



# 2022 HERITAGE BOOK



## **Danish Club of Montreal 1922-2022**

**FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA**





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 26-29, 2022  
Postponed**

**The Danish Club of Montreal  
Celebrating 100 Years  
1922-2022**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



### **2022 Heritage Book**

Danish Canadian Conference (Postponed)  
Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. May 26-29, 2022

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Cover photograph: Group photograph of the delegates at the Danish Canadian Conference in Montreal in 1983. Kneeling in front, left to right are Hugh Larsen (Ottawa), Dorothy Andersen (Montreal), Esther Machacynski (Kingston), Donn Larsen (Edmonton), Eva Terp (Toronto), Hanne Bourgeois (Montreal) and Erik Høgh (Caledon, Ontario). Hosting the Conference was the Quebec Region of the Danish Federation, consisting of the Danish Canadian Society and The Danish Club.

Photo by: Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Book Design/Layout: Ed Kuhlman

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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 – 2022

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



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Welcome to

*Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church*

We are located at 9554 — 108A Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 1C1  
Phone: 780-422-8777  
Service every Sunday at 11 a.m.  
Første og tredje søndag på dansk  
Second and fourth Sunday in English  
Pastor Lasse Hultberg



## GREETINGS



THE AMBASSADOR

Ottawa, February 2022

This year marks some important milestones for Danes and Danish culture in Canada. Firstly, warm congratulations to Montreal's Den Danske Klub on their 100th anniversary. It is great to see that Danes have continued to gather to share traditions and culture for so many years. I also want to send my best wishes and congratulations to the citizens of New Denmark in New Brunswick who are celebrating the town's 150th anniversary.

As we continue to move forward through the COVID-19 pandemic, this year holds many opportunities for the Kingdom of Denmark to strengthen collaboration with Canada. As partners and neighbours, we share many interests and values. As we strive to build a greener and more sustainable world, we continue to cooperate on reaching ambitious climate goals and implementing smart solutions to the green transition. The ties between the Kingdom of Denmark and Canada are also strong in the Arctic. With Greenland and Nunavut separated by only 26 km, we share close cultural bonds and traditions. To grow these ties, HM Queen Margrethe II appointed Navarana Beveridge as the new Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Denmark to Nunavut in 2021. Navarana knows first-hand about the shared history between Greenland and Nunavut as she is Greenlandic and now lives in the Canadian territory. We will this year mark another important anniversary of our shared history as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Knud Rasmussen's 5th Thule Expedition, which began in 1921 and lasted three years. To celebrate this milestone, a special exhibit on the expedition will be on display in Ottawa and at Qaumajuq, the Winnipeg Art Gallery's new museum for contemporary Inuit art, during the Inuit Studies Conference this upcoming June. Speakers from the Danish National Museum will accompany the exhibit. I invite you to learn more at [www.5thule100.dk](http://www.5thule100.dk).

In 2021, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the discovery of insulin here in Canada. A discovery that has helped save the lives of millions thanks to the hard work and collaboration of Canadian and Danish scientists. Looking ahead, the pandemic has shown that investments and modernization are needed in the health sector around the world. Denmark is a leader in this field and we would like to share our knowledge and expand our cooperation with Canada. Our efforts will be led by the embassy's new Life Science advisor Katrine Skovly.

Lastly, I also want to highlight the important work done by all Danish clubs in Canada. It is because of your continued effort to bring our community together and sharing Danish culture, heritage and projects with Canadians that we can form such strong bonds here in Canada. You are all important pillars of the work we do here in Canada and play a vital role in strengthening our relationship. I greatly look forward to having a chance to visit different Danish communities across the country and hopefully seeing you in Nanaimo in 2023.

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

Hanne Fugl Eskjær Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark

## GREETINGS

Consulate of Denmark  
Montreal

André Vautour  
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Montréal, QC H1B 4M4  
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Téléfax: 514-871-8977  
E-mail: dk.montreal@lavery.ca  
<http://www.um.dk>

March 1, 2022

Dear Ms. / Sirs:

It is my pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the Danish Club of Montreal and its members on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. Since its founding, the Danish Club of Montreal has always played a special role in the life of the Danish community of the city and region.

The Club was founded by Danish businessman Paul Borup in 1922. The 1920s saw the arrival of the first wave of Danish immigrants to Canada. Times were hard in Denmark at the time, and in 1922 the United States closed its doors to immigration. Canada was a natural alternative for Danes who were thinking of emigrating and the Canadian government encouraged them to come to this country. At the time, Montreal was Canada's largest city and the hub of its transportation system. Therefore, most Danes that arrived by ship in Halifax, passed through Montreal, either as their destination or on their way through their final destination in Ontario or the Western provinces. Those who chose Montreal as their new home found or created their employment in factories, construction, restaurants and stores.

One can think how helpful and reassuring the Danish Club was to these new citizens of Montreal. Since its founding, the Club has been encouraging mutual solidarity among the members of the Danish community of Montreal. It was and remains to this day very active in helping the members of the Danish community maintain their connection with Denmark and their fellow Danes by organizing various events, lunches, dinners and dances.

The Danish Club was also there after the Second World War to welcome newcomers to the city, as the economic situation of the time led to a resurgence of European immigration to Canada and to Montreal, including from Denmark. Some of these newcomers only passed through Montreal on their way to their final destination, but a significant number settled in the city and found the Danish Club as a beacon of Danish culture in Montreal.

Depuis les années 1980, l'immigration danoise au Canada, et à Montréal, se tarit significativement ; la situation économique et le niveau de vie enviables du pays font en sorte que peu d'émigrants quittent le Danemark. Le Club danois de Montréal a donc dû s'adapter, à la fois, tant pour conserver l'intérêt de ses membres de longue date, établis à Montréal depuis plusieurs décennies, que pour permettre aux plus jeunes de la deuxième ou de la troisième génération établie à Montréal de garder un lien significatif avec le pays et la culture de leurs parents et de leurs grands-parents.

## GREETINGS

Au cours des toutes dernières années, j'ai pu constater l'arrivée d'une relève, de membres plus jeunes, au sein du Club. La collaboration entre le Club et les membres du chapitre de Montréal de DABGO n'y est sûrement pas étrangère. À n'en pas douter, les membres jeunes et âgés apprécient la camaraderie et l'amitié qui règnent au sein du Club. Le Club s'est aussi mis au goût du jour avec un nouveau site web, des pages Facebook et Twitter pour mieux communiquer avec ses membres.

Undoubtedly, the Danish Club of Montreal has been since its founding 100 years ago one of the pillars of the Danish Community with the Danish Canadian Society, Saint Ansgar's Danish Lutheran Church (now Saint Ansgar's Lutheran Church) and the Consulate of Denmark.

One hundred years is quite an achievement for an organization like the Danish Club of Montreal. I wish it several well-deserved additional anniversaries!

Længe leve den Danske Klub i Montreal!

Long live the Danish Club of Montreal!

Longue vie au Club danois de Montréal!



André Vautour  
Honorary Consul

## GREETINGS



St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church • Église Luthérienne St. Ansgar

4020 Grand Boulevard, Montréal, Québec, H4B 2X5

Tel. (514) 486-5404

Pastor: The Rev. Samuel K. King-Kabu

### **Congratulations to The Danish Club of Montreal**

On behalf of Saint Ansgar's Lutheran Church in Montreal it gives me great pleasure to extend the warmest congratulations to The Danish Club, Montreal, on its 100-year anniversary.

The Danish Club and Saint Ansgar's Church have collaborated on many occasions, some of which have been musical events that have taken place at the church. The Danish Club has for many seasons arranged a Scandinavian soccer tournament in the summer involving teams from Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Anyone who is Scandinavian or feels Scandinavian or has a Scandinavian connection is welcome to participate. Our very own Pastor Samuel King-Kabu has played on the Danish team for many seasons and might even have scored a goal or two.

The Danish Club is a not-for-profit club that encourages solidarity and networking among Danes in Montreal and maintains a close connection with Denmark for persons of Danish origin or background, and for persons with an interest in Denmark or Danish affairs, culture and traditions.

The Danish Club is famous for its monthly get-togethers with a typical Danish Luncheon with smørrebrød, øl and snaps (open face sandwiches, beer and Aquavit) and always warmly welcomes members of Saint Ansgar's congregation.

Best wishes for the future and for the continued connection between two old friends.

Sincerely,

Anne Marie Jørgensen

On behalf of Saint Ansgar's Lutheran Church, Montreal

*Thus far hath the Lord brought us*

A congregation of the Evangelical Church in Canada, Eastern Synod

## GREETINGS



# DANISH CANADIAN SOCIETY INC.

DANSK CANADISK SAMFUND  
MONTREAL

February 14, 2022

### **Congratulations to Den Danske Klub of Montreal on your 100 year anniversary**

Den Danske Klub and the Danish Canadian Society started as two distinct entities serving different segments of the Danish community in Montreal. Over the years membership in our two organization began to overlap. With the admission of women to The Danish Club in the 1970s the drive to cohesion was given an extra push. More recently the Danish flame in Montreal is being rekindled by young Danes in transition, who come to work or study here for shorter or longer periods. Today it is especially important that we work together as numbers within the Danish community continue to dwindle. With our combined effort we can keep the Danish factor tangible in Montreal.

We look forward to many more years of co-operation.

On behalf of the Danish Canadian Society, I extend our best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ole Larsen  
President

GREETINGS

## New Denmark Historical Society



### **New Denmark's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations postponed**

As we work our way through the pandemic trying to figure out what our new normal will be, it is with a heavy heart that we, the New Denmark Historical Society, had to make the hard decision to postpone our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Danes arriving in New Denmark until June 2023.

We have been closed again this past year and have been unable to fundraise. During this past year though, if someone did come to New Denmark, we were only too happy to take them through our New Denmark Memorial Museum.

We remain optimistic that next year's celebration will take place and we plan to make it bigger and better than ever. The celebration will be four days of festivities culminating with a Founders Day service on the final day. I hope you will join us in June 2023!

Heather Jensen  
President, New Denmark Historical Society  
New Denmark, New Brunswick

# O Canada

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

## Canadá

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



**DENMARK**  
**DANMARK**

## DANISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

### DER ER ET YNDIGT LAND

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



# FEDERATION



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

## Danish Federation Song



Membership Organizations Across Canada  
For Preservation of Danish Heritage

Mel. Som en rejselysten flå

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

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

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

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

Inger K. W. Andersen  
Kingston, 1983

FEDERATION



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

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## FEDERATION



## Members of the FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

1. New Denmark Historical Society, New Denmark, N.B
2. Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, Inc.
3. The Danish Club of Montreal
4. The Danish Club of Ottawa
5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto
6. Danish Women's Association, Toronto
7. Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Toronto
8. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch
9. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch
10. Pass Lake Historical Society
  
11. The Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg
12. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary
13. Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary
14. 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. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo
29. Danish Social Club of Victoria
30. Scandinavian Cultural Society, Vancouver
  
31. Canadian American Friendship Society, Denmark
32. Danes Worldwide, Copenhagen
33. Det danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg
34. Danish American Heritage Society, Salem, Oregon
35. Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa



# The Purpose of the Danish Federation

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

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



*Delegates at the founding meeting of the Danish Federation, June 7, 1981  
L to R: Ole Larsen, Jonna Melander, Poul B. Christensen, Rolf Buschardt Christensen, Svend Berg,  
Jørgen Birk Andersen, Esther Machacynski, Alice Lyvang, Martha Larsen, Herbert Rasmussen, Eva Terp  
and Les Bonde. Soren Sondergaard from the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto also attended.*

## FEDERATION

One annual activity is the *Danish Canadian Conference*, where Danes from across Canada get together to discuss specific issues and common projects. Over the years the Conference themes have focussed on the preservation and promotion of our heritage, documenting our history, youth involvement, our identity, communications, human rights, the Arctic, fundraising, renewal and sustainability, Pier 21, honouring our traditions, the Danish Canadian National Museum etc.

For each Conference, the Federation publishes a 200-page *Heritage Book* with articles, reports, biographies and histories relating to the Danes in Canada. The *Heritage Book* is not just distributed to the conference delegates but is sold to the Danish community and others through the various member organizations. The book is a treasure, containing a wealth of information about the Danes in Canada, as well as their various organizations.

As well, each year, the Federation publishes a practical *Directory of Danish Organizations in Canada*, available free upon request. In 1991, the Danish Federation helped sell the book *Danish Emigration to Canada*, published by Udvandrerarkivet in Aalborg. In 2000 Udvandrerarkivet, in cooperation with the Danish Federation, published *In Denmark Born - To Canada Sworn*. In 2019 the Danish Federation republished *The Journal of Jens Munk 1619-1620* to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Munk's voyage to find the Northwest Passage. And then in 2021 the Danish Federation published *Knud Rasmussen – Ambassador on Dog Sled*, written by Knud Michelsen for the Danish Federation to commemorate the Fifth Thule Expedition 1921-1924.

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

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



*At the Lung Association Monument in 2003  
Liselotte Ostergaard, Pastor Poul Berg  
Sundgaard, Lis Sondergaard & Hanne Jensen*

The Danish Federation is a strong supporter of the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. At the Danish Federation's 1988 Conference in Winnipeg, the Federation fully

endorsed the plans for the proposed Danish Canadian National Museum, which was then officially founded at a Danish Canadian Conference in 1992. The Museum opened in 2002.

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



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

***Annual Report***  
***2021 – 2022***

As I write this annual report for 2021-2022, the world continues to be affected by the ongoing global Corona virus pandemic. Fear rapidly spread when Covid-19 arrived in Canada in March 2020. Each day, people would follow the data on the corona virus pandemic to learn how many Canadians were infected, how many were hospitalized and how many had died. The vast majority of Canadians quickly donned masks and were eager to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Restrictions were put in place, schools and businesses were closed, people avoided public spaces, as well as gatherings with family and friends. The pandemic changed how we work and live! The pandemic is much more than a health crisis. Two years into the pandemic people are still working from home, meeting by means of various digital media and buying goods and services online. Some of our member organizations have been very creative in their fundraising by conducting their bazaars and bake sales online. The pandemic has reduced the volume of cars during rush-hour traffic and shorter lineups for shopping and other services but people have also become very discontented and weary of the so-called lockdowns to the point of taking trips outside Canada despite the government's advisory against travel within and outside of Canada. Many have participated in protests against the restrictions on admittance for the unvaccinated, the mandatory wearing of masks and compulsory lockdowns. In January 2022, life in the city of Ottawa was completely disrupted by protesters from across Canada converging on Ottawa in large trucks. Downtown Ottawa residents and business owners were frustrated at being in the midst of protesters' incessant horn honking to the point where a court injunction had to be put in place to silence the horns. The injunction, however, did not stop the clogging of many streets within the downtown core. After three weeks, the "Freedom Convoy" was finally dismantled and dispersed by various police forces after the federal government declared a State of Emergency, an audacious action not taken since the October 1970 Crisis in Quebec. The street in front of the Parliament Buildings (Wellington Street) is still closed to traffic and might never reopen to public traffic again in order to avoid another "occupation" by protesters. Mind you, protests are still allowed on Parliament Hill, as can be seen by large crowds now demonstrating in support of Ukraine.

After much discussion over the current situation within the country, the Danish Federation's Board of Directors, in consultation with the Nanaimo Club, is postponing the Danish Federation's Annual Conference until May 2023. This date is subject to change, but we remain optimistic about meeting in person next year as it appears that the severity of the pandemic is easing and various government restrictions are currently being lifted. It is also our plan to again hold a Heritage Seminar.

## FEDERATION

Our last Annual General Meeting was held on October 2, 2021 by Zoom, where we reported that the Danish Federation consisted of 36 member organizations. Presently the Danish Federation consists of 35 member organizations, as the Danish Sisterhood Lodge 179 in Vancouver has disbanded. Sadly, the Granly Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey, B.C., will be closing in August 2022 after 60 years of service to their congregation. At the 2021 AGM the executive of the Danish Federation was re-elected as follows: Rolf Christensen (President), Ed Kuhlman (Vice-President), Aase Christensen (National Secretary) and Sune Overgaard (National Treasurer).

