); Jorgen Rasmussen (brother); Dorethe Dixon (sister). Astrid Larsen (mother in law); Jacob Larsen (father in law): Holger and Betty Larsen; Vaughn and Ann Marie Larsen, Jens Henning Larsen, Kurt Larsen, Kristian Larsen, Bent Larsen. She is survived by: Son Einer Larsen (Nola Larsen); Daughter Annette Stewart (James Stewart); Son Curt Larsen (Nabila Lazreg-Larsen); Daughter Darlene Atkinson (Raymond Atkinson); Grandchildren Jonathan Larsen, Kristen Greenstein (Colin Greenstein); Christopher Stewart (Cynthia Stewart); Lloyd Rasmussen; Steven Stewart (Cristen Stewart); Andrew Stewart; John Larsen. Great Grandchildren Tyson Larsen; Summer Noseworthy; Hunter Greenstein; Valentina Stewart; Sebastian Stewart; Izabella Stewart; and

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Lillian Stewart. A Family Graveside Service was held at the Bethany Lutheran Church Cemetery on May 20 by Pastor Lasse Hultberg from the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton.

Eve Green Lyth, Vancouver 1928 – 2020

Eve Green Lyth passed away on June 9, 2020. She was born on May 18, 1928. Eve was predeceased by her husband Gunnar in 2004. She is survived by son Tom (Marja-Liisa) and daughter Julie Forbes (Gary), seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Eve and Gunnar emigrated from Denmark to Canada in September 1951. They first settled in Victoria for a few months, and then moved to Vancouver. In 2012 Eve moved to Winfield to be close to Julie. She enjoyed planting flowers (she was a florist when she was young) and having a vegetable garden. Sitting in the backyard, soaking up some sun and enjoying the ambiance, was a ritual for her. She was generous, loving and helpful, but she could also be tough and opinionated, speaking her mind. She will be dearly missed by her family. A private gathering was held on June 12, 2020.

Jytte Lyth, Burnaby 1930 – 2018

Mrs. Jytte Lyth was born on June 21, 1930, and passed away on February 13, 2018. She was under the care of Ocean View Burial Park and Funeral Home, Burnaby.

Birte Mania, née Gram, Toronto 1941 – 2019

Birte Mania, née Gram, died peacefully in Toronto on July 22, 2019, after a valiant battle with cancer. Birte was born in Sønder Omme, Denmark, on June 9, 1941, to Axel and Agnes (Damgaard) Gram. She was the middle sister to Kirsten (Gram) MacEdward and Hans Laue Gram. From childhood through retirement, Birte always lived life to the fullest. Once she finished her commerce studies, she travelled and worked in France, Switzerland and Norway, and then in 1966 immigrated to Canada; 1966 was a big year, not only did Birte move to Canada to attend the Air Canada Training School in Montreal, so she could work with Air Canada out of Toronto, but Peter Mania, born in Bavaria, who she had met in Switzerland, joined her in Canada. They were married on December 30, 1966. Kirsten, Chris and John were born within five years of marrying and she enjoyed living and raising her family in Toronto's High Park area. Birte loved travelling, visiting the United States, Europe (especially Denmark and Scandinavia), as well as the Middle East and the Caribbean. She enjoyed the outdoors, exploring Northern Ontario and Provincial and National Parks across Canada. Family was important to her, and the Mania family would visit her sister, Kirsten, and family in Middlebury, Vermont, skiing, hiking, laughing and enjoying life. Birte especially enjoyed being at the cottage, near Killbear Provincial Park. She made many lifelong friends there and loved visiting friends, entertaining and hosting bonfires, "Danish lunches", dinners and parties. She had a passion for swimming and enjoyed her morning swims in Blind Bay, often taking a dip when it was too chilly for others. The marriage of Kirsten to Andrew Moody and of John to Tara Christie brought her family weddings to celebrate, but more importantly, grandchildren. Sienna, Regan and Jack held a special place in

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her heart, and she was proud of them and always excited to see them. As “Mormor” and “Farmor” she made many memories with them and passed many Danish traditions on to them. She was grateful that they lived nearby. She was also an awesome Aunt to many nieces, nephews and the children of her many cousins. Birte was a fiercely proud Danish-Canadian and was active with the Danish Women’s Cultural Association, serving as president from 2006 to 2009. She was also part of a “Stitch ‘n’ Bitch” Club. In keeping with her proud heritage, Birte was interred at the Sunset Mindepark in Puslinch. As Birte had a passion for flowers, she would be honoured if you treated yourself to some flowers and thought of her.