A 2021 Heritage Book was published with huge thanks to the editor, Ed Kuhlman. The cover article featured the Danish Canadian Society DANIA in Edmonton, which was founded in 1921. Ed has once again volunteered to be the editor of the 2022 Heritage Book. It will contain articles featuring The Danish Club of Montreal, which celebrates its centennial in 2022, and New Denmark; a Danish colony settled 150 years ago, making it the oldest Danish settlement in Canada.

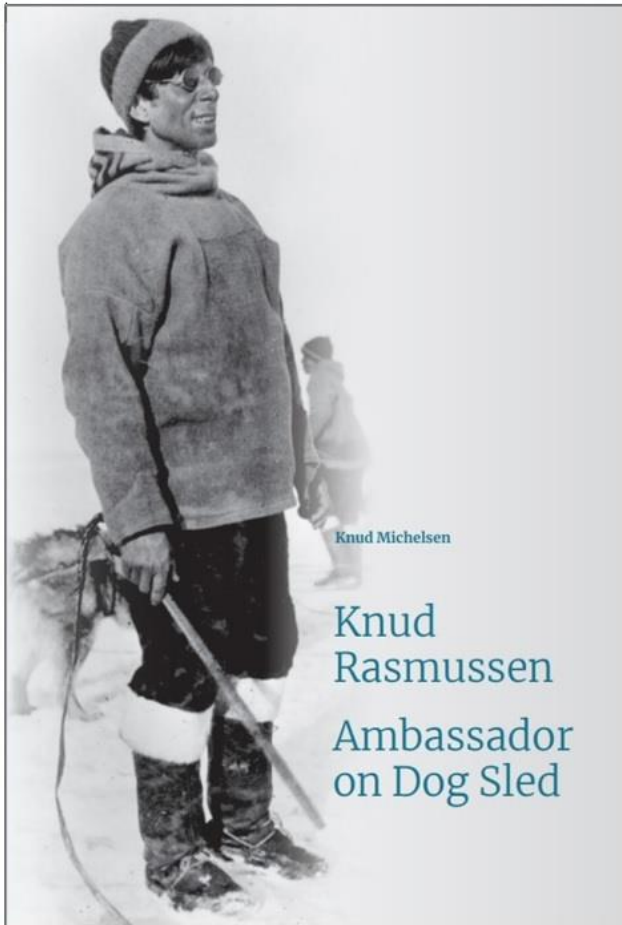
A complete set of the Heritage Books can be found at The Danish Emigration Archives in Aalborg (Udvandrerarkivet) which was established 90 years ago this year. In late 2021 the Danish Federation donated four Heritage Books to the Multicultural History Society of Ontario in order to complete their collection. This society was established in 1976, five years after Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau announced multiculturalism as an official government policy – the first of its kind in the world – to recognize the contribution of all citizens to the Canadian social fabric. The leading force behind the establishment of this policy was the Ukrainian Canadians on the Prairies. The Canadian Multiculturalism Act finally received Royal Assent in July 1988. Moreover, the policy was very much an inspiration in establishing our Danish Federation.

At the time of writing, Russia's invasion of the Ukraine, the first major war in Europe since the Second World War, is a serious concern in Canada, Denmark and around the world. There is fear that the war could spread to other countries. Many countries, including Canada and Denmark, stand ready to welcome millions of Ukrainian refugees, while other Ukrainians remain in the country to fight the Russian invaders who appear to be not just occupying the country, but obliterating its infrastructure as well as social and cultural institutions.

A major event for the Danish Federation in 2021 was the launch of the 192-page book, *Knud Rasmussen – Ambassador on Dog Sled*, written by Knud Michelsen of Copenhagen, and edited by Karen Marie Andersen of Surrey. The Danish Federation is thrilled to have published this captivating book. It tells of Knud Rasmussen's life, particularly his Fifth Thule Expedition, a remarkable journey across Arctic North America. Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who have helped promote and sell this enthralling book.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their work and commitment both nationally and in the regions. I extend a heartfelt thank you to all the member organizations for your support and dedication in helping to maintain and promote our rich Danish heritage.

Rolf Buschardt Christensen  
President, Federation of Danish Associations in Canada



*Book commemorating*

## **Knud Rasmussen and the Fifth Thule Expedition**

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

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

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

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

CELEBRATING

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

**DANISH  
CLUB OF  
MONTREAL**  
EST. 1922



**Join us for smørrebrød lunch**

Second Wednesday of each month

Downtown: 12 noon - 3 pm at the Blackwatch Armoury

Register by email: [luncheon@danishclubmontreal.com](mailto:luncheon@danishclubmontreal.com)

**CONVERGE** 

***Congratulations to the Danish Club of Montreal on its Centennial!***

# Danish Club of Montreal's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Kren Clausen, President (2011-present)**

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As president of the Danish Club of Montreal, I am very grateful for the opportunity to have served our wonderful community over the past ten years. I enjoy having established close and meaningful friendships with many of our club members and with members of the other Nordic clubs in Montreal, such as the Friends of Iceland Club, Friends of Finland Club, the Norwegian Club and the Swedish Club.

I believe it is equally appropriate to pay tribute to the many earlier members of our club who have passed away, members who have contributed and supported the club by attending our monthly smørrebrød lunches, special events, Mortens goose dinners, Scandinavian dinner and dance nights, our soccer tournaments, our yearly participation in the Canada Day Parade and our periodic arts and culture events such as Danish film screenings, and special occasions where we have sponsored either in part or in whole Danish musicians from Denmark performing locally in Montreal.



*The club is known for its monthly Danish lunches*

With respect to the initial founding of the Danish Club one hundred

years ago, our history is described very well and quite enthusiastically by three earlier presidents of our Club on its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Their article follows this one in this book.

As president during the past ten years, I have seen The Danish Club grow in membership through the children and even grandchildren of original members of the late 1950's and 1960's. The Club encourages growth by participation. We have mounted several events over the decades, e.g. producing five Scandinavian Dinner and Dance evenings in co-operation with the Norwegian, Swedish, Icelandic and Finnish communities, with live Nordic entertainment during the dinner followed by DJ led dancing throughout the night.

Film evenings have been held, and we have led the sponsorship of a Nordic Film festival in Montreal. We mounted and organized a national Danish Federation Conference in the heart of Old Montreal and proudly received the attention and sincere interest from Poul Ove Jensen as our Key Note Speaker, as he is the Architect and Director of the bridge department at Dissing+Weitling, Denmark, where he is responsible for the design of over 200 bridges in 30

## CELEBRATING

countries, including the Samuel de Champlain Bridge in Montreal. At the conference, we also had Kahnasohan Kevin as a Keynote speaker the following day providing the history and factual evidence concerning the indigenous peoples in Quebec and the historical friendship with the Vikings who landed on the eastern coast of Canada. Together with the Danish Canadian Society, the Danish Club sponsored the Nordic Singers from Denmark, and five opera performers from the Royal Danish Opera. As well, each year the Danish Club together with the Danish Canadian Society participates in the Canada Day Parade with a Viking Float, many of the participants dressed as Vikings with spears in hand, parading down Rue Sainte-Catherine in Montreal. The two clubs have a long history of co-operating with Christmas events and St. Hans Aften at the Nissen's country home.



*The friendly soccer matches against the other Nordic teams are very popular*

Since 1922 our club has carried on the customs and the practices which we inherited from those before us. Most importantly we maintain a club with pride in our past and yet with a spice of youthfulness in the present.

Over the years we have witnessed that when members, young or old, congregate at our smørrebrød lunches or at other events, there is a special vibe in the air, a special presence of belonging to the club, a special sense of Danish hygge. There is a mutual interest in one another's life, and one another's families.

Participation in the club either as a board member or as a volunteer is more or less the glue that binds us together as we work collectively to produce our popular lunches and other events. The board of directors of the Danish Club has been served by long time members of the club who have passed on their knowledge, experiences, and certain sectarian details of our club history, which help us to carry on despite challenges (e.g. the COVID pandemic as one example) despite obstacles or issues facing us. There were challenges over the decades that impacted The Danish

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Club membership, but no matter what, the Club has always carried on, even by monthly ZOOM meetings last year.



*Standing in front of the Viking Ship float used in the Canada Day parade in Montreal  
L to R: Henry Langer, Kren Clausen, Nis-Anker Jessen, Ole Larsen and Peter Nissen*

I am pleased to thank previous Board members, current Board members and certain volunteers all having collectively worked together either in the past or currently. I wish to acknowledge the following people with admiration for their steadfast loyalty to our club such as Rosa Christensen, Richard Lynn Studham, Knud Pedersen, Anne Jørgensen, Svend Berg, Henrik Langer, Per Jan Olsen, Nick Schultz, Peter Nissen, Kris Pedersen, Ole Larsen, Nis-Anker Jessen, Thomas Leslie, Shirley Yu, Victoria Sorensen, Linda Borhnerud, Marlena Ofter, Anne-Mette Jørgensen, Karen Damgaard Jensen, Anne Poulsen, Liette Chenier, Svend Henriksen, Peter Skovsbo, Kim Lebech, Alexia Jensen and Arthur de Vaublanc.

We look forward to a grand celebration later this year (Covid rules permitting) by illuminating our active presence as Danes in Montreal. From here it is onward and upward for the next 100 years as the Danish Club of Montreal!

# Den Danske Klub, Montreal

**Villy Andersen, Jan Eisenhardt and Knud Petersen, 2002**

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Den Danske Klub in Montreal is the [second] oldest existing Danish association in Canada - and this is how it came about: In January 1922, shortly after the arrival of a new Danish consul general, Mr. Peter Schou, a group of local Danes gave a welcome lunch in his honour at the Place Viger Hotel. The luncheon meeting was mentioned the next day in a Montreal paper, listing the Danes present and giving a summary of the Consul General's speech.

During a subsequent get-together of essentially the same group at the home of Consul General Schou on January 24, 1922, the people present decided, encouraged by the Consul General, to launch a Danish association. A committee was formed, consisting of C. Jørgensen, Axel Sørensen, I.P. Jørgensen, Paul Borup, R. Kampp and H. de Lony, to prepare the necessary details; shortly after a meeting place was rented at Victoria Hall in Westmount, the so-called "chess room", with space for 30 - 40 persons, for evening meetings on the first Thursday of each month.

## **Laws and Regulations**

During two subsequent get-togethers, on March 3 and 27, the "Laws and Regulations" were agreed upon. Item # 1 established the name as "Den Danske Klub or The Danish Club". Item # 2 spelled out the purpose of the club: "to promote mutual solidarity among Danes in Montreal and, jointly, to maintain the contact with the home country." Item # 5 stated that "any male person of Danish origin, or interested in Danish affairs, can join if recommended by three existing members, subject to being approved by the club at large." For the purpose of approval by Club members a secret ballot would take place using white and black balls, and if three or more members objected, the application would be turned down. A rather bombastic measure but in reality only one person was turned down during the first eight years for which records are available. A board of directors was elected, consisting of: H. de Lony, president, Chr. Jørgensen, vice-president, R. Kampp, secretary and Sofus Kristensen, treasurer. Membership fees were established at \$ 2 at time of joining, and 50 ¢ a month thereafter, payable quarterly.

Though restricted to male membership, the Club soon had requests for activities to include ladies and children. The first social event took place on May 11, 1922, and the program consisted of: 'The national anthem'; 'opening remarks' by P. Borup; speech by the Consul General; 'song' by K.E. Wurm; showing of the 'Greenland Film'; 'recitation' by J.P. Jørgensen; 'song' by K.E. Wurm; serving of refreshments and dancing. A varied program on a shoestring!

The Club began with 28 members. Eleven more joined in the course of the following months and at the annual general meeting the consul general was made an 'honorary president', in appreciation of his encouragement to start the club, bringing the membership to a total of 40. Not bad, considering that club members had originally estimated the number of Danish men in the

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Montreal area at around 60. During the same general meeting H. de Lony stepped down as president and Paul Borup replaced him and remained club president for more than 20 years.

### **Early Activities**

A Christmas party was planned for between Christmas and New Year, open to families of members and non-members alike, and turned out to be a great success. Adults paid 25¢ and for children there was no charge. There was a big Christmas tree at Victoria Hall, music, singing of carols, refreshments and presents for the children, handed out by a 'Danish Julenisse'. For years the Christmas party was a tradition. In 1928 a Westmount newspaper reported, "400 people attended a Lively Christmas party at The Danish Club at Victoria Hall"; likely the biggest gathering ever arranged by Den Danske Klub. Club meetings were soon interspaced with social evenings: Ladies' night; discussion meetings; film nights; lectures; and, in summer a picnic. 'Herremiddag' (Dinner for men) would also be arranged once or twice a year, complete with cigars and liquor. An ordinary monthly meeting would start at 9 pm and have a business agenda, followed by card playing. Some of the club's early expenses were for 12 packs of cards and score pads: \$ 5.58, and a chess game: \$1.00. But if the president turned up late, as recorded on one occasion, when he arrived only at 10.30 pm, proceedings were reversed.

### **Solidarity**

Though some members were businessmen and professionals with reasonable incomes, many members were unquestionably not well off, surviving on modest incomes and living in rented rooms or small apartments around town. The 'mutual solidarity among Danes' was, therefore, for many a very essential help to prop up self-respect and survive mentally under difficult conditions, in a new country and a new culture. Charity was listed as a club objective from the very outset though not formally included in its 'Laws and Regulations'. With Montreal being Canada's major port of entry, many immigrants arriving from Denmark would start to look for work right here, and in many cases soon run out of the little money they had brought with them. Or some Danish farmers would return discouraged to city life after an unsuccessful attempt at making a farm out of a 160 acre parcel of forested or stone filled land, offered to them by the Canadian Government.

The Danish Consulate would lend modest amounts of money, but funds were sparse and, generally diminishing as not all loans were paid back. At one point in a speech to club members, Consul General Schou expressed his gratitude to members for having been very helpful in trying to find employment for newly arrived countrymen. Initially, the club also advanced money to individuals (in early 1923 club members sold lottery tickets for "1 ton of coal" to help raise money), but individual support was soon changed to a Fund, to be administered by the Consulate, which the club supported for decades to come. For a newly arrived Dane, finding the first job was always a major obstacle, partly because many Danes arrived with only a rudimentary knowledge of English and partly because, by nature, they lacked the all-important "Canadian experience", inevitably demanded by potential employers. Even as late as the fifties these were real problems facing immigrants from Denmark. Over the years local Danes helped numerous 'nyankomme' catch on. A prime example was Colonel Kai Bjørn, for decades, club secretary and a very active member. As personnel manager at Ogilvy's Department Store, he provided a steady stream of Danes with "Canadian Experience" for some time until they could find work elsewhere and move on.

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*Danish immigrants en route West, at Quebec City, 1920s (PAC C-36144)*

### **Notes from early years**

The club's first journal 'protokol' and 'kassebog' contain many touching notes: 'Expenses for Christmas decorations from Denmark'; 'Toys for children'; 'Rubber stamp for Book Collection' (many Danish books had been taken over from 'Dansk Brødræsning', a previous association dissolved in 1917, to which were added books ordered from Denmark, to form a club library); or, another notation: 'Today Hjalmar Jørgensen (club member) saved two children from gas poisoning'. In April 1924: 'Meeting cancelled after Victoria Hall burned down.' And every September 26: 'Telegraphic birthday greeting to H.R.H. Christian X', which the King duly acknowledged; and 'Purchase of 'Landeværnsmerker' from Denmark, in support of 'Landeværnet' in Slesvig'. In October 1928 Consul General Bøggild (who replaced Consul General Schou in 1924) drew attention to a young Dane present at the meeting, "who visited the club for the first time in July, on his trip around the world, which he undertook on behalf of a Danish newspaper - and completed in 44 days". The young man, Palle Huld, declared that he had returned to settle in Montreal and was admitted to the Club by acclamation.