Inger Kirstine Mogensen, Edmonton 1928 – 2020

Inger Kirstine Mogensen passed on February 18, 2020, at the age of 91 with her son at her side. This charming, amazing person was born in Helsingør, Denmark, on May 2, 1928, the fifth of seven children. Inge was lured to Canada by a brother, and she immigrated in 1957 when she met Frode. They married in 1959 and made a long and happy life together. Together they raised two children, Laila (Steve) and Brian (Kathy).

Tage Nancke, Vancouver 1941 – 2020

Tage Nancke was born in Haarby, Fyn, on March 1, 1941. He passed away on August 18, 2020, at age 79. After serving in the army he immigrated to Canada at the age of 20, coming straight to British Columbia. He worked on farms for a couple of years before adopting a trade as a union carpenter. Tage met his wife, Gerda, at the young people group at the Danish Church in Vancouver, and they were married on April 15, 1967. He was a devoted husband, committed to his children and their activities, and was known for his hard work. Tage leaves behind his wife Gerda, three sons and daughters-in-law, grandchildren and numerous relatives in Denmark.

Bendt ‘Julle’ Nielsen, Edmonton 1937 – 2020

Bendt "Julle" Nielsen passed away on February 16, 2020, at age 84. Bendt Nielsen was born in Randers, Denmark, on February 7, 1937, and immigrated to Canada in the early 1960s. He had a full and wonderful life here. He embraced Canadian culture and was a patriot to his home country of Denmark. He was an active member in the Danish community. He belonged to Dania and volunteered for many years. He loved being a member of Ansgar Danish Church, especially the monthly men's breakfast. When he would go to church he would always refer to it as "home." Bendt was an athlete. In Denmark he played soccer professionally for Randers Freja. Upon his arrival in Canada he was quickly recruited by the Edmonton Italians to share with them his athletic abilities. He had a life-long passion for the sport and coached many different soccer teams. He loved going to the World Cup often traveling with old teammates. He was really happy he could travel to Denmark in February 2018. In 1965, he married the love of his life Sonja. He was great provider and proud of his family of three girls: Janice, Gail and Nancy. He was also blessed with four grandchildren: Mark, Melissa, Spencer, and Chancellor; and two

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great-grandchildren: Riley and Abigail. He ran his own business for years, "Bendt's Texturing". Then he went on to work for Clark builders, AV Carlson, and Qualico. He was extremely proud of the giant commercial projects that he supervised in Edmonton. In his last ten years of work he wanted to make a difference. He had an opportunity to go work for "North of 60". He took the plunge and went to Baffin Island to build affordable housing for the Inuit people. He worked in Iqaluit and Pangnirtung. He loved the Inuit people and the culture; it was one of his fondest memories. Bendt stayed active up until the very end. He truly loved life! "Julle" Nielsen will be remembered as a real "Viking!" generous and loving, who cared deeply for his family and friends. He always had a little wink and a twinkle in his beautiful blue eyes. A service was held in honour of Bendt on March 7 at Ansgar Danish Church, 9554 108A Avenue, in Edmonton.

Bent Nielsen, Edmonton 1933 – 2009

On May 4, 2009, Bent Nielsen of Edmonton passed away at the age of 76 years. He was born on Sjælland on March 5, 1933. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Inger, children: Tonni (Kim), Jim (Joanne), Kim (Michelle) and Heidi (Craig); grandchildren: Keith, Kadin and Grayson, and other family and friends. Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Service was held on May 12, 2009, at Ansgar Lutheran Church, 9554 - 108A Avenue, Edmonton.

Børge Nielsen, Toronto 1930 – 2018

Børge Nielsen was born in Nibe on November 7, 1930. He died on January 20, 2018, in Toronto. He apprenticed as a dairyman. In Denmark he married Signe Nielsen, née Olesen. In 1957 they came to Canada, where he worked in the dairy industry. They had three children, two daughters and one boy, and had six grandchildren. Børge and Signe were excellent gardeners. For a couple of years he was president of the Golden Age Club at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto.