### **Did we make the right decision?**

Even today many Danish immigrants occasionally ask themselves: "Did I do right in coming here?" It is a highly personal question, but for one thing, it is a lot easier to reverse the decision today than it was in the twenties or thirties. In those days, for many people to emigrate, was to say good-bye for good to family and friends left behind, giving the question a much more poignant significance. It was the subject at a club discussion evening in June 1925, under the

## CELEBRATING

theme: "The advantages I won by emigrating and what I gave up by leaving Denmark". Two speakers spoke in favour of Canada and two in favour of Denmark. In the end 3 judges (Consul General Bøggild, vice consul Grev Schack and P. Jørgensen) awarded 119 points to Canada and 128 to Denmark, almost a draw, expressing the ambivalence in figures.

In 1929 there is a double entry in the cash book: "Flowers for Consul General Bøggild", sent to his sick bed, and, 13 days later, "Wreath for Consul General Bøggild".

### **Meetings, Locations and Visitors**

From the start in 1922 monthly meetings took place in the evening. In July 1928 it was agreed that in addition to the evening meetings, members of the club could, if so inclined, meet for lunch on Thursdays of each week, first at Krausman on Phillips Square, and subsequently at LaSalle Hotel on Drummond Street. Around the same time the monthly evening meeting was moved to Mount Royal Hotel on Peel Street, where the Club was domiciled for many years. However, as many members now worked downtown but lived in the outskirts, it was eventually decided to switch the official club meeting from evening to lunch time once a month, on the second Wednesday. New locations were La Salle Hotel (again), Cafe Andre, Queens Hotel, Windsor Hotel, Cafe Martin, the Press Club and the Mount Stephen Club, where it stayed for 25 years, before moving to the present location at The Royal Montreal Regiment's Officer's Mess. (Back to 'square one' old members will say, as the Club for many years was considered an "Officer's Club".)

Many guests have visited Den Danske Klub, among others: Thomas Dinesen, V.C. (brother of Karen Blixen); Erik Flensted Jensen, with the entire Niels Bukh gymnastic team; Prince Axel; Carl Brisson; Peter F. Heering, and the members of Den Kongelige Ballet, on tour in Canada.

### **Membership**

The original membership of 40 in 1922 gradually increased, but sank to around 20 during the Second World War. Then it grew again, as many Danish immigrants arrived in the late forties and early fifties. The Club's existence was never in doubt, but at times attendance could be very irregular. While meeting at Cafe Martin, managed by a club member, the Club had the rule that if four or fewer members showed up, the meeting was considered cancelled, and the members who showed would be served Martinis (as a consolation, presumably), compliments of the manager. As fate would have it, the only two members to show up on a particular Wednesday had never quite seen eye to eye, but were later observed walking down the street, arm in arm. Occasionally, a meeting would be re-located to a Danish ship in port, and a new president noticed that, whereas it was difficult to persuade members to turn up for regular meetings (menu: soup, chicken-pot-pie, dessert and coffee, for \$ 1.25), the entire membership would appear with 24 hours' notice for lunch onboard a Danish ship. He figured that there was a lesson to be learned here, and not long before the club moved to the elegant Mount Stephen Club (at the suggestion of Danish Trade Commissioner Rolf Hagemann), the menu was changed to 'Smørrebrød', prepared by Rosa Christensen, with a snaps and a beer. And that turned out to be a winning combination! Not only was the new menu a bull's eye with members, but everybody felt proud to bring guests, and attendance soared. The only recorded exception to the new luncheon menu was in November 1974 when the year's first snow storm coincided with the Annual General Meeting. The 'Smørrebrød' was stranded 25 km away, and business had to be conducted on snaps and beer alone. Probably the only reason the Club moved away was that a new ownership and

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management of the Mount Stephen Club presented it with an ultimatum: No longer to bring in Rosa Christensen's Smørrebrød, or move; which was an easy choice and the Club changed meeting location to The Royal Montreal Regiment's Officer's Mess. Some voices predicted the Club's demise at around the present time, considering that very few Danish immigrants arrived after the mid-fifties. (One year there was only one!) And whereas the club's original *raison d'être* were mutual support and to maintain a connection to Denmark, most of the Danes who now arrived were business and professional people who had no need for mutual support and were at liberty to go back and forth between Canada and Denmark. As it turned out, the Club has in fact grown, and for some good reasons: in 1980 its constitution was changed to include women members (with Karinn Thøgersen as the first to join, and Danish Consul Inge Nielsen shortly after), plus anyone with an interest in Denmark, irrespective of nationality. These changes have made the Club more functional and vibrant. The language of the Club is no longer exclusively Danish with fines for speaking English, as in the early years, but English, 'with a touch of Danish' to make everyone feel at home, including second and third generation Danes. And Club activities are not confined to monthly luncheon meetings, but include a four-part Scandinavian Soccer Tournament during the summer and special events, such as dinner dances, etc.



*The Club's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 22, 1992 at the Molson Breweries  
L to R: Jan Eisenhardt, Axel Thøgersen, Victor Barner, P.J. Olsen, Villy Andersen,  
John Smith, K.M. Løndorf and Erik Skovsbo*

### **Attitude and Loyalty**

Looking at the activities of Den Danske Klub over a period of 80 years, one is struck by the tremendous loyalty to Denmark, which the members have always shown. This loyalty does not in any way negate the assimilation of Danes into Canadian life, because it is a truth that for us to be

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good Canadians we must perforce be good Danes. In the Club's accounting book appear regular donations to 'Dannevirke', 'Landeværnet', the Club's own fund (which, incidentally, does not exist anymore; the last monies were expended some years ago to allow an elderly couple visit family in Denmark after 40 years in Canada); plus, the Danish Cemetery, the Danish Church, the Free Danes in London, Red Cross, Allied Relief, Nova Dania Home, Grønlandsfondet, Christian X's Jubilæums Fond, Canadania, Canadian Scandinavian Foundation, Scandinavian Soccer, and many others.

### **Club Presidents and Honorary Members**

The list of club presidents over the years reads as follows: H. de Lony (8 months only); Paul Borup (21 years); Cyrus Pedersen; Kai Bjørn; Poul Sommer-Rasmussen (president three times); Henry Ernst; Jan Eisenhardt; Poul Smith; Willy Andersen; Erik Skovsbo; Mike Løndorf; Axel Thøgersen (president three times); Rolf Hagemann; P. J. Olsen; Victor Barmer; John Smith; Svend Berg; and Knud Petersen (current president, 2002). The Club has had seven honorary members: Consul General Peter Schou (who encouraged local Danes to start the Club in 1922); Consul General Bøggild (1924-1928); Consul General G.B. Holler (1928-1946); Prin Axel, head of East Asiatic Company; Rev. Vilhelm Beck, Danish Lutheran Minister in Montreal for many years; and, the Danish captain (whose name has been lost with other club records) of the MS *Belgien* of Dansk-Fransk Dampskibsselskab. The captain is said to have treated the members of Den Danske Klub royally at a luncheon onboard his ship in Montreal harbour, and, by acclamation, been declared an Honorary Member of the Club then and there. In 1960 Consul General Theodore Schultz and three-time club president, Poul Sommer-Rasmussen were added. Today [2002], the Club's Honorary Member is Danish Ambassador Svend Roed Nielsen.

### **Club Records**

Some journals from the Club's earliest existence have survived, along with various correspondences. The Club's activities from mid-century to around 1974 are very sketchy, however, following the loss of the Club's 'black book' with minutes of meetings at a party. Members present have only very hazy recollections of exactly what happened towards the end of the meeting, but one participant recalls: "The board decided to have a party, and we had a 'Torskegilde' ('Cod Feast'), to end all 'Torskegilder', and during that event we somehow lost our club records. But the cod, flown in from Denmark courtesy of member Peter A. Jørgensen was darn good, with 'fiskesennep' (fish mustard) and snaps!" Some members are said to have returned to the Press Club the next day to look for the book, but found no trace of it.

However, based on memories of long time members, some club occurrences survive. For example: the meeting when the Club was discussing the 'Begravelsesfond' (Cemetery Fund). The Club had established a Danish section at the 'Memorial Gardens' in Pointe Claire, where local Danes might be interred, irrespective of means. The grave lots were standard size (6 x 3') and one member proposed to spend more money on larger graves, but was turned down. The problem was evident, though, as he was 6'6" - but another member quietly suggested that "maybe you could start practicing deep knee bends?" Annual General Meetings followed a strict decorum, but never without a glint in the eye, and under the chairmanship of a gifted member, proceedings would be interspersed with roaring laughter. It was always an enjoyable event.

And then there is the annual four-part Soccer Tournament, between Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark, initiated in 1983. It's nice to win, but it is not the most important thing. At times

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when one country is short a few players and another has a surplus, the problem is easily settled. The fun of the game is the thing, and for the Danish team and supporters, the incredible Danish picnic lunch that follows, including such delicacies as 'lune frikadeller', 'spegesild med løg', 'flæskesteg med rødkål og asier', etc., etc., plus snaps and beer. Come sun or rain, it's just wonderful to be there! Soccer events are currently in the capable hands of Søren and Sanne Andersen, and we owe them, and their predecessors, our complete gratitude!

Round anniversaries also give reasons to celebrate. The 40-years' 'Fødselsdag' at Queens Hotel was just great (no present member seems to have been at the 25-year event in 1947), as was the 50-year Dinner Dance at the Penthouse at Peel and Sherbrooke streets; Then 70 and 75 years, with the latter being held at the Mount Stephen Club, and said to beat all previous ones. And while at partying, the many annual 'Mortens Aften' events that do not require a 'round year' to be celebrated, have been great reasons for getting together and to enjoy being Danish, in this wonderful country of ours, Canada!



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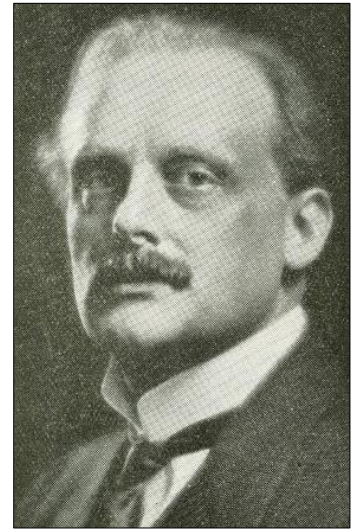
# Viggo Kihl, pianist

**Rolf Buschardt Christensen**

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Viggo Kihl was a Danish Canadian pianist and teacher, who already at the age of twelve showed great promise as a pianist. Richard Viggo Kihl was born in Copenhagen on November 11, 1882. In Copenhagen he studied with the Danish pianist Holger Dahl and from 1898 to 1901 he studied with Prof. Robert Teichmüller at the Leipzig Conservatory in Germany. Kihl made his debut in Copenhagen in 1901 and then toured Scandinavia. In 1903 Kihl made his debut in London. It was a great success and in 1907 he moved to London where he taught and performed at the Royal Albert Hall, Queen's Hall, Crystal Palace and other concert halls. In 1912 he toured Europe, followed by engagements in South Africa.

In 1913, August Vogt invited Kihl to come to Canada to teach at the Toronto Conservatory of Music. Vogt, the conductor of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, had just been appointed principal of the Conservatory and asked Kihl to join him as music teacher. Under Vogt's leadership the Conservatory became one of the largest of such institutions in the British Empire. Kihl's students included Cora B. Ahrens, Mona Bates, Agnes Butcher, Arthur Gold, Weldon Kilburn, Gwendolyn Koldofsky, Ida Krehm, Mischa 'Max' Meller and Florence Steinhauer, who all made a name for themselves.



As a pianist, Kihl often went on tour, performing in small Ontario communities, but also across Canada. An annual event was his recitals at Toronto's Eaton Auditorium. A series of recitals in 1920-21 in Hamilton, Ontario, demonstrated the wide range of his repertoire. More than once Kihl performed Beethoven's fourth and fifth piano concertos and Chopin's first piano concerto with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. In 1931 he played Mozart's concerto for three pianos with Ernest Seitz and Norman Wilks and in 1934 with Seitz and Alberto Guerrero. He was a soloist with the New Symphony Orchestra and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. As a chamber musician, he worked with Luigi von Kunits, Boris Hambourg, Harry Adaskin and Ferdinand Fillion, among others. In 1926, he formed the Five Piano Ensemble.

In 1933 Edward Corbett established the Banff School of Fine Arts. It gave summer courses in Theatre. In 1936 Music was added to the program and Kihl was invited to be the teacher. Thus in August 1936 Kihl gave ten Master classes in music, a program which has since been expanded.

Kihl published articles on pianists, piano music and techniques in various Canadian and British music magazines and wrote some piano transcripts. Kihl worked at the Conservatory until his death on July 10, 1945. During the war he had given concerts to help raise money for the Danish Relief Fund. He was married to violinist Ellen Marie Jaehnigen.

# Bertel Fuglsang

## – editor of *Viking*

**Rolf Buschardt Christensen**

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Bertel Fuglsang immigrated to Canada in 1927. After investigating several locations, including Winnipeg, he eventually decided on Toronto where he established *Viking*, a weekly Danish-language newspaper, which existed from August 1928 until March 1931, when it was basically forced to cease publication, due to the Great Depression. At his newspaper office at 583 Church Street in Toronto you could exchange foreign currency, buy steamship tickets as well as books, among them Fuglsang's book *Kort Vejledning i Engelsk for Udvandrere* (Brief English Language Guide for Emigrants), which sold for 25 cents.

Bertel Fuglsang was born in Copenhagen on October 7, 1868, the son of master saddle maker Frederik Ferdinand Fuglsang and Marie Dorothea, née Ludvigsen. In 1886 Bertel Fuglsang graduated from the prestigious boarding school Sorø Academy in Sorø, which traces its history back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. He then attended the University of Copenhagen, receiving a master's in divinity (cand. theol.) in 1892, after which, and until 1895, he taught at various schools in Copenhagen, including Borgerdydskolen. At a ceremony in 1895, he was awarded that year's gold medal from the University of Copenhagen for his thesis about the philosophy of John Locke. For the next ten years he also made a living by tutoring university students in philosophy.

In 1900 he joined the newspaper *Kristeligt Dagblad* as a reporter. *Kristeligt Dagblad* had been founded in Copenhagen in 1896 by the Inner Mission movement. Initially it was an Evangelical newspaper but soon widened its coverage to all religious and cultural topics as well as foreign affairs. Bertel Fuglsang soon became the paper's foreign affairs editor and in that capacity he made long trips abroad.



*Bertel Fuglsang*

In 1902, Pastor M.C. Jensen, who had studied at the Danish Lutheran Seminary in Wisconsin, returned to Denmark, where in Holbæk he started publishing a biweekly newspaper for and about Danes abroad, which he called *Vore udvandrede Landsmænd* (Our emigrated compatriots). It was the first publication of its kind, the primary aim being to report on what Danes around the

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world were doing. In the process the paper would link Danes around the world, bringing timely articles and news.

In 1903, Jensen hired Fuglsang as assistant editor. About a year later Fuglsang completely took over the paper, becoming both publisher and editor. In 1905 he changed the name of the paper to *Vore Landsmænd i Udlandet* (Our Compatriots Abroad), dropping the reference to emigrants, as he now also focussed on the Danish business community abroad, including those in Berlin, London and Paris. In 1911 he changed the name to *Danmark hjemme og ude* (Denmark at home and abroad), which was issued every two weeks and for a time every week. With great determination and energy Fuglsang greatly expanded the circulation. He made numerous trips abroad, to Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, the Middle East, the Far East, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and other places in order to cultivate contacts and increase the paper's circulation. At one point Professor Lauritz V. Birck, who later became president of the University of Copenhagen, said that he considered Fuglsang the most well-informed foreign policy analyst in Denmark.

In 1912 Fuglsang established the news agency Dansk Verdensbureau (Danish World Bureau). Later that year Fuglsang helped found *Dansk Verdenssamfund* (Danish Global Society), an organization for Danes worldwide. In 1913, Fuglsang's newspaper became the official organ of *Dansk Verdenssamfund*, the president of which was Mr. W. Hanssen, a businessman and a former Danish Consul General in Colombia. Thus *Dansk Verdenssamfund* was the forerunner of *Dansk Samvirke*, now *Danes Worldwide*. Due to the First World War, *Dansk Verdenssamfund* and *Danmark hjemme og ude* were forced to fold in 1915. But the idea did not die. Many Danes realized the benefit of such a worldwide organization, which could strengthen the connection between Denmark and Danes living abroad. Thus in April 1919 Dansk Samvirke was established and already in January 1920 the magazine *Danmarksposten* was launched. (For the founding of Dansk Samvirke see the 2019 Heritage Book).