Elly Kirstine Nielsen, née Jepsen, Oshawa 1923 – 2020

Elly Kirstine Nielsen, née Jepsen, was born on her parent's farm in the Lemvig area of Jutland on December 16, 1923. She was the oldest of ten children. She passed away peacefully at Lakeridge Hospital, Oshawa, on September 26, 2020, at the age of 96. Elly immigrated to Canada in November 1957 with her children to join her husband who had arrived six months earlier. They initially lived in the Caledon area, and then in 1959 moved to Mississauga where her husband, a brick layer, had built their home. She lived there until moving to Whitby with her daughter Lilly in 2009. Family meant everything to her, and she encouraged her children to be self-reliant, believe in themselves, and get the education of their choice. Elly was a member of the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto and the Golden Age Club. Elly was predeceased by her husband Verner in 2001, sons Hans, Henning and George in 1975 and her granddaughter Ulla in 1992. She is survived by her son Erik (Jytte), daughters Lilly and Lis, grandson Flemming (Sarah), great grandsons Jack and Max, as well as family in Denmark and Canada. Elly will

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always be remembered for her kindness to everyone and the beautiful warm smile she greeted everyone with. “Elsket og Savnet”.

Else Nielsen, née Lauritsen, Calgary 1929 – 2020

Else Nielsen, née Lauritsen, passed away on March 1, 2020. She was born in Denmark on October 25, 1929. Else married Carl Erik, (predeceased in 1987), settling in Calgary, where they raised four boys, Dennis (Jill), Kenneth, Brian (Elizabeth) and Rick (Tina). Else is also survived by her seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She will be remembered as a true lady who presented herself with class and beauty. A celebration of her life was held at the Danish Canadian Club in Calgary on March 19, 2020, at 1:00 pm.

Kaj Albert Nielsen, Edmonton 1937 – 2019

Kaj Albert Nielsen passed away on May 4, 2019. Kaj was born in Ringkøbing, Denmark, on March 29, 1937. He married Birthe in 1964 and together they immigrated to Canada, where they started their family. Kaj is survived by his loving wife Birthe of Stony Plain, his children: Kenneth Nielsen of Devon, Bonnie Nielsen (Raymond Moncrieff) of Beaverlodge, Brian Nielsen of Edmonton; one sister Birgit Kjærbye of Denmark; eight grandchildren; one great-granddaughter as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Kaj was a proud member of the Ironworkers, Local 720 for 54 years. He will always be remembered for his humour, his great stories and his love of Adventure. The officers, members and staff of Ironworkers Local 720 expressed their deepest condolences on the passing of Brother Kaj Nielsen, stating, “We honour Brother Nielsen as a 54 year member of the Ironworkers Local 720”. A funeral service was held May 11 at the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

Kurt Nielsen, Maple Ridge 1945 – 2018

Kurt Nielsen was born in Galten, Denmark, on April 13, 1945. He passed away in Maple Ridge, B.C., on January 31, 2018. He is survived by his beloved wife Mary, son Marc, daughter-in-law Anne, and sister Lone Koehler. Kurt will live forever in our hearts.

Ruth Nielsen, Edmonton 1932 – 2017

On May 29, 2017, Ruth Nielsen of Edmonton passed away at the age of 84. She was born in Denmark on August 4, 1932. Ruth was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and she will be sadly missed by her children; one daughter Ilse (Garry) Stallknecht, three sons Jan (Betty), Rene (Barb) and Tom (Adele) Nielsen. She also leaves behind ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. She will be missed dearly by nieces and nephews in Denmark. She was predeceased by her husband Kristian Wilfred Nielsen and son Ted. A funeral service was held on

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June 3, 2017, at Westlawn Funeral Home, Edmonton, with Pastor Lasse Hultberg officiating, interment at Westlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

Signe Christiane Nielsen, Aurora 1926 – 2020

Signe Christiane Nielsen passed away on November 5, 2020. She was born in Denmark on February 10, 1926. She is survived by her daughter Kirsten (Gerry), son John (Roberta), and grandsons Erin (Kim) and Jesse (Abby). She will be sadly missed by brothers Christian (Inge) and Gunnar (Ella, d.) in Denmark, and sisters-in-law Eva (Don), and Kirsten (Rudolf, d.), along with her nephews, nieces, three great-grandchildren, and extended family in Canada and Denmark. She was predeceased by husband Reinholdt (also know as 'Ray'), the great love of her life, and eldest son Erik (Susan, d.), as well as brothers Anton (Agathe) and Thomas (Maria). After both Ray and Erik passed away, much too soon, she took over the family business, Nielsen's Motorsports, in Aurora, Ontario. However, she was never really cut out for the role of owning a motorcycle and snowmobile business, and was happy when she sold 'the shop' and settled into a less hectic life. Yet, she was not quite ready to retire, and enjoyed several successive part-time jobs in her golden years. In all these roles, she made many lasting friendships. Signe was born on a farm near Viborg, Denmark, and moved to Canada in 1956 with Ray and her two young children. She loved Canada, and enjoyed exploring and learning about her new country. She was delighted that youngest son John was born in Canada. Above all, she cherished her family and friends, both old and new. In recent years, she spent many happy hours playing cards on Wednesdays at the Seniors Centre in Aurora with the '50 cent gang', and keenly felt the loss of that contact when COVID changed the world. While her day-to-day abilities dimmed in the past few years, Signe was still a wily card player, ardent Blue Jays fan and avid reader. She followed politics and watched the news every day to keep up with current events. She kept a hand-written note on her fridge that she looked at every day and it says everything about her approach to life: 'You will never have this day again – make it count!' She was always an early adopter of good TV comedy, recommending many now-classic programs to her family. She learned to use a computer at an advanced age, and gave her children joy with her regular greetings: 'just a note to say have a good day, love you - Mom'. Due to COVID restrictions, a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Lise Norgren, née Herlevsen, White Rock 1944 – 2020

Lise Norgren, née Herlevsen, was born in Kolding on November 16, 1944. She apprenticed as a hairdresser and immigrated to Canada in 1966. In 1978 she married Lars Norgren. Lise passed away in White Rock, B.C., on March 14, 2020. She leaves behind in Canada her husband Lars, her sister Anne Dorthe Abbey and three sons. She also leaves behind her brother Ole Herlevsen. Her mother, Grethe Petersen, White Rock, passed away in 2016. Lise was interred at Sunny Side Cemetery in White Rock.

**Gunner Olsen, Toronto
1933 – 2018**

Gunner Olsen was born in Hundige, Denmark, on January 14, 1933. He passed away in Toronto on October 25, 2018. He will be missed by his wife Ingrid and their two sons and daughter, and family. He was a long time member of the Golden Age Club at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto and had his children confirmed in the church.

**Carl Wilhelm V. Pedersen, Chilliwack
1930 – 2019**

Carl Wilhelm V. Pedersen passed away in Chilliwack, British Columbia, on April 8, 2019, at age 88. Carl is survived by his wife Marlene (née Yanke), his children Elizabeth (Blair), John (former spouse Karen) and Ellen (Mark); his grandchildren, Sonya, Jamie (Margaret), Sara (Jerone), Mark, Michelle (Austin), Stephanie and Jordan; and his great-grandchildren Clara, Lydia and Ben. He was predeceased by his nine siblings and his first wife, Else (née Christiansen). Carl was born in Copenhagen on September 30, 1930. Carl spent his formative years in Denmark and Norway before embarking on a new adventure in 1956 when he immigrated to Canada along with his new bride, Else. Together they had three children. Carl's spirit of adventure was rooted in his enthusiasm to embrace change. As an immigrant, he was passionate about his new country and reminded his children that they had won the lottery - simply because they were born as Canadians. To describe Carl as a hard worker would be an understatement. Building on his love of trains, Carl worked his way from the rail yard to the executive offices of BC Rail. Upon transferring from Vancouver to Prince George for work, Carl, an electrician by trade and accomplished wood worker, directed his skills to building the family home. It was a remarkable accomplishment that took seven years working on his time-off. Later, he focused his considerable talents on building treasures for his family. Amongst them, his family will most cherish the oak roll top desk; the rocking horses for his grandkids; and the intricate replica ships lovingly built for each of his children over thousands of hours. Always one to step up, Carl lent his skills, time and talents to whomever needed help. More importantly, it was his joy to help. Whether he was at the office, doing chores, helping friends, getting his family out of a jam, or giving away his van to the family who needed a vehicle, he was always there to help. In early years, when he was not fixing or building something, Carl enjoyed his other great love, horses. Alongside his eldest daughter Elizabeth, they rode together and shared this everlasting bond. After the passing of his wife, Else, Carl had a second chance at love, and he married Marlene. With Marlene at his side, Carl seized the next chapter of life and set out to experience the joys of travel, time with friends, singing in the choir, and acting as 'skip' on his carpet bowling team. Ever the athlete, he continued to down-hill ski with his best friend Art until he was 85 years old. Carl will be lovingly remembered for many things: the gentle sound of his ever-present and ever-lovely whistle, and his voracious appetite for reading. But most of all, he will be remembered for his quiet, deep and enduring love for his wife, family and Christian faith which was the foundation from which he lived his life. A Celebration of Life service was held on May 6, 2019, at the Chilliwack Alliance Church, 8700 Young Road.