In Copenhagen in 1905 Fuglsang married Caroline Amalie Fraugde, who had been born in Kolding on May 16, 1875. She was the daughter of Knud Fraugde and his wife, née Christoffersen.

When Bertel and Amalie Fuglsang arrived in Canada in 1927 it was Bertel's intention to start a Danish language newspaper. On the ship from Copenhagen to New York he had met Jens Peter Nyholm, the brother of Pastor Paul Nyholm, who was minister at Bethany Lutheran Church in Dickson, Alberta. Jens Peter Nyholm, a librarian, studied at Columbia University from 1927 to 1928. During that year Bertel Fuglsang and Jens Peter Nyholm corresponded frequently, Fuglsang even offering him a job at his newspaper, once it was established. Before starting *Viking*, Fuglsang visited the Danish communities in Halifax, New Denmark, Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg, trying to decide where to establish his paper. Yet, for Christmas 1927, Fuglsang was back in Denmark. Then in the new year Fuglsang finally decided to establish his newspaper in Toronto.

Jens Peter Nyholm decided not to come to Canada to work for Fuglsang, despite Fuglsang practically begging him to come. But at the same time Fuglsang could not guarantee him a decent salary, which he made clear to Nyholm in several letters. Meanwhile Fuglsang engaged newspaper correspondents across the country, Valdemar Bertelsen in New Denmark, Knud A. Hangø in Montreal, Knud Scheel and Carl Jacobsen in Winnipeg and Frank C. Tvede in Vancouver.

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In Toronto Fuglsang hired Christian Mørk, a loyal worker who supported *Viking* during its first difficult period, before returning to Denmark in June 1930. Initially Fuglsang had problems finding a typesetter and a printing press. Finally he found a printing shop in Waterloo which could also manage the Danish alphabet with æ, ø and å.

Fuglsang considered various Danish names for his newspaper, but then decided on *Viking*, as the name was both Danish and English. As a subtitle he added Danish Canadian Weekly. Regarding the editorial policy he adapted the policy he had used in Denmark when he published *Danmark hjemme og ude*. *Viking* would be published in Danish, but he was willing to print articles in English. *Viking* would primarily carry news about events within the Danish community in Canada, but also noteworthy news from Denmark as well as news from around the world which would be of interest to the readers of *Viking*. The cost per issue was seven cents or three dollars for a one-year subscription.

On the home front Fuglsang's wife was sickly. After their arrival in Canada Fuglsang's wife was weak and not well. Even common chores such as cooking were a strenuous task for her, as Fuglsang wrote to Jens Peter Nyholm. Sadly, Amalie died of cancer on September 1, 1929, only 54 years old. She was buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto. (Later in 1932 in Copenhagen Bertel Fuglsang married Gerda Thygesen, who was considerably younger than him.)

In early 1930 Fuglsang got involved in a minor scandal. In the December 28, 1929 issue of the *Toronto Star Weekly* magazine, Ottawa-based journalist Thomas Wayling had written an article entitled "Should Canada buy Greenland?". The article apparently appeared out of the blue, but could also have been inspired by Norwegian Prime Minister Johan Ludvig Mowinckel, who was advancing the claim that Eastern Greenland belonged to Norway.

Bertel Fuglsang mentioned the *Toronto Star Weekly* article in *Viking* and he also wrote a rebuttal which was printed in the *Star Weekly*. Other newspapers too reported on the *Star Weekly* piece. When Håkon Bagger, a *Viking*-subscriber in Winnipeg, saw the story in the *Winnipeg Free Press* he immediately wrote to Bertel Fuglsang and praised him for his defence of Denmark.

The article in *The Winnipeg Free Press* of January 15<sup>th</sup> entitled "Consolidation of the Arctic", concluded that:

If the question became a practical proposal, it is difficult to foresee any political or economic reasons which would prevent Denmark considering some transfer consideration for Greenland, when the purchaser was Canada, and when Greenland is so obviously an integral part of the Canadian continent. Of no essential value to Denmark, Greenland will be of first rate importance to Canada in the consolidation of her sphere in the Arctic, and in establishing the aviation routes which at no distant date will be part of Canada's international transportation system. The Canadian acquisition of Greenland may well be one of the national developments of the not so far-off future.

Bertel Fuglsang was also in touch with Danish Acting Consul General Henning Hergel in Montreal, who in turn contacted the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa. In reply to the Consul General's inquiry about the position of the Canadian Government the Department of External Affairs wrote back:

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With respect to the article in the *Toronto Star Weekly* to which you refer, I am authorized to advise you that the matter of the possibility of purchasing Greenland from Denmark has never even been considered by our Government.... After reading the article, the conclusion I have come to is that Mr. Wayling asks the question "Should Canada buy Greenland?" for the purpose of making an attractive heading to his article. Certainly, in any case, he was not authorized to speak for the Government and whatever views he expresses are his own personal ones.

A year-and-a-half later, after multiple cabinet discussions, the Norwegian Government issued a royal declaration on July 10, 1931 claiming that Eastern Greenland was Norwegian territory on the grounds that Denmark had established effective occupation in a limited area only and could therefore not claim sovereignty over all of Greenland. Denmark contested the claim and brought the case before the Permanent Court of International Justice in The Hague where Denmark won the case in 1933. Interestingly, the Eastern Greenland case is the only territorial dispute in the Polar Regions ever to have been settled by an international court.

By early 1930 the Great Depression had set in and Viking's advertising revenue was starting to dwindle, as were subscriptions to the paper. It was tough for Fuglsang to continue, but he did. Least of all, he needed a competitor. But that is what happened. In March 1930, Edgar Adolph and Helge Borup started the newspaper *Dansk Canadisk Tidende* in Toronto. Adolph and Borup had operated a sawmill in Cochrane, Ontario, but came to Toronto to start a Danish newspaper. The two joined the Danish Brotherhood lodge in Toronto and became active in the community. However, the Danish community was too small for two newspapers, particularly during these hard times, and within half a year *Dansk Canadisk Tidende* went bankrupt. There were court cases and Adolph and Borup moved their paper to Montreal where they for a short time tried to continue their newspaper.

At the same time it was also difficult for Fuglsang to continue publishing *Viking*. The times were extremely tough with record bankruptcies and unemployment. Finally he gave up and the last issue of *Viking* was published on March 13, 1931. It carried the following announcement, here reproduced in English:

As the times over here to say it mildly are very bad at the moment, as the Danes have to temporarily share these conditions, under which the business community in general is also effected, and as the mission here of a Danish newspaper under these conditions is exceedingly difficult, it is not impossible that in the near future this newspaper will take a vacation while the worst of the crisis lasts.

This will be painfully felt by its faithful subscribers, friends and supporters whom we thank most sincerely for their warm support and sympathy. But just as much as Alexander Legge, chairman of the US Federal Farm Board, or the Wheat Pool, can turn the situation around, or US President Hoover has been able to reverse the world economic crisis and get America to thrive, we can as a Danish newspaper under exceedingly humbler conditions not change anything under these circumstances.

Should any subscriber not wish to make the extraordinary minor temporary sacrifice by riding out the crisis, a subscriber can be reimbursed for the amount in question by simply notifying us.

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As editor of *Viking*, Bertel Fuglsang had of course been in contact with a host of people within the Danish community across Canada. In Toronto he had been active within the Danish community and had become friends with both the Danish Consul and the Danish Pastor. Moreover, Fuglsang sat on the executive of the Danish Brotherhood, which also held debates within a separate debating society (*Diskussionsklub*). At a meeting at the end of April 1931 the topic was “Emigration from Denmark” with Bertel Fuglsang speaking for immigration and Viggo Christensen speaking against.

Fuglsang went first. He described how migrations had taken place from time immortal and believed that migration was, by and large, justified as a kind of safety valve for overpopulation. In the case of Denmark, the percentage of emigrants in recent years had been about 0.25%. However, emigration had affected most families in Denmark, as they had either sons, daughters, brothers or sisters, or more distant relatives living abroad. It is also interesting to note, Fuglsang said, that patriotism is readily found outside the homeland; when you emigrate you miss the familiarity of the homeland. This is because we all long for security, to be part of a community, and to have something to love and honour.

As a rule, Fuglsang maintained, orderly emigration takes place for economic reasons. The emigrants are usually people who want to get ahead in life. In Canada, unfortunately, only a handful of Danes has amounted to anything special, whereas Danes who have settled in the Congo, Siam and Argentina have achieved great success. They have played an important and dominant role in these countries, in industrial, financial as well as administrative terms. In Argentina, some of the largest landowners are sons of Danish peasants. Fuglsang also believed that the Danes had better opportunities in non-Anglo-Saxon countries. Fuglsang ended by stating that Danes should set big goals abroad.

After Fuglsang's presentation, which was rewarded with a mighty round of applause, Viggo Christensen took the floor and spoke against emigration from Denmark. Christensen claimed that emigration often led to dissatisfaction and disappointment. Things had changed, it was no longer possible for an immigrant in Canada to return home to Denmark with a wallet full of money. It is difficult to get ahead in Canada at present, he said. Most Danes scrape through the best they can. Many Danes would like to return to Denmark if they had the money. Those who finally get back to Denmark after many years of toil quickly feel dissatisfied with the situation in Denmark and long to return to Canada. They become people without a country. In conclusion Christensen stated that he did not think that the Danes in Canada were preferred over other nationalities. What matters were your skills and work ethic.

After the two presentations the president of the Danish Brotherhood, Mr. John Madsen, thanked the two speakers for a very interesting debate. Madsen added that personally he was against emigration from Denmark. His closing remark added further to the discussion at the following Coffee Klatch. Interestingly, Fuglsang who had spoken in favour of emigration would within just four weeks return to Denmark to live permanently.

*Viking* had carried articles about the various Danish communities in Canada, being duly supplied by a network of dedicated correspondents. Moreover, Fuglsang had travelled around the country, selling subscriptions, interviewing people and selling ads. It was a very informative newspaper which unfortunately only existed for two-and-a-half years. It is still a great source for what was going on in the Danish community across Canada in the period it existed. Archived copies of

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*Viking* can be accessed at Library and Archives Canada as well as at the Multicultural History Society of Ontario.

In late May 1931 Bertel Fuglsang left Canada returning to Denmark via the United States. In Copenhagen he made a living by being a university tutor in philosophy, and teaching English and Spanish. Before he died he was working on a scientific thesis entitled *Germanisms in Contemporary Danish*. He passed away in Copenhagen on January 25, 1939, in his 71<sup>st</sup> year. He was buried in Vestre Cemetery in Copenhagen.

A fellow student at Sorø Academy, Harald Fiedler, wrote a short obituary in the September 1939 issue of *Soraner-Bladet*, the Academy's newsletter. Fiedler remembered Fuglsang from when they were both students at Sorø in the early 1880s. Fiedler then mentions that Fuglsang visited him in Argentina in 1909 to raise money for *Danmark hjemme og ude*. During his visit Fuglsang predicted that Germany and Britain would be at war in 1913. Fiedler was quite impressed with Fuglsang's prediction. Later in 1909 they met again in Denmark. Fiedler recounts that on this occasion he realized what an enormous task Fuglsang had undertaken, trying to create a link among Danes around the world. In short, that is Fuglsang's legacy.

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# Hans and Alice Sorensen

## Calgary

**Karsten Dalberg**

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Hans Aage Voss Sorensen was born on July 9, 1935 in the small Danish town of Jorløse, located between Kalundborg and Slagelse, on the island of Sjælland. His parents, Dolly Anita Marie and Hans Christian Sorensen, owned a farm in Jorløse.



*Hans and Alice Sorensen arriving in Canada, 1960*

Hans was the second of four children, his sisters are Gertrud, Tove and Lena. Hans was a twin, but his twin died in childbirth.

On their property they had a marsh where they made briquettes of compressed coal dust for fuel. During and after the Second World War they became quite wealthy. They talked about buying a “Herregaard”, a big Estate Farm, but Hans Christian wanted to try something different and instead they built a Fish Fillet Company in Kalundborg. It went really well and they were exporting lots of fish to southern Europe by

train until someone had moved the train track and the shipment of fish did not make it to its destination, and soon the fish decomposed.

Hans Christian was born with a heart defect and was only 45 year old when he died. Dolly then, with the help of their daughter Gertrud, invited people from Copenhagen to have a Farm Vacation. Dolly was a fantastic cook and guests came back repeatedly. This saved them from losing the farm.

The idea was that Hans would eventually take over the farm, but when his mother said that she was staying on the farm until the end of her life and would make all decisions, Hans kindly declined.

Alice Sorensen, née Bartholdy, was born on August 6, 1936 in Frederiksberg, Copenhagen. Her mother was Gudrun Bartholdy, and her father was Georg Emil Bartholdy. He was the Director at Kirks Telephone Company in Copenhagen. They divorced and Gudrun later married Jens Olsen. After Alice completed Grade 5 in Copenhagen, they moved to Jorløse and became neighbours to

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the Sorensen Family. Hans and Alice attended the same school for a couple of years and then Alice went to a private school. Later they went to another school (Efterskole) at the same time. In Jorløse they had fun playing handball and every so often the handball teams went to other small towns to play. After the game there was always a dinner and dancing.



*Danish Folk Dancers, Winter Olympics, Calgary, 1988*

After Hans served his time in the Army, which was mandatory at the time, they decided to get married in Lindevang Church in Frederiksberg in 1956. He was 21 and she was 19 years old. It just happened to be the same Minister who had baptized Alice many years earlier. They rented an apartment in Lyngby, outside Copenhagen. Alice's father, Georg, asked Hans if he would like to learn a trade, Hans said yes. There were some contractors and bricklayers in the family, so maybe Georg and his architect brother, Knud, could find a place for him to apprentice to become a bricklayer.

On the day Hans began his apprenticeship, Alice was nine months pregnant and overdue. They both left their apartment at the same time. Hans left for work and Alice walked to the train station to catch the train to the hospital in Copenhagen, where she would have their baby. After work Hans came to see Alice, but since she had not yet given birth, he was not able to see her. He then went to a movie theatre. Alice thought he was a "smart young man". After the movie he returned to the hospital and they let him in to see Alice as she had given birth to their first child, Susanne. After he received his Trade Certificate, and he was a bricklayer, he worked a few years in Copenhagen, while Alice worked in an office.

Alice's mother, Gudrun, and husband, Jens, immigrated to Vancouver, with their son, John, in 1958. They told Hans and Alice how wonderful it was in Canada, so Hans and Alice decided to go to Canada for five years to see the country and in the process learn to speak English. And thus on March 18, 1960, Hans, Alice and Susanne immigrated to Canada, sailing from Copenhagen on the Norwegian ship *Stavangerfjord* with a short stop in Norway. The next stop was Pier 21 in Halifax. From there they had a long train journey to New Westminster, B.C., arriving with only \$118 in their pocket. In Vancouver Hans quickly obtained a job as a bricklayer with a Danish Masonry Contractor. He received only \$2.00 an hour and was told it was because he could not speak English. Hans heard about better opportunities in Calgary and flew there to look for work.

At the airport Hans took a taxi, with four doors on each side, and it took him to the York Hotel in downtown Calgary. He thought that he had come to a real western city as there were people everywhere with cowboy hats and people shouting "Yahoo!" Hans gave the Taxi driver a note he had received from the Bricklayers Union in Vancouver and the Taxi driver took him to the

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Bricklayers Union in Calgary. When Hans came back out of the Union Office he was surprised that the Taxi driver had been waiting for him. Hans gave the Taxi driver the note he had received at the Union office and the Taxi driver started going back towards the Airport. Hans thought that he was being sent back, but then the Taxi stopped outside a jobsite. The driver went in and then came back out with the foreman and he said a bunch of stuff. Hans heard the word “work”. He knew what work meant and he opened up his suitcase, pulled down his dress pants and put his work clothes on right there on the sidewalk. The foreman had a look that said he had never seen anyone do this before and then said “Yeah, I guess you want to work”.



*Hans and Alice celebrating their wedding anniversary and his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, 1995*

downstairs to a big room filled with ten beds. The next day the lady made him lunch, his first ever peanut butter and jam sandwich. She made a nice dinner for them all and Hans just took a normal portion, thinking he could take more when the dish came around again. But everyone else filled their plate and there were no seconds. Hans learned quickly, and the next day he knew what to do. After about three weeks Hans had saved enough money for Alice and Susanne to join him in Calgary.

Hans and Alice first rented a basement suite and lived there for a while. Glenn, their son, was born in August 1961. They purchased their first home in Calgary in 1962, and Grace, their daughter, was born in January 1963.

Along with his business partner, Hans Larsen and wife Shirley, Hans and Alice started a small business making fried onions in their garage, which they sold to a supermarket. This was before you could buy fried onions in stores in Canada.

In 1970 Hans and Alice sold this house and returned to Denmark with their three children, where their children went to school and learned to speak, read and write Danish. But they soon realized

At 11:00 am that morning Hans was working! Shortly after the foreman came and said a bunch of loud words, not so nice, and the fellow working beside him packed up and left. After a while the foreman came again and said something, also in a loud voice, so Hans started to pack up his trowels. Another Danish Bricklayer came over and said to Hans, “What are you doing?” Hans said, “I just got fired!”. “No, no” the other bricklayer said to Hans, “the foreman just said, “Lunch Time!” The bricklayer then asked Hans “Did you bring a lunch?” Hans said “No, I just came from Vancouver this morning.” The Bricklayer then took him across the street and bought him a hamburger and a root beer (he had never tasted root beer before). Later in the afternoon the bricklayer asked him “Where are you going to sleep? Hans said he didn’t know, so the bricklayer said that he knew a lady who took in workers. Hans went there and she took him

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that Canada was now their home and returned a year later. One of their proudest moments was becoming Canadian Citizens in 1975.

On their return to Canada in 1971, Hans and Alice purchased five acres of land in Springbank, just west of Calgary, and built a beautiful home. They had a dog, a cat, two horses, ducks, and numerous gophers. In 1980 they renovated and added on to the home and also added an indoor swimming pool. They lived there until 2012 and then moved ten minutes from there into a gorgeous one story with fabulous views of the Rockies, but no longer on an acreage.



*The Sorensen residence, Calgary, built by Hans*

Hans and his business partner, Hans Larsen, founded Alta Masonry and later partnered with Ib Jensen Masonry. They restored many of the old stone buildings in Calgary, built numerous schools and apartment buildings. Hans and Hans, eventually bought out Ib Jensen and were then the sole owners of Ib Jensen Masonry, which remains the oldest

operating masonry contractor in Calgary today. Hans was well recognized for his business acumen and a respected leader in Calgary's masonry community. He sat on many boards, including the Masonry Contractors Association of Alberta South, the Canadian Masonry Contractor's Association, and numerous negotiating boards.

Meanwhile, Alice trained to become a hairdresser and worked as such at Eaton's for a few years.

Hans was a member of the Danish Naver Club and was at one time, president of the Calgary Danish Businessmen's Association. Hans and Alice were very active in the local and Danish communities, making many lifelong friends. They were active supporters of the Danish Canadian Club and the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary, Easter Seals, Children's Wish Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association and the "Thomas Sorensen Memorial Scholarship for Students with Disabilities" at Carleton University in Ottawa. Thomas had been a student at Carleton from 2013 to 2014. At the Church Auction Dinners Hans would often out-bid others to help raise more money and also to have a first chance at the buffet. Also to help raise money for the event Alice would often make a tall "Kransekage" to be auctioned off. Moreover, Hans and Alice were Danish Folk Dancers at the Opening Ceremonies of the 1988 Canada Winter Olympics in Calgary.

Hans enjoyed fishing, hunting, watching Animal Planet, Discovery and the History Channel and was always happy to share what he had learned. Alice enjoyed painting, line dancing, knitting, crocheting, and the Cozy "Hygge" Club, as well as making scrap books for her grandchildren. They enjoyed spending time at their vacation home in Invermere, British Columbia, and travelling around the world. They had a love for cruising, card games with family and friends, entertaining at their home and hosting many milestone celebrations at the Danish Canadian Club with family and friends.

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They have taught their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren many Danish traditions, and typical celebrations, such as Danish food, akvavit, dances, songs, and to never have anyone leave hungry. In 2003, Hans and Alice took their children, spouses and grandchildren to visit family and friends in Denmark. They were fourteen people in the family by this time, including



*The family at the Danish Canadian Club on Hans' 80<sup>th</sup> birthday*

Susanne (Bill), Glenn (Kathy), Grace (Boyse) and their grandchildren, Dawnell, Jolene, Jamie, Krystal Charlene, as well as Thomas, who passed away in 2014. Their family has since grown and they now have five great grandchildren, Kaylee, Riley, Lena, Michael and Charlotte.

Hans retired in 1999, leaving behind a legacy in Calgary's construction industry that is still recognized today. Hans was proud that his son, Glenn, continues the legacy. After his retirement, Hans and Alice not only enjoyed visiting family and friends but continued their joy of travelling, going on many cruises and seeing more "Wonders of the World". Sadly, Hans passed away on April 29, 2021 at the age of 85. Alice remains in their home and loves visiting with family and friends. Not least she enjoys her breathtaking view of the Rocky Mountains.



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# Johannes Buntzen, Vancouver

**Rolf Buschardt Christensen**

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Johannes Buntzen passed away in Copenhagen in October 1922, only 63 years old. Numerous newspapers reported his untimely passing. The Ottawa newspaper *Danebrog* summed his life up as follows: Buntzen had a winning personality, he was extraordinarily versatile, and he was gifted as a corporate executive, journalist as well as a songwriter. As a young man he traveled to England and New York and after his return to Copenhagen he became a journalist at the liberal newspaper *Dagsavisen*. In 1890 Buntzen left Denmark and settled in Vancouver where he was completely unknown. He became bookkeeper for the just-established local electric railway company and incredibly he was appointed the company's managing director only some years later.

Johannes Charles Martin Buntzen was born in Copenhagen on December 16, 1859, the last of ten children. His father, Josias Buntzen, was an engraver, specializing in office stamps, seals and postage stamps. His mother was Juliane Franziska, née Køhler. Johannes Buntzen was married twice, the first time to Alvilda Philipa Amalie Carlsen. They divorced and his second marriage in Vancouver in 1890 was to Marie Wendrich, who had been born in Copenhagen. For Marie too it was her second marriage.

Buntzen attended school in Copenhagen and in 1876 he graduated from Mariboe Realskole. One of his classmates who also loved music was Salomon Levysohn, a talented pianist who eventually became the music director at the Royal Theatre. At the University of Copenhagen Buntzen studied law and at the same time he moved in literary circles, where he became known for writing songs and witty poems. For a time he was employed by Axel Henriques, who wrote satirical songs for popular shows (Revyer), songs with catchy melodies and lots of social and political comment.

As one observer noted, only those who stood on very intimate terms with Buntzen were aware of a distinctly emotional side to his nature, and that the practical, grave and almost sedate businessman had a sense of humor and a bright wit which he could loosen to the delight of his friends on appropriate occasions.

In 1878 Buntzen interrupted his studies and moved to Liverpool, England, to help his older brother, Emil, salvage his shipping agency. Buntzen succeeded and his brother became a prosperous businessman. In 1882 Buntzen returned to Denmark, where he worked as a journalist for *Dagsavisen* until 1886, when it ceased publication. He then worked as a clerk at the naval shipyards in Copenhagen. At the same time he wrote shows and songs, among them "I Midnatssolens Land" and "Kjøbenhavnserblod" which were performed at Morskabstheatret in Frederiksberg. At the naval shipyard he was offered a position as manager, but declined, and shortly after he left the country.

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In 1889 Buntzen and Marie left Denmark and immigrated to Canada. They arrived in Vancouver in 1890, after a short stay in Winnipeg. At the time Vancouver was a boom town. It had just been incorporated four years earlier. Three years after his arrival Johannes Buntzen was joined in Vancouver by his older sister, Marie Elisabeth, and her husband Johan Ulrich Laursen.

Having worked for his brother's shipping agency in Liverpool, Buntzen ventured down to the waterfront and before long he got a job as a longshoreman. Yet, having experience as a bookkeeper he soon found employment as an accountant with Messrs. Tatlow & Spinks on Cordova Street. Buntzen and Spinks often spoke about Liverpool, as Spinks was born there. John Spinks had come to Vancouver in 1886, where he teamed up with Robert Tatlow, selling real estate and insurance. Robert Tatlow, born in Ireland, had also come to Vancouver in 1886, where he established himself as a financial agent. Knowing Tatlow would serve Buntzen well in his career, as Tatlow would go on to serve on the Vancouver Parks Board, be elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and serve as Minister of Finance under Premier Richard McBride. They would meet again, as Tatlow would later also sit on the board of the B.C. Electric Railway Company.

In 1893 Buntzen moved from Tatlow & Spinks to Messrs. Ross & Ceperley on Hastings Street, the main commercial street at the time. Arthur Ross and Henry Ceperley were also major movers within the community. Arthur Ross, born in Nairn, Ontario, was a lawyer who had come to Vancouver in 1884 to buy up land. Ross, who had been a Member of Parliament, had a considerable say in the choice of Vancouver as the CPR's West Coast terminus. He is also credited with obtaining Vancouver's large strategic military reserve as a park, soon christened Stanley Park.



*Johannes Buntzen*

Henry Ceperley, born in Oneonta, New York, had come to Vancouver in 1887, setting up a real estate business, and going into business with Arthur Ross in 1888. Making the acquaintances of these four businessmen helped Buntzen advance within the local business community. Henry Ceperley sat on the board of directors of the Vancouver Electric Railway & Light Company, the accounts of which were kept at his office. As the bookkeeper it fell to Buntzen to look after these accounts and he soon acquired a comprehensive knowledge of the business and financial position of the company. In the process Buntzen discovered that the affairs of the company were in a completely unsatisfactory condition, both in terms of its management and its finances.

At the same time British Columbia had been greatly affected by the American economic downturn, which in the United States was referred to as the "Panic of 1893". It was the worst

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depression the United States had endured since its founding. In the case of the Vancouver Electric Railway & Light Company the company's income was insufficient at the time to pay the shareholders.

The Vancouver Street Railway Company had been founded in 1888 by Harry Abbott, several other CPR officials and a number of real estate men, including Frederick Innis and Mayor David Oppenheimer. They secured a provincial charter which limited the speed of the streetcars to six mph, but did not specify if the streetcars would be pulled by horses or driven by electricity. In 1889 it was decided to go with electricity and the Street Railway Company was amalgamated with the local electric lighting company into the Vancouver Electric Railway and Light Company.

The amalgamation brought one of Canada's first electric street railways into operation. Its 3.5 miles of track ran through the commercial districts and linked the residential areas on each side of downtown. However, the Vancouver Electric Railway & Light Company soon found itself in serious difficulty, due to its premature expansion into the Fairview district on the south side of False Creek and because of the severely depressed bond market.

The railway company barely survived the Panic of 1893. Thus it was hardly a surprise when in the spring of 1894 all the electric railways of Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria went bankrupt. It was at this time that Frank Barnard came to the rescue of the electric railway companies, in the process bringing Buntzen with him. Frank Barnard, born in Toronto, was an astute British Columbia businessman, sitting on the board of several companies. He was also a Member of Parliament and in 1914 he would be appointed Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

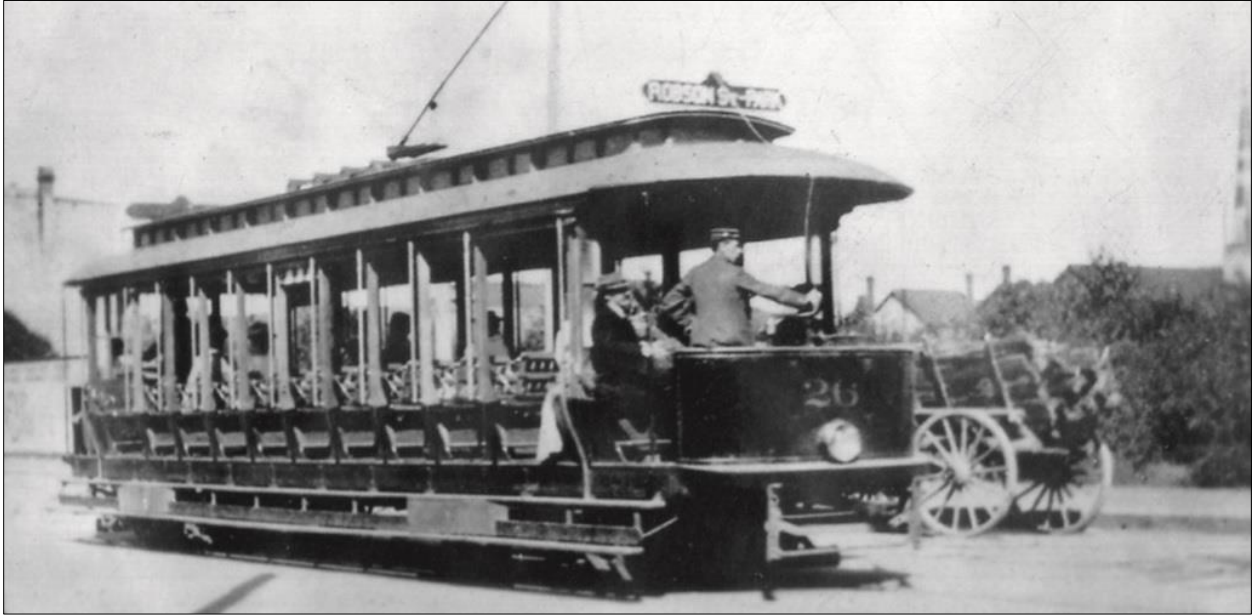
Realizing the position Vancouver would ultimately hold by virtue of her strategic location as the terminal of a trans-continental railroad, Frank Barnard now formed the Consolidated Railway Company, a holding company, whereby he set up an inter-urban transit system, which helped spur the growth of Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria. Both the Vancouver and the New Westminster tram companies were bought by Barnard at a public auction. With the establishment of the Consolidated Railway Company Barnard hired Buntzen as business manager. Two years later Barnard reorganized the company, while bringing in a powerful group of British investors, headed by Robert Horne-Payne who knew Canada well. He was on the board of directors of the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway and he was chairman of the Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Fields Company. Horne-Payne and his team with access to other investors quickly took over the Consolidated Railway Company and formed in 1897 the British Columbia Electric Railway Company (BCERC) with headquarters on Cordova Street. Frank Barnard was reappointed the managing director of the new company, while Buntzen was appointed comptroller. Shortly after, however, Barnard organized his own resignation and arranged for Buntzen to become the Managing Director.

The Vancouver Power Company had been incorporated by Frank Barnard in January 1898, as a subsidiary of the electric railway company. According to Barnard's plan Buntzen was in April also made general manager of the new power company.

These new companies quickly emerged as successful and growing enterprises. While owned by the investors in London, the day to day operations of the companies were managed by Buntzen and his team, in consultation with the board in London. Buntzen was a dynamic and level-headed

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man, and he was both forward looking and forthright. He was therefore prepared to push the board into major decisions. Buntzen made the point that the company must keep up with the demand for power, or be prepared to face the competition.



*Streetcar on Robson Street, Vancouver*

Competition there was. The Stave Lake Power Company was incorporated in 1901, for the purpose of selling power to both Vancouver and New Westminster. The company included several influential persons, among them former Prime Minister Charles Tupper. Without adequate financing, however, it never became a threat, although for the next ten years it would waste no opportunity to harass its rival, the British Columbia Electric Railway & Light Company.