**Anna Marie Petersen, Pass Lake
1937 – 2019**

Anna Marie Petersen of Pass Lake, Ontario, passed away on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, in Roskilde, Denmark. She was born on May 31, 1937, to pioneer settlers Martha and Carsten Petersen of Pass Lake. There was never a stronger advocate for Canada and Pass Lake than she. A funeral was held on September 6, 2019, at 2 pm in Gammel Vor Frue Kirke (Old Church of our Lady) in Roskilde. Her final resting place will be in the Salem Cemetery in Pass Lake at a later date, as per her wishes.

**Grethe Julie Petersen, Burnaby
1917 – 2011**

Grethe Julie Petersen died in her sleep at St. Michael's Hospice in Burnaby on October 29, 2011. She was born on August 18, 1917. Grethe was predeceased by her husband Edvard Petersen in 1997, after 55 years of marriage. She is survived by her daughter Bettie Corradi (John), son Bent (Marg), 5 grandchildren, Johnnie, Michael (Anna), Erik (Melanie), Poul (Kara), Kirsten Nyers (Alex), ten great-grandchildren and family in Denmark. In 1951 Edvard and Grethe and their two children left Copenhagen and immigrated to Canada in search of a better future. They lived and worked in southern Ontario (mostly in London) for the next six years. In 1957 the family moved to British Columbia. Grethe's passion was working with numbers and as such she spent most of her life working as a bookkeeper. She worked for the Treasury Board (five years) and later for small businesses. Grethe and Bettie were partners in Dania Coiffures on Kingsway for five years. When Bettie left to start a family, Edvard and Grethe established the Knit Shoppe. After ten years they retired. In their retirement, they volunteered at the Community Centred College for the Retired in Burnaby. Grethe looked after the finances for the College. Together, Edvard and Grethe taught classes for seniors, such as Beginner Instructions for The Commodore 64 (an 8-bit home computer introduced in January 1982 by Commodore International). In 1984 Grethe was awarded the Outstanding Achievement as a Volunteer in Burnaby at a reception held at the Shadbolt Centre for The Arts in Deer Lake Park. A Celebration of her Life was held at the Executive Inn, 4201 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby, on November 5, 2011.

**Grethe Petersen, White Rock
1921 – 2016**

Grethe Petersen, White Rock, died suddenly on Saturday, May 7, 2016. Her heart eventually gave out. Grethe was alert and brain sharp to the last. Fortunately, her daughter Lise Norgren was with her to the end. She was predeceased by her husband V.O. and brother-in-law Poul. She leaves behind a sizable family in the form of four children, eleven grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. Grethe lived a life that today we have a hard time imagining. She was born on December 5, 1921. As a young newlywed in the 1940s when Denmark was occupied by the Nazis, she had to look after her husband and four children. Her husband, who was in the resistance movement, was captured and imprisoned by the Gestapo. Then her second youngest child died by accident and her second oldest got TB and was hospitalized for a year. Grethe had to make life work with little money and basic food items rationed. It was hard times. After the

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war, Grethe and her husband were not able to keep the family together, and they went their separate ways. Lise stayed with Grethe, who now began a new life with V.O. as he was always called, and who later became the father of Anne Dorthe. In 1966 Lise immigrated to Canada, eventually settling in Vancouver. Grethe, V.O. and Anne Dorthe followed a few years later, setting up an antique shop in Gas Town, in downtown Vancouver. Unfortunately Grethe lost her beloved V.O. a few years later, and suffered greatly. Later Grethe acquired an apartment in White Rock, and resumed her life with renewed courage. At this time Grethe would regularly travel to Denmark to visit family and friends. In later years Grethe suffered from age-related macular degeneration of her eyes and moreover had to be treated for heart problems. Despite these challenges Grethe managed to retain a rich measure of zest for life mixed with a good portion of humor, joy and storytelling. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Victory Memorial Park Funeral Centre, Surrey.