Buntzen's salary is indicative of the company's appreciation of his services. In 1898 his salary was raised from \$200 to \$250 per month. Later it was raised to \$5,000 per year and on April 1, 1902 to \$6,000. From time to time Buntzen received additional bonuses. In 1898, he was given 75 shares of fully paid-up shares valued at ten pounds Sterling each. In 1903 he took a six month's holiday and was given \$2,000 for travel expenses. For comparative purposes, in 1904, motormen and conductors earned between 20 and 27 cents per hour.<sup>1</sup>

### **Building a hydroelectric generating station**

When the first streetcars went into service in 1890, the electricity required was generated by a 1,500 kilowatt steam plant on what is now Union Street. As Vancouver grew and the tramway service expanded, more power was needed. Buntzen reported regularly to Horne-Payne in London regarding events and needs, as major decisions had to be decided by the Board in London when large expenditures were contemplated. With London's approval the company started looking for a location near Vancouver where hydroelectricity could be generated. The company found it on the North Shore at Beautiful Lake north of Port Moody.

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In 1901 the Vancouver Power Company received permission from the Provincial Government to use the water from the large, long and high Coquitlam Lake. The plan was for the company to build a tunnel to carry water from Coquitlam Lake down to Beautiful Lake. The difference in water level between the two lakes was nearly ten metres, which would provide enough energy to generate a turbine. A dam and the huge annual rainfall in the surrounding mountains would ensure there was always enough water in Coquitlam Lake.

Buntzen supervised the project, while the engineering firm Hermon & Burwell carried out the preparations required to construct a dam, a tunnel and a power station at Beautiful Lake. In early 1902 some eminent engineers from San Francisco and New York were asked to inspect the site and endorse the project, which they did. Work on the project started in the summer of 1902. Half a year later the tunnel from Coquitlam Lake to Beautiful Lake was begun, and to speed up the work, the 3.6 km tunnel was drilled from both ends at the same time. The tunnel under Eagle Mountain, drilled through solid granite, extended to a maximum depth of 1.2 km below the surface. For the crews drilling the tunnel the working conditions were harsh and there were frequent accidents and fatalities. The crews worked in three shifts, twenty-four hours a day, and even when a man died, they had to keep working.<sup>ii</sup>



*Water flowing from Coquitlam Lake*

It was a memorable day in June 1903 when the 1,500 kilowatt generator at Buntzen Powerhouse No. 1 on Beautiful Lake went into service, bringing electricity from the powerplant to downtown Vancouver, a distance of over 25 km.<sup>iii</sup>

Nearly two hundred people were present for the grand opening of the plant, including Premier McBride and Finance Minister Robert Tatlow. Buntzen was in a great mood when he introduced Sir Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, who had been given the honour to activate the flood-gates at Coquitlam Lake, allowing the water to rush through the tunnel inside the massive mountain separating the two lakes. When the water burst forth the spectators cheered and the hired band played. The crowd had just witnessed the greatest engineering feat to date on Canada's West Coast.

Buntzen's motivation had been to provide power to industry, public transportation and nearby cities. He therefore went before Vancouver City Council urging the council to attract new industry that could use this new source of power. City Council was so pleased with the idea as well as the result at Beautiful Lake that it renamed the lake for Buntzen. They saw Buntzen as a

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visionary. A Vancouver Power Company brochure at the time gave credit to three men in particular for this grand undertaking, Buntzen, Horne-Payne and Sperling, who would become Buntzen's successor.

### **Caring for the employees**

On August 29, 1903 *The Province* newspaper reported that Buntzen had returned from his trip to Europe, where he spent two weeks in London, meeting with Robert Horne-Payne, and then two weeks in Paris, followed by ten weeks in Copenhagen. And then before returning to Vancouver he again spent two weeks in London.

In London Buntzen had spoken to the Board about the company's relationship with its employees. Buntzen wanted to do something for the employees so they would take a more active interest in the well-being of the company. Before Buntzen took over and for a time thereafter some of the workers had clearly sabotaged management. Now that the company had emerged as the largest tramway operation in Canada, Buntzen felt the company should do something for the salaried employees.

In September *The Province* eagerly reported that a banquet had been held in Buntzen's honour at the Badminton Hotel on Howe Street, an elegant three storey building with balconies along each side of the building. Speaking of his relationship with the employees, Buntzen said he stood for the principle of mutual confidence. He said there would always be differences between labour and what was called capital, but Buntzen thought that the word capital was very much abused. In a sense, he said, we are all capitalists and all labourers. For instance, he said, there are in the company many small shareholders who have preferred to invest their savings with the prospect of getting a higher rate of interest than a bank would offer.

*The Colonist* newspaper in Victoria had in October reported that the BCERC had given all employees a share in the profits earned during each year over and above their regular salaries. The company employed about 300 men and in 1902 each man had received \$25. "This is not a scheme to keep them from unionizing; indeed they all belong to the International Brotherhood of Street Railway Employees." In fact, the company even helped the employees in forming local unions.<sup>iv</sup> The employees also belonged to the BCERC employees sick benefit association, which was supported by a modest monthly subscription by each employee.

Buntzen thought it was the company's duty to look after the interest of the workers, and that in the end it would be good for the company. As *The Colonist* reported, "Both the chairman of the Board, R. M. Horne-Payne, an English financier, and the first general manager, Johannes Buntzen, thought it their duty to look after the men's interests and moreover that in the end it will be to the good of the company."

As was his approach, Buntzen boldly addressed the employees and suggested that they take a willing interest in the company's operations. Despite some preliminary ridicule and mistrust, from that day the company flourished. In this and other respects, Buntzen was a pioneer in the implementation of ideas that only slowly permeated elsewhere.

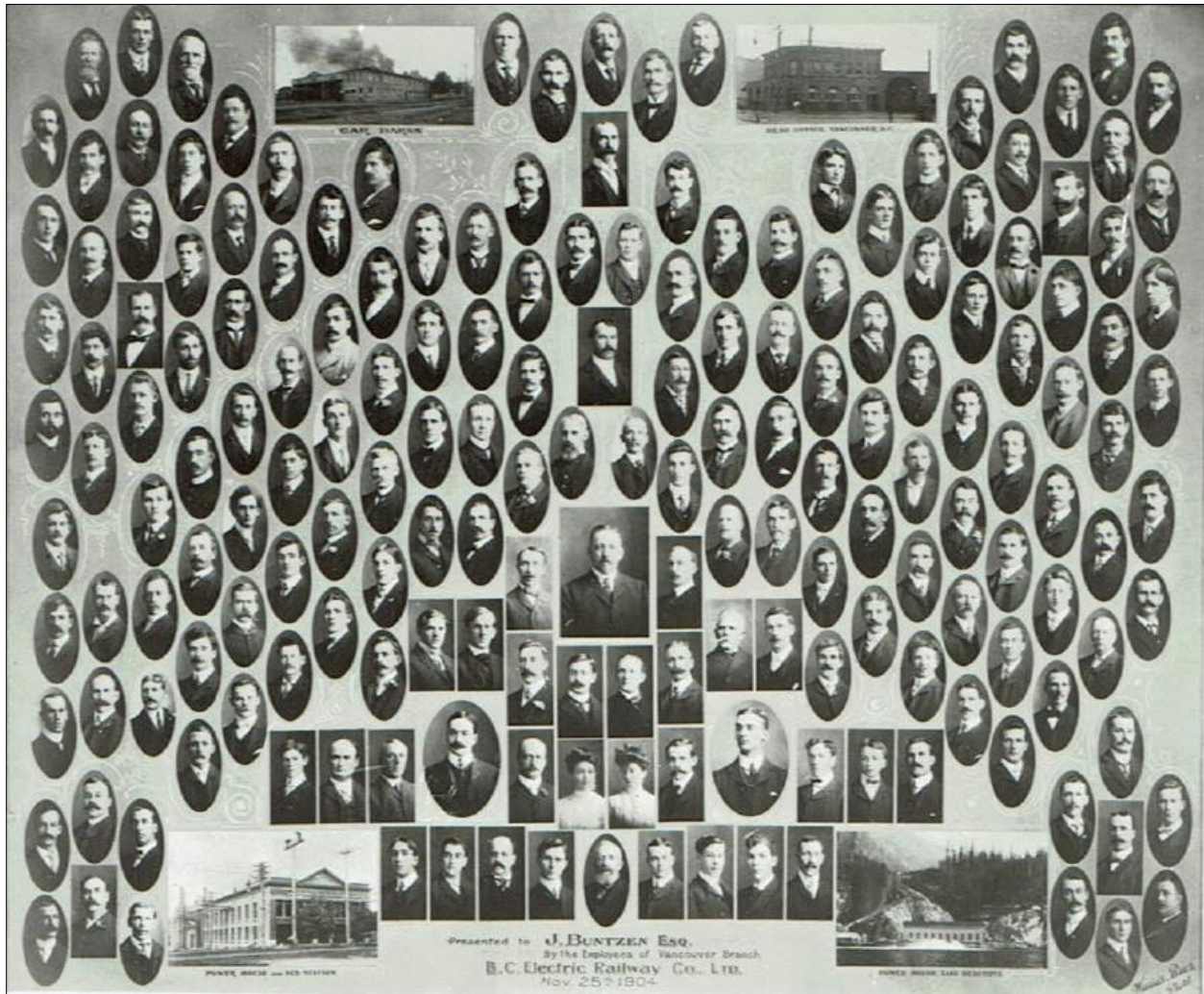
In 1902-03 Buntzen served as a member of the large provincial tax commission, and at one point he was offered the post of finance minister of British Columbia, a position he, however, declined. Not long after, in January 1904, Buntzen was elected to the Board of Directors of the exclusive Terminal City Club.

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In 1904 the BCERC began acquiring gas companies in Vancouver and Victoria. One of the first was the Vancouver Gas Company, incorporated in 1886, and acquired in 1904. Over the next two years BCERC acquired another five gas companies. The BCERC was starting to dominate completely the market in electric power, transportation as well as gas. To top it off, the BCERC began selling gas appliances to consumers.

In June 1904 City Council approved Buntzen's plan to run streetcars alternately down Hastings and Cordova. The streetcars along Hastings Street would in the future travel as far as Sixteenth Avenue, while the trams going around Cordova Street would only go as far as Ninth Avenue. To make it up to the property-owners on Cordova Street for the withdrawal of half the present number of mainline streetcars, trams would run along Cordova Street on a ten-minute schedule.

In February 1905 Buntzen left for England to confer with the Board regarding the impending purchase of the Lulu Island branch of the CPR and the electrification of that line. On his trip east Buntzen stopped for a day in Winnipeg, where he met with William Whyte, second vice-president and general manager of the CPR regarding the final details of the transfer of the Lulu Island Line.



1904 group photo of employees presented to Mr. Buntzen (middle photo)

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When Buntzen returned from London in April he announced that he was stepping down as General Manager to become Managing Director. He would reside in London, but would spend three months in Vancouver each summer. The new general manager in Vancouver would be Rochfort Sperling. While in London the directors unanimously approved the expenditure of \$120,000 for electrifying the Lulu Island Line. They also approved \$60,000 for relaying the double track on Hastings Street between Granville and Cambie.<sup>v</sup>

On July 7, 1905 the employees of the New Westminster branch of the BCERC presented an address to Buntzen who was leaving for England the following week. The address was read by Mr. D.J. Stuart, president of the local Street Railwaymen's Union. It referred in complimentary terms to the open-minded, just and generous attitude of Mr. Buntzen to the employees. At the conclusion of the address Mr. W. Dunlop, the senior employee of the company, presented Mr. Buntzen with a handsome tea service of five pieces. Buntzen in acknowledging the gift expressed the pleasure it gave him to look back over their cordial relations.

On Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at midnight the employees of the BCERC gathered at Vancouver City Hall on Main Street to make a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Buntzen. All the married employees of the company were accompanied by their wives and families, which made a gathering that, filled Vancouver City Hall to the doors. The event was held at midnight in order for all the employees to be present. The stage was beautifully decorated with flags, coloured lights, palms, and a variety of flowers. Not only were all the Vancouver employees present, but there was also a delegation from Victoria, consisting of Mr. A.T. Goward, manager in that city, and Mr. H.A. Ritchie, president of the Victoria union. The New Westminster branch was represented by its manager Mr. Frederick Glover.

Mr. Goward presided; while with him on the stage were a number of the company's oldest employees. The appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Buntzen was the signal for an outburst of applause. Mr. Goward started things off by expressing the regret of every man in the employ of the company at the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Buntzen. As general manager Mr. Buntzen had visited Victoria frequently. After a few remarks, Mr. Goward called on Mr. A.G. Perry, president of the Vancouver Street Railwaymen's Union, to read the address. Prior to doing so, Mr. Perry spoke of the courtesy with which he had always been received by Mr. Buntzen in connection with matters affecting the union. He emphasized how amicably everything had been settled. He then read the address, which was handsomely illuminated on parchment, and read as follows:

To Mr. and Mrs. J.C.M. Buntzen: We, the employees of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company Limited, and the Vancouver Gas Company Limited, desire, on the eve of your departure from British Columbia to ask you acceptance of a gold watch and a ring in token of our esteem and goodwill. Your removal from our midst is a cause of sincere regret. We shall retain a warm place in our hearts for you both, and we are sure that you will always look back with pleasure to the years you have spent here, guiding, directing and helping us all. Our earnest wish is that you may both be blessed with good health and happiness, and we look forward with anticipation to the day when we may see you once again in Vancouver.<sup>vi</sup>

In conclusion Mr. Perry said that he considered the presents as very appropriate. The ring would remind Mrs. Buntzen of the large circle of friends she had in Vancouver among the street

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railwaymen, while the watch would remind Mr. Buntzen of the time he had spent in Vancouver directing the company's affairs.

Mr. George A. Dickie, one of the oldest employees in the company's service was then called upon to make the presentation of the watch to Mr. Buntzen. Mr. Dickie spoke of the admirable manner in which Mr. Buntzen had always treated the employees, and said he was sure the managing director's path in England would be one of roses, as he had taken the company when it was a small infant and made it one of the largest and most prosperous companies west of Toronto. He then presented the watch, which had on the inner case the following inscription, "Presented to J. Buntzen Esq. by the employees of the Vancouver Power Company, Vancouver Gas Company and the Vancouver and Victoria branches of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company, July 8, 1905."

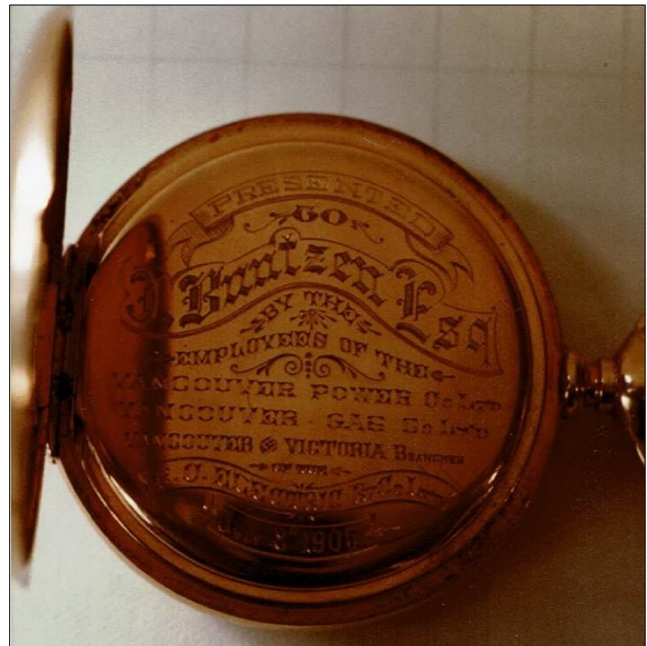
The watch from Vancouver watchmaker George E. Trorey was manufactured especially to order. It had a twenty-three diamond and ruby jeweled American movement, in a solid eighteen carat case. The gold nuggets chain which accompanied it, was a fine sample of the goldsmith's art, and had been made by Mr. Trorey himself.

Mr. H.A. Ritchie, president of the Victoria Union, then presented the ring to Mrs. Buntzen, which he did with a few well chosen remarks testifying the warm regard in which the employees held Mrs. Buntzen.

A tremendous ovation was given Mr. Buntzen as he rose to reply. Everyone joined in singing *For he's a jolly good fellow*, followed by three cheers.

Buntzen was visibly moved, and said he thanked them from the bottom of his heart, and assured them that any success which had attended his efforts as general manager would not have been possible had it not been for the loyal support of the men at all times. He said this was the saddest occasion in his whole business career. In remarking upon the fact that it was twelve years since he had assumed responsibility for the company's accounts, Mr. Buntzen recalled some of the incidents of the earlier days. He referred also to the time when the confidence between the men and himself did not exist to such a full extent as it did at present. He then revealed how these matters had been surmounted. Moreover, he trusted this confidence and loyalty would be transferred to Mr. Sperling, Mr. Goward and Mr. Glover.

Buntzen underlined that while he was leaving Vancouver his thoughts would always be with the men here. And he would not be able to rest calmly until he had accomplished one thing which had been uppermost on his mind for a long time, namely, a pension plan for the men who had spent their lives in the employ of the company. He hoped that by the time of his visit next year



*Gold watch with inscription was inherited by John Buntzen of Lyngby, Denmark*

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he would have devised a plan which would assure comfort and security for the older men, without being a burden on the young men. In conclusion Mr. Buntzen, also on behalf of his wife, expressed his deep gratitude for these expressions of goodwill on the part of the employees with whom he had so long been associated.

Amid the strains of *Auld Lang Syne* Mr. and Mrs. Buntzen left the platform and stationed themselves at the door, where they shook hands with each employee as they left the hall. Six days later they left for England.

When Buntzen had taken the reins in 1897, the company had been in a chaotic condition, the steam generating plants were inadequate and unreliable, the rolling stock mostly obsolete, the tracks and roadbed were in bad shape, and the terminals and repair shops were utterly insufficient for their purposes. Facing these challenges the average man would have broken down or abandoned the task in despair. But Buntzen was not your average man. He had courage, tenacity, wisdom and excellent managerial skills. He was sincere and firm, and having undertaken the task he never faltered until he had the satisfaction of handing over to his successor a railway, power and lighting system modern to the last detail, and the equal of any on the North American continent. The workload, however, was just too much and it affected his health. In 1905 he felt compelled to retire from the active management of the company. He complained of having an affection of the throat for which he had been suffering for some time, which the climate in British Columbia seemed to aggravate.<sup>vii</sup>



*The power generating station on Buntzen Lake*

Among his accomplishments were the negotiation of the agreement of 1901 with the City of Vancouver, the organization and development of the Vancouver Power Company, including the hydroelectricity power station on Buntzen Lake, the acquisition of the Lulu Island Railway, the extension of the company's light and railway system into North Vancouver, South Vancouver, Burnaby and Richmond, the double-tracking of all the principal streetcar lines in Vancouver, as well as the purchase of the Vancouver Gas Works.

When Buntzen retired in 1905, Rochfort Sperling became the general manager. Rochfort Sperling, who until then had been superintendent, was born in London. He was an electrical engineer and businessman. He had come to Vancouver in 1896 and then joined the B.C. Electric

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Company. Sperling would oversee a phenomenal expansion of the company, as the period 1905 to 1913 witnessed the greatest boom in B.C. history, and a great expansion of the streetcar network on the lower mainland.



*Buntzen Recreation Area on Buntzen Lake (Photo by the author).*

In May 1906 Buntzen and his wife returned to Vancouver. They had crossed the Atlantic on the recently launched *RMS Carmania*, owned by the Cunard Line, which could carry 2,650 passengers. It had three propellers, each driven by a Parsons steam turbine. The ship could cross the Atlantic in just seven days. On their train journey across Canada they briefly stopped in Winnipeg, in order for Buntzen to talk to CPR officials about the Lulu Island Line.

Buntzen stayed in Vancouver for three months. He had not come to make any important announcements regarding extravagant expenditures for extensions and improvements to the company's operations, but to inquire into the public feeling regarding the question of municipal ownership, as the majority of citizens had voted in favour of municipal ownership of the company in the last civic election when a referendum was held on the question. The outcome of the referendum had come as a complete surprise to the directors of the company.

In Vancouver Buntzen immediately took up contact with friends and with various levels of management within the company. Buntzen's mission was simply to investigate. He said he had been sent out by the London Board of Directors to inquire into the state of public feeling in Vancouver in connection with the question of municipal ownership. The vote came as a shock, particularly in view of the fact that the company had been very generous in its dealings with the city, not least in regard to street improvements. The company had spent over \$40,000 in paving the central portion of fashionable Hastings Street, when the company was only legally required to maintain eight inches on either side of the tracks.

In addition to meetings with the media, local politicians, various companies and city hall, Buntzen had some good news for the employees of his company in regard to establishing a pension plan for the employees. Buntzen had spent considerable time investigating the various pension systems of the leading railway lines in England and the rest of Europe. Some of them were so complicated that it would require a mathematician to figure out what any of the employees would get out of it. But out of the many plans which he had studied he had selected one, the extreme simplicity of which recommended it strongly to him. He hoped it would be

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favourably received by the men. It had been a delicate matter, trying to deal equably with both old and new employees.

When Buntzen inaugurated the profit-sharing system in 1903 whereby every employee who had been in the company's service for a year would receive a portion of the company's earnings each year as a bonus, he stated then that if it continued in force for three years the company would probably never change it. So the men continued to receive a sum equal to a third of one per cent on all the company's profits in excess of four per cent. This was a first in North America.

Buntzen also stated that he intended to take up with city hall the matter of a permanent bridge over False Creek as soon as possible. He was anxious to see a bridge wide enough to encompass double tracks. The company, he stated, was perfectly willing to bear its proper proportion of the cost of construction of such a viaduct across False Creek.

As well, Vancouver Mayor Frederick Buscombe wanted to talk to Buntzen about reducing the incandescent lighting rates, and abolishing the meter charges.

On his one-day trip to Victoria Buntzen announced, as recommended by A.T. Goward, that the Douglas Street line would be extended to Saanich Road. The cost had been estimated to be about \$10,000.

When Buntzen moved to Denmark in 1906 he stepped down from the Board, but was immediately appointed Advisor. Yet, his involvement with the company more or less ceased. After returning to Copenhagen, he occasionally dabbled in literary and journalistic activity. A couple of years after his return to Denmark he was offered the position of President of *Den Danske Landmandsbank*, the largest bank in Denmark, but he declined. For the last few years of his life, he was a journalist at *Finanstidende*, the foremost financial newspaper in Denmark.

The late Harry Cotton, a B.C. Land Surveyor, said the following about Buntzen. "He has been called the 'grand-daddy of electricity in British Columbia,' a label well earned. His services to the BCER were recognized in April 1905, when he became managing director of the company. By all accounts, he was a modest and fairly retiring man. On the other hand, there was no doubt as to his popularity in the city and throughout the whole company as well, to the extent that he was even made an honorary member of the International Brotherhood of Street Railway Employees. There would be no labour troubles while he was at the helm. During his time in Vancouver he was a strong supporter of the arts in music and literature, although this is less well known."

Displaying his artistic talents he wrote the play *Paa Farten* (On the Go), which was performed at the Sønderbro Teater in Copenhagen in early 1916. It was based on his life. Meanwhile Buntzen's health gradually deteriorated over the years and he died in Copenhagen on October 2, 1922.

That was the same year that the traffic in Vancouver switched from driving on the left side of the road to the right. The change, planned for 1921, actually had to be delayed one year due to the time it took to modify the streetcar grid, so it wasn't until 1922, that Vancouver drivers finally made the switch to drive on the right. The streetcar company's name was later changed to BC Electric, and then when it was nationalized by the B.C. government in 1961, to BC Hydro.

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Vancouver Public Library

Terminal City Club, Vancouver

Burnaby Archives

Burnaby Public Library

British Columbia City Directories

New Westminster Historic Centre and Museum

Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg

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<sup>i</sup> “The B.C. Electric Railway Company 1897-1928”, Patricia Roy, Ph.D. dissertation UBC; footnote p. 53.

<sup>ii</sup> “The Lonely Power Plants that skirted the Law”, Jesse Donaldson, Hidden Vancouver, *Montecristo Magazine*, October 9, 2018

<sup>iii</sup> “Coquitlam’s power surged thro’ tunnel” *The Province*, June 12, 1903, p. 2

<sup>iv</sup> “The BCER and its Street Railway Employees”, Patricia Roy, *BC Studies*, No. 16, Winter 1972-73, pp. 3-24.

<sup>v</sup> “Buntzen tells of new plans” *The Province*, April 13, 1905, p. 1.

<sup>vi</sup> “Presentation was made at Midnight”, *The Province*, July 10, 1905.

<sup>vii</sup> IBID.

# Johannes Buntzen

## in Memoriam

**Frederick Glover, B.C. Electric Employees' Magazine, 1922 pp. 4-5**

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The news of the death of Mr. J. Buntzen, first general manager of our company, which occurred at Copenhagen, Denmark, on October 2, was received with feelings of the deepest regret by the staff generally, and particularly by those who had the privilege of serving under him in the early life of the company.

Although Mr. Buntzen had been away from us for many years the memories and the traditions of his role still remain, and while few of the staff of today date their service back to the period during which he controlled the helm of the company's affairs in British Columbia, yet his fame and achievements are fairly familiar to all, having been remembered and handed down from the time of his departure to the present day.

Mr. Buntzen was born December 16, 1859, in Copenhagen, and was therefore, in his 63<sup>rd</sup> year at the time of his passing. His education was very thorough, and included a complete mastery of at least half a dozen languages, and knowledge of music attained by few. Beginning life as a journalist, he later became one of the foremost thinkers and writers on social science and political economy in Denmark, and as such speedily took a leading place in the literary world of his native city. His recreations were all mental; fishing, hunting, golfing or other physical exercise did not, apparently, appeal to him in any way. His spare hours were devoted to translations of English poems and stories into Danish, and to the writing of plays, one of which, a comedy, won him much distinction, proving so popular that it ran through a whole season in Copenhagen. Only those who stood on very intimate terms with Mr. Buntzen were aware of a distinctly emotional side to his nature, and that the practical, grave and almost sedate businessman had a sense of humor and a bright wit which he could unloosen to the delight of his friends at proper season.

Of true Nordic blood and type, it was only natural that the desire to venture abroad should in due course come to Mr. Buntzen, and, finding it irresistible, he selected Canada as a land offering more than average promise. With his sweet and talented young wife, who later became one of the most popular figures in the social life of Vancouver, he left Denmark in 1890, proceeding direct to Winnipeg. Opportunities there not coming up to expectations the young couple came on to Vancouver later in the same year.

Here again settled employment was slow in coming, but quite undiscouraged and confident in his ability to make good eventually, Mr. Buntzen took any work that offered, his first job being that of longshoreman. Having a good knowledge of accounts, it was not long before he found employment as bookkeeper with Messrs. Tatlow & Spinks, from which office he soon after transferred to that of Messrs. Ross & Ceperley.

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Mr. H.T. Ceperley was a director and secretary of the Vancouver Electric Railway & Lighting Company, the accounts of which were kept at the office of Messrs. Ross and Ceperley, and in the supervision of these accounts Mr. Buntzen soon acquired a full knowledge of the business and position of the company. Its affairs were in a very unsatisfactory condition at this time. Business was bad operating expenses high, and the net income insufficient to pay interest on the bonded debt. Efforts to raise fresh capital were unsuccessful, and as the bondholders were threatening to foreclose, the directors, anxious only to be relieved of the burden they could not carry, offered early in 1893 to turn the whole railway and lighting system over to the city if the latter would assume responsibility for the bonded debt of the company and pay its outstanding liabilities, the whole amounting to only \$400,000. The ratepayers having voted on the proposal April 27 of that year and rejected it, the bondholders foreclosed and took possession of the assets of the company two weeks later. The trustees for the bondholders retained Mr. Buntzen, with the title of secretary, to handle the affairs of the company, and later, in 1894, when all the bankrupt electric railways of Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria were acquired by Mr. F.S. Barnard (now Sir Frank Barnard, K.C.M.G.) for English capitalists he had succeeded in interesting, Mr. Buntzen became business manager.



*Johannes Buntzen, General Manager*

The new concern was known as the Consolidated Railway & Light Company, and Mr. F.S. Barnard was its general manager, also holding the office of director. In 1895 our present chairman, Mr. R.M. Horne-Payne, acting for himself and colleagues in London, purchased and took over control of all the properties and assets of the Consolidated Company. Mr. Barnard remained in charge as managing director, until the company was forced into liquidation by the Point Ellice bridge disaster at Victoria and after the organization of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company Limited, to take over the business in 1897, he continued in chief control in British Columbia for about a year, when he resigned and Mr. Buntzen became general manager.

Eight years of the most strenuous sort of labour followed. The franchises of the company were in a chaotic condition, the steam generating plants inadequate and unreliable, rolling stock mostly obsolete, tracks and roadbed in bad shape, and terminals and repair shops utterly insufficient for their purposes, the whole producing a set of conditions under which the average man would have broken down or abandoned the task in despair. But Mr. Buntzen was not an average man. He had courage, tenacity, wisdom and high executive ability; also he had the faculty of impressing all with his sincerity and fairness, and having undertaken the task he never faltered until he had reduced chaos to order, turned failure into success, and finally had the proud satisfaction of handing over to his successor a power, railway and lighting system modern to the last detail, and

## BIOGRAPHIES

the equal of any on the continent. The doing of all this, however, left Mr. Buntzen somewhat broken in health, and in 1905 he felt compelled to retire from the active management.


To give in detail even an outline of the great things accomplished under Mr. Buntzen's management would fill a volume, and cannot be attempted here. Among the outstanding events were the negotiation of the agreement of 1901 with the City of Vancouver, the organization and development of the Vancouver Power Company, the acquisition of the Vancouver & Lulu Island Railway by lease from the CPR, the extension of the company's light and railway system into North Vancouver, South Vancouver, Burnaby and Richmond, the double-tracking of all the principal car lines in Vancouver city, and the purchase of the Vancouver gas works.

Mr. Buntzen took a deep and genuine interest in the welfare of the whole staff of the company working under him, and gave much thought to the best means by which the interest of the employee might be so bound up with that of the shareholder that labour difficulties might be wholly avoided. He devised, and with the consent of the chairman and directors, who, by the way, gave Mr. Buntzen splendid support in all matters, put into effect the profit-sharing arrangement, which continued for some years, but was finally eliminated at the request of the men, and offered a pension scheme based on the most generous lines, which, while accepted by a majority of the employees, did not receive the percentage of support required to bring it into being. The failure of the employees to give him their full and hearty support in this scheme, which was so obviously to their advantage, was a bitter disappointment to Mr. Buntzen.

As stated above, a partial failure in health compelled Mr. Buntzen to give up the reins of office in 1905, when he was succeeded by Mr. R.H. Sperling. The board of directors, however, would not permit him to entirely sever his connection with the company, and after adding him to the board, gave him the appointment of managing director, with headquarters in London, a position which he held for some years, and in which he was still retained in an advisory capacity when the end came.

Apart from his ability, uprightness and fairness in all business matters, which gave him a high place in public esteem, his kindly disposition endeared him to all who had the privilege of intimate acquaintance in private life, so that his removal by death is deeply regretted not only in company circles, but by a host of citizens who claimed his friendship. With these we join in tendering to Mrs. Buntzen our most sincere sympathy in her great and irreparable loss.

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WELCOME to

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

# Paul Borup, Montreal

**Rolf Buschardt Christensen**

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The Danish Club of Montreal was founded in 1922. In an article about the history of the club written by Willy Andersen, Jan Eisenhardt and Knud Petersen in 2002, these three former club presidents wrote that in January 1922, shortly after the arrival of the new Danish Consul General, Mr. Peter Schou, a group of prominent local Danes gave a lunch in his honour at Montreal's imposing Place Viger Hotel, both a grand hotel and a railway station, built in the French Chateau style by the CPR in 1898. The luncheon meeting was mentioned the next day in a Montreal newspaper, listing the Danes present and giving a summary of the Consul General's speech.

During a subsequent get-together of essentially the same group at the home of Consul General Schou on January 24, 1922, the people present decided, encouraged by the Consul General, to launch a Danish association. A committee was formed, consisting of C. Jørgensen, Axel Sørensen, I.P. Jørgensen, Paul Borup, [Legation Secretary, Rasmus] Kampp and H. de Lony, to prepare the necessary details. Shortly after, a meeting place was rented at Victoria Hall in Westmount, the so-called "chess room", with space for 30 - 40 persons, for evening meetings on the first Thursday of each month.