Kjeld (Pete) Petersen, Coquitlam 1931 – 2019

Kjeld (Pete) Petersen passed away peacefully on August 23, 2019, at the age of 88. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Birthe, daughter Linda (Lorne), son Brian (Susan), grandsons Nicholas, Cole and Brenden, sister Gulle, sisters-in-law Karin (Benny), Dina (Don), nephews, nieces, many beloved friends and extended family. He was born on April 29, 1931, in Faxe Ladeplads, Denmark, the youngest of six children. He grew up with a love for soccer, swimming, fishing and working in his father's produce store. He moved to Copenhagen in 1948 for work and found his lifelong passion for jazz. His desire for travel led to Canada, and after a brief stop in New York, he immigrated to Montreal in 1954. He made his way to Vancouver in 1955 via Edmonton and the Okanagan. He started working in the logging camps, but once he met Birthe, the love of his life, who he married in 1961, made Coquitlam his home. He was a devoted father, coaching soccer and teaching life lessons to his children. Kjeld enjoyed his long career in the logging industry, satisfying his passion for travel, the outdoors and meeting new people as he worked throughout B.C., the west coast of the United States, Alaska and Japan. He was known as Pete Petersen, a hard-working man with ethics who had an impact on many and with Birthe often welcomed colleagues, business associates, and friends to their home. After his retirement from A&A Trading he continued his love for the outdoors through numerous camping and fishing trips and travelled with family to New Orleans and Memphis to hear his favorite jazz. He was an avid gardener and maintained the beautiful home he built in 1966. He was a family man, honest and fair, with great determination and strength which along with his love of the outdoors and the ocean showed his true Viking spirit. A celebration of life was held on October 5, 2019.

Eva Pickett, née Bille, Toronto 1934 – 2020

Eva Pickett, née Bille, passed away at the Woodhaven Long Term Care Centre on August 2, 2020. She was predeceased by her loving husband Clarke. Eva will be sadly missed by her friends as well as her family in Denmark. Marilyn Meranez was her caretaker as well as her steadfast companion during a very lonely Covid-19 period from March through July 2020. Eva was born in Nr. Alslev, Denmark, on March 18, 1934, to Gudrun and Carl Holger Bille, who had

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three daughters, Else, Edith and Eva. Eva will be dearly missed by Else, nephew Ronnie and niece Jytte and their children. She was educated as an early childhood nurse and worked with children and later on as a secretary. In 1962 she moved to Canada for work and for many years, and until her retirement, she worked as an executive assistant at the Danish Dairy Association in Toronto. In 1982 Eva married Clarke Pickett and the two of them were truly 'life lovers'. They travelled, entertained, socialized, played tennis and enjoyed the arts and music, in particular traditional jazz. Besides traveling to Denmark and internationally, they had a special affection for Florida, and they spent many holidays and winters in their beloved Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. For her entire life in Canada Eva stayed true to her Danish roots, her community of special Danish friends, the Danish Women Association, the Danish Lutheran Church, her friends and family back in Denmark, parents, sisters and nephews and nieces. She was proud of her heritage, and she still spoke and wrote Danish with great pride. Eva was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at the age of 70 and from that point and especially in the last years of her life, she battled the disease with dignity and grace, but hated what it did to her body, being very aware of the course the illness took. On August 2, exactly five years to the date of the passing of her beloved Clarke, she closed her eyes for the last time. Cremation has taken place and Eva's ashes will be interred next to Clarke's at the Sunset Mindepark Urn Cemetery at a private ceremony. At a later date, once we are allowed to gather again, there will be a celebration of life service at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto.

Ole Kelvin Qvist, Burnaby **1946 – 2019**

Ole Kelvin Qvist, age 73, passed away December 26, 2019, in Burnaby, British Columbia, with his loving partner Rosalind Milner by his side. Ole was born on June 26, 1946. Ole is survived by his children Jennifer McKay, Mark (Kim) Qvist, and grandchildren, Kirsten, Justin, Adrianna, Makayla and Tyler.

Christian Peter Reece, Edmonton **1972 – 2020**

Christian Peter Reece died on August 21, 2020, when his car veered off the road, hitting a tree at high speed, the result of a seizure. He will be deeply missed by his parents, Tove (née Paulsen) and John Reece, his brother Matthew Reece (Penny), aunts and uncles, Ann (née Paulsen) and Frank Larson, Michael and Janne Paulsen, and his cousins. Christian was born on August 2, 1972. He earned his MSc (Biology/Genetics) at the University of Alberta and his MBA from McGill. He was currently living in Salt Lake City, Utah, and working at Carterra, a bio-sciences firm, where he was product manager for a testing system playing a critical role in the search for a COVID vaccine and other medical therapies. Christian loved animals and nature. Many summers were spent hiking the back-country of Jasper and Banff. He was generous in his quiet and unassuming way, giving both time and money to help. While living in San Francisco, he helped an animal shelter, not only with donations but walking dogs and cuddling animals waiting for adoption. In Salt Lake City he was the largest donor to a colleague's campaign to help the Navajo Nation through the COVID crisis. Only now have we discovered his ultimate gift of generosity. Unbeknownst to his family, some years ago Christian signed to donate his organs. The transplant

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team told us his last gift saved the lives of four people. A Viking by birth and in spirit, Christian overcame the difficult challenges he faced in life with resilience and fearlessness. A family memorial service will be held at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, at a date to be determined.

Ruth Holten Roemer, Edmonton 1921 – 2011

Ruth Holten Roemer, born in Copenhagen, Denmark, on August 15, 1921, passed away peacefully on July 16, 2011, in her 90th year, at the Long Term Care Facility at the General Hospital in Edmonton. Ruth was married to Herman Werner Roemer from November 1938 until he passed away at an early age in 1974. She is survived by her youngest sister, Bente Holten Pedersen of Denmark; daughters, Hanne Roemer, Kirsten (Otto) Henriksen of Edmonton; son Peter Roemer of Victoria, British Columbia; grandchildren, Michael Henriksen (Caroline Missal), Niels (Stacey) Henriksen of Edmonton, Kristine Henriksen (Antonie York) of George Town, Cayman Islands, Gregory Roemer (Laurie Bradley) of Calgary, and Christa (Dennis) Cunningham of Delta, British Columbia; nine great-grandchildren, Jessica and Meaghan Henriksen of Edmonton, Alexandra Henriksen of Victoria, Shalegh Missal of Edmonton, Leah and David Steele-Henriksen of Calgary, Cameron, Mackay and Megan Cunningham of Delta, British Columbia. A Memorial Service was held for Ruth at the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton, on July 27, 2011. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Ansgar Church.

Gerda Lis Saxton, née Christensen, Edmonton 1934 – 2020

Gerda Lis Saxton, née Christensen, passed away on August 27, 2020, at the age of 86 with the love of her life, and husband of 61 years, Geoffrey Saxton, by her side. She is also survived by her children John (Shaylene) and Elisabeth (Kevin), her grandchildren Benjamin, Samuel, Sophie, and Magnus, as well as her brother Helge Christensen (Bitten). Lis could fill a room with joy and make everyone feel warm and welcome. She was born in Terkelsbøl, Denmark, on July 24, 1934. She and her five brothers and sisters were raised next to the school where their father was Principal. She came to Canada and while crossing the Atlantic met a tall, handsome Englishman named Geoffrey. They were married in Denmark in 1959 and settled in Edmonton where she became a successful hairstylist and supported her husband through law school. A social butterfly, she loved to host family and friends and would never say no to an invitation. She was generous and caring, willing to help whomever she could. Lis was active in Mt. Zion Lutheran Church and the broader Lutheran community. Whether for her children's schooling or politics, Lis was there front and centre. She ensured to remain connected to her family in Europe and loved to travel. No matter where she was in the world, most important was her family and spending time with them, often around a table, having a delicious meal, talking and laughing. She touched the heart of anyone she met. A memorial will be held when it is safe to do so.

**Esther Skousbol, née Nielsen, Edmonton
1925 – 2014**

It is with great sadness that the family of Esther Skousbol, née Nielsen, announce her peaceful passing on January 23, 2014, at the age of 88 years. She was born on July 28, 1925. Left to cherish her memory is her loving children, Inger (Rainer) Hedenus, Jorn (Hanne), Bent (Jasha), Lis (Larry) Walker and Eric (Phyllis); twelve grandchildren; eighteen great grandchildren; brother, Jens Nielsen of Denmark; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and dear friends. Esther was predeceased by her loving husband of 62 years, Jens Skousbol; parents, Boline and Anders Nielsen; and sister, Gerda Sorensen.