It was decided to call the association Den Danske Klub. Elected president was Mr. H. de Lony, who served as such for eight months. The next president was Paul Borup who would serve as club president for the next 21 years. Paul Borup was a leader who was involved in various community organizations, among them the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Rotary Club, the St. George Club in Westmount and the Canadian Club, Montreal. In *Kraks Blaa Bog*, the Danish Who's Who, Paul Borup listed his hobbies as golf, curling and lawn bowling, but he certainly spent many hours volunteering with the various community organizations, clearly his year-long hobby!

Paul G. Borup, born on July 21, 1878 in Copenhagen, was the son of gardener L. Borup. Paul graduated from Vesterbro Realskole with a diploma which included the study of English and German. In 1900 at age 22 Paul Borup immigrated to the United States, where he settled in New York. In 1902 in New York he married Anette Schmith, who had been born in Copenhagen in 1880. Together they had three children. Then in 1910 the Borup family moved to Montreal.

In Montreal Paul Borup worked as a travelling salesman for many years. Eventually he became sales manager for the National Tobacco Co., but quickly moved to the Lawson Lithographing and Folding Box Co. Ltd., where he became a principal and responsible for sales. He worked for Lawson for many years, while living on St. Catherine Road in Outremont. During the Second World War he was a keen supporter of Henrik Kauffmann and the Free Danes in the United States.

# Peter Schou, Montreal

**Rolf Buschardt Christensen**

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When Peter Schou arrived in Montreal at the beginning of January 1922, he quickly took the initiative to start what became The Danish Club of Montreal. Schou had just been appointed Danish Consul General to Canada but could not as a diplomat get too much involved in the Danish community. Yet, discovering that there were a considerable number of Danes in Montreal, but no Danish association, he immediately spearheaded the founding of a Danish club. Indeed, the Danish Club of Montreal was founded in Schou's home on January 24, 1922. Elected president of the club at that meeting was Mr. H. de Lony, who served in that capacity for eight months. The next president, Paul Borup, served as such for twenty-one years.

It is only natural that in Montreal Peter Schou is mainly known as the former Danish Consul General who founded the Danish Club. In Denmark, however, Schou is known as an expert on Russia and the Soviet Union, as an active member of the Danish Resistance Movement during the Second World War and as a prolific author, writing articles and books. For many Peter Schou is a hero, but he also faced great challenges and disappointments during his fascinating career.

Peter Christian Schou was born in Copenhagen to Peter Poul Schou and Nicoline Henriette Nielsen on April 10, 1883. He graduated from Gammelholm, probably the best school in Copenhagen at the time. Subsequently he obtained a law degree followed by a master's degree in economics from the University of Copenhagen. His first job was at the Customs Office in Copenhagen and later he volunteered at the Foreign Office. In 1911 he was hired full-time by the Foreign Office and was soon after posted to Berlin. In 1913 he was recalled to Copenhagen to become director of communications in the Ministry. In the spring of 1915 he was posted to Petrograd, the new name for the capital of Russia. From Petrograd he experienced the First World War and the Russian Revolution, becoming well-informed about Russian matters, and learning Russian. Due to the turmoil in Russia, the mission was closed in 1918, and he was transferred to Washington, D.C. While posted to the United States he married Karen Eyber in Mount Kisco, New York, in April 1920. She had been born in Copenhagen in 1897. Schou served in Washington until the end of 1921, when he was promoted and posted to Montreal as Consul General.

When Schou and the rest of the Danish diplomats had left Russia in 1918 they were not replaced due to the ongoing unrest in Russia. Finally at the end of 1922, the Communists were able to consolidate control of the country and establish the USSR. In 1924 Denmark recognized the Soviet Union, after Norway, Sweden and Great Britain had done so only a few months earlier. To fill the new important post in Moscow Denmark now needed a diplomat who was familiar with the country. Peter Schou fulfilled all the requirements. He was promoted to Minister and sent to Moscow as Denmark's first and highest ranking representative to the Soviet Union.

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Schou served in Moscow for eight years, further deepening his knowledge of the country and its new regime.

Eight years is a long time in a so-called hardship post. For a change Schou was in 1931 posted to Istanbul, accredited to both Turkey and Greece. Then in 1934 Schou was appointed Minister to Poland. Schou was in Warsaw when Nazi Germany attacked Poland on September 1, 1939. The mechanized German armed forces overwhelmed the Polish defences along the border and quickly advanced on Warsaw. Within a few days the Polish Foreign Ministry advised the diplomatic corps to evacuate the city and seek safety in Konstancin, a small spa town about 20 km south of Warsaw, which would be safe, as Warsaw was exposed to constant German bombing. Yet, Konstancin didn't remain safe for long. Schou and his staff were forced to move to first Naleczow, followed by Lublin, and then other towns, before reaching Romania, and finally Denmark.

In their haste, only the most necessary things were brought with them when they fled, such as the mission's seal and stamps, along with the record of visas and passports. Schou only left behind Legation Secretary Fritz Henningsen, who would burn the archives and take care of Danish citizens still in the city. Fritz Henningsen soon reported that the Danish mission, located on the busy Krolewska Street, a major thoroughfare, had been hit by five grenades, one of which demolished the bedroom and bathroom in Schou's apartment, while another grenade had destroyed the kitchen.

After his return to Denmark in October 1939, Schou carried out various duties in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. But he did not agree with Denmark's policy towards Germany and not at all after the Nazi occupation of Denmark in April 1940. Schou was also dissatisfied with his work in the ministry. After Germany attacked the Soviet Union in 1942, Schou got the idea that he should try to reach Moscow as an unofficial spokesperson for Denmark, much like Christmas Møller had in London. It was probably his goal to achieve the same status as Henrik Kauffmann in Washington, representing a "Free Denmark". But first he had to break with the Foreign Ministry and provoke his dismissal. He did so and then made contact with the Danish resistance movement, with his proposal. His plan was, with the help of Mrs. Alexandra Kollotai, the Soviet Union's ambassador to Sweden, to be allowed to reach Moscow to try to correct the common misconception in the Soviet Union that the Danes were pro-German. In November 1943, Schou succeeded in persuading the clandestine Freedom Council to support the plan, but the plan failed for the simple reason that the Russians, without saying so directly, did not want Schou back in Moscow. He knew the Soviet Union too well and he was not a communist. This outcome was a serious setback for Schou, who had put his position in the Foreign Ministry on the line. And after the war he did not get his job in the Ministry back. But in the history of the occupation of Denmark it is clear that it was Schou who took the initiative to restore Danish-Russian relations, thus laying the groundwork for the Soviet Union's recognition of Denmark as an allied nation.

In 1945, Peter Schou changed his name to Peter Skov. After the war he published several academic books and he wrote for the journal *Øjeblikket*, later joining the editorial board. He died in 1967.

# Huld admitted to Montreal Club by acclamation in 1928

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

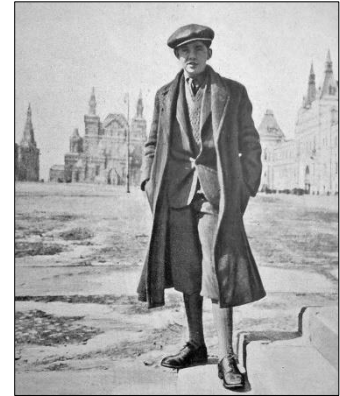
In 1928, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Jules Verne, the Danish newspaper *Politiken* held a competition in honour of the acclaimed French novelist, who had



*Palle Huld in Montreal*

written *Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea*, *Around the World in Eighty Days* and other fascinating adventures. The prize, fittingly, was a trip around the world. The competition was only open to teenage boys, who would be assisted in circumnavigating the globe in 46 days or less, unaccompanied, and by using any means of travel, with the exception of aviation.

The competition was won by 15-year old Palle Huld of Hellerup (Copenhagen). He left Denmark on March 1, 1928, travelling to Britain, Canada, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, the Soviet Union, Poland,



*Palle Huld in Moscow*

Germany and finally arriving back in Copenhagen 44 days later. It is estimated that about 20,000 people welcomed him home when he appeared on the balcony of Copenhagen City Hall.



*Palle Huld in Berlin*

In Canada he stayed in Montreal where he not only visited the office of the Canadian Pacific (to get his train ticket to Vancouver), but enjoyed lunch at The Danish Club of Montreal. He later returned to Montreal to study from 1928-1931. Here at a lunch the young Palle Huld was admitted to the Club by acclamation.

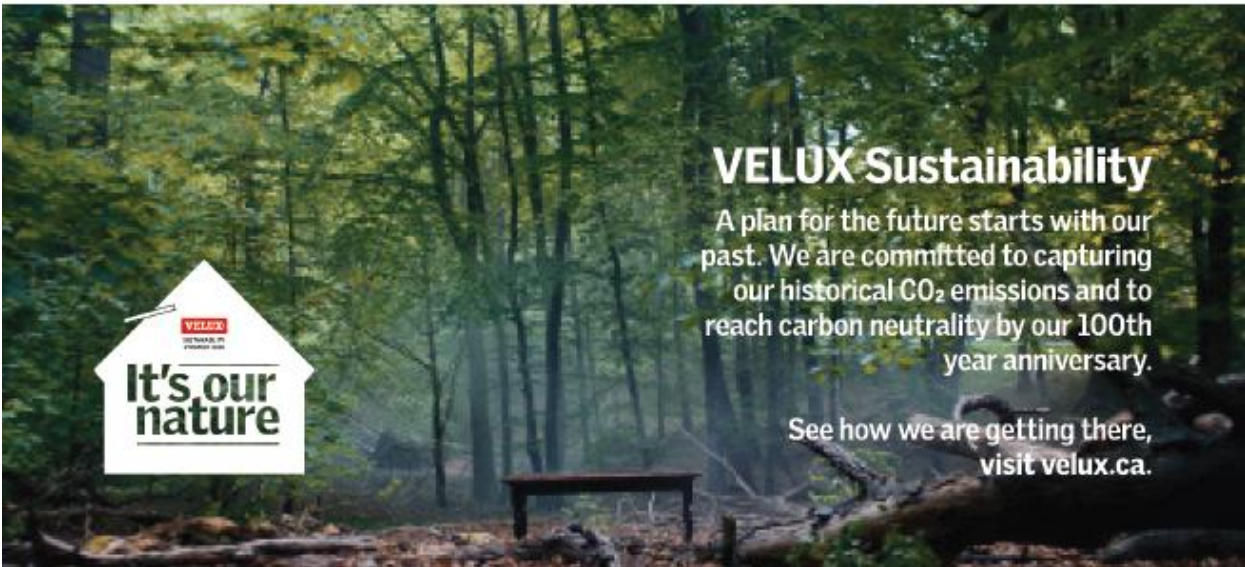
After his journey he published the book *Around the World in 44 Days*, which was translated into eleven languages. Palle Huld's trip also inspired Hergé (Georges Remi), the Belgian cartoonist, to create his popular Tintin character.

Palle Huld became an actor, appearing on stage in numerous productions, among them *Elverhøj* and *Death of a Salesman*. He appeared in forty movies, including Morten Korch's *Kampen om Næsbygård* and *Olsen Banden ser rødt*. In 1938 he married Edith Eva Fleron. Palle Huld died in November 2010.



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**The Danish  
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**STEP  
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THE  
SAGA**

# Danish Canadian National Museum is 30 Years Old!

**Ellen Bonde, Secretary, DCNM**

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When the Christiansen families closed the Dickson General Store in 1980 after 70 years of service to the Danish community of Dickson, Alberta, Esther Thesberg and Helen Lewis came up with an idea to turn it into a Museum. The Christiansen family donated the building, and The Danish Heritage Society of Dickson was formed. With a great deal of effort and community support, the Dickson Pioneer Store Museum was created.

Rolf Buschardt Christensen, President of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, suggested that the Society consider developing a National Danish Canadian Museum. The Danish Heritage Society started the ball rolling by joining the Federation and engaging Danish Canadian groups from across Canada. After feasibility studies and fundraising, the Verbena Dormitory property (originally a boarding house for girls attending high school in Dickson, Alberta) was purchased. The Danish Canadian National Museum was incorporated on June 12, 1992.



*Esther Thesberg presenting a commemorative plate to Queen Margrethe II of Denmark at the official opening of the Dickson Store Museum, October 1991. The Dormitory building as it appeared when purchased in 1992.*

The first Board of Directors consisted of Svend E. Nielsen - President; Anders Kjearsgaard - Vice President; Harry Jensen - Treasurer; Juanita Nissen - Secretary; and Directors: Elsie Dahl, Chris Christensen, Knud Elgaard, Kris Krogh Jensen, Ole Larsen, Sharon Thesberg, Knud Thisted, Rolf Buschardt Christensen, and Erling Hansen.

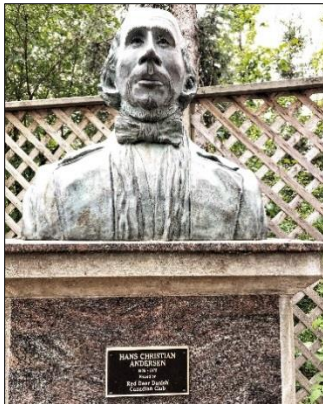
## ORGANIZATIONS



*Left Photo, May 26, 2002: Svend E. Nielsen is cutting a ribbon held by Andy Kjearsgaard on the Left and Svend B. Nielsen on the Right, with President Kirsten Wohlgemuth standing between Andy and the Museum Manager, Leo Eriksen.*

*Right Photo: The Danish flag Dannebrog is raised by a member of the Royal Danish Guards' Association. Behind him: Vita Christensen, Ottawa, and Glenna Hitchcock, Saint John, N.B.*

After several years of volunteer renovations, fundraising and donations the Museum was opened to the public on June 1, 2000. A grand opening was held at the Museum on May 26, 2002, in conjunction with the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada Conference in Red Deer. A bust of Hans Christian Andersen, a story-telling hut, and our mermaid were added to the Museum grounds in time for the grand opening.



*Left: Hans Christian Andersen bust, Center: story telling hut, Right: our mermaid*

The miniature Dagmar Pioneer Church, funded by Ole and Hanne Jensen of Scarborough, was completed by Bendt Husted and Ole Olson. It was dedicated in a separate ceremony in 2002.

For an in-depth description of the Museum's beginning, read Rolf Buschardt Christensen's article on page 34 of the 2002 Danish Canadian Conference Book published by the Danish Federation. It will be on the Museum website soon. Also in the 2002 Conference Book, (page

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44) there is an interesting story about the building of “Pigernes Hus,” (The Girls’ House) as the Dormitory was called, written by Andy Kjearsgaard.



*Construction of the Dagmeer Pioneer church on the Museum grounds*



### 2003

- Work on the Museum and grounds continued. The kitchen was upgraded and open-faced sandwiches were served.
- Plans were made for the Slykke brick bridge, and excavations for it were started.
- Plans for a Mindepark were underway.
- School Programs for grades 3, 4 and 5 were continued.
- The Museum partnered with three other local Museums to promote the tourism on the “Scandinavian Trail.”

### 2004

- During the winter and spring, the floors upstairs (the Dormitory bedrooms) were upgraded, linoleum was removed, and the original floorboards were sanded.
- New initiatives this year were “Danes Gone Country” and a “Garden House” at Spruce Meadows Festival of Nations.
- The Annual Gift Campaign to raise funds for the Museum was begun.

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- The Museum worked to become an Accredited Museum under the Alberta Museums Association.
- Forty East Jutland Dancers entertained at the Museum on September 2.
- The Museum partnered with the Dickson Store Museum for the Harvest Festival in Dickson and Julestue at the Spruce View Hall.
- The “Scandinavian Trail” brochure was completed and distributed to bus tour operators, Visitor Information Centers, and Travel Alberta.



*Juanita Nissen and Helen Lewis in the left photo serving smørrebrød,  
To an appreciative Julestue crowd in the right photo*

### 2005

- Ontario Directors of the Danish Canadian National Museum pledged to raise funds to purchase an additional 2.8 hectares (6.5 acres) adjacent to the Museum from Bethany Lutheran Church.
- The Danish Ambassador