**Jens Thorvald Jensen Skousbol, Edmonton
1923 – 2009**

It is with great sadness that the family of Jens Thorvald Jensen Skousbol announce his peaceful passing on October 9, 2009, at the age of 86 years. He was born on August 30, 1923. Left to cherish his memory is his loving wife of 62 years, Esther, children Inger (Rainer) Hedenus, Jorn (Hanne), Bent (Jasha), Lis (Larry) Walker and Eric (Phyllis), twelve grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, one brother, Soren Peter Skousbol, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and dear friends. Jens was predeceased by his parents, Sofus Lund and Kristine Marie Skousbol, his sister Gudrun and brother Harald. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the nursing staff at Capital Care Lynnwood (Unit 2LL) for all the care and compassion given to Jens during his most difficult time. A Funeral Service took place at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton, on October 15, 2009, with Pastor Carl-Gustav Christensen officiating. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society of Alberta, Edmonton.

**Henning Sorensen, Edmonton
1938 – 2010**

Henning Sorensen passed away on May 31, 2010, at the age of 71. Henning was born on October 15, 1938. He is survived by his wife of forty-eight years, Esther, brother Ejler (Astrid); sons Morten (Valerie) and Ole (Brenda), grandchildren Christopher, Andrew and Allysha, great-grandsons Joshua and Jacob, and numerous extended family members and friends. A Celebration of Henning's Life was held on June 3, 2010, at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton. Special thanks to the staff at Grandview for the compassionate care over the past few months. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

**Herdis J. Sorensen, Edmonton
1927 – 2021**

Herdis J. Sorensen passed away in Edmonton at the age of 93 on February 26, 2021. She was born on May 2, 1927. She will truly be missed by her children John Sorensen and Susan Seright (Sorensen); grandchildren Kristie, Shauna, Jesse, Justin and Jan and eight great-grandchildren. Herdis was predeceased by her parents, her loving husband Kurt and seven siblings. A family

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only service was held on March 12, 2021, at Westlawn Funeral Home, Stony Plain Road, Edmonton. Her husband of 65 years, Kurt O. Sorensen, passed away on September 1, 2016. He left behind his brother Poul Sorensen and sister Kirsten Lyngé. A memorial service was held on September 12, 2016, at Westlawn Funeral Home.

Lise Sorensen, Edmonton and Victoria 1930 – 2018

Lise Sorensen was born on June 8, 1930, and grew up in Denmark. She immigrated to Canada in 1952 with her husband of 65 years, Peter Sorensen. She died in Victoria on October 9, 2018. Lise was preceded in death by husband Peter Sorensen (2016). After raising her family of three children in Edmonton, Lise began another journey, first by quickly becoming a crackerjack tennis player and then by demonstrating a previously untapped talent for watercolour painting. Upon leaving Edmonton in 1987, the tennis playing allowed both Lise and Peter an opportunity to meet new friends as they relocated to Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, and finally to Tatlow Road in North Saanich. Friendships were also easily made by Lise given her good-natured and fun-loving demeanor and her tendency to put the needs of others before her own. She nurtured her circle of family of friends in many ways but was perhaps best known for hosting lively cocktail and dinner parties. Whether she was whipping up a last-minute meal for guests that Peter brought home without warning or hosting a sit-down dinner party for 40, Lise graciously welcomed her guests and fed them well. She was especially renowned for her delicious desserts. Lise will be deeply missed by her children Stephen (Nancy), Ian (Patty), and Marianne and her grandchildren Douglas, Christopher (Brittany), Anna, Hanne (Joe), Erik, and Max. The family would like to express the deepest gratitude to all the amazing staff at Douglas House for their loving care over the past two years. Lise's life was celebrated at a family gathering in Victoria.

Else Marie Therkelsen, née Jeppesen, Ladner 1929 – 2019

Else Marie Therkelsen, née Jeppesen, who was born on September 30, 1929, passed away peacefully in Ladner on January 30, 2019, with family by her side. Richard Therkelsen, her husband of 45 years passed away in 2012. She leaves her daughter Eva (Patrick) and son Marty, and two of her greatest joys, grandchildren Fraser and Kate. A lively and independent spirit, she enjoyed time with family and friends who felt like family. Else Marie and Richard faithfully had served the Granly Church since its beginning. Richard died on August 30, 2012. His biography appeared in the 1989 Heritage Book. Else Marie taught Sunday school at Granly. A memorial service was held March 1, 2019, at the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby.

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**Ejnar Thorup, Edmonton
1930 – 2020**

Ejnar Thorup of Edmonton was born on April 3, 1930, and passed away peacefully on May 28, 2020. Ejnar will be lovingly remembered by his wife Kirsten; sons Dean and Paul (Heather) and grandchildren Tomas, Peiter and Davyd. He was predeceased by his son Ken. As per Ejnar's request, there will be no formal service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cross Cancer Institute.



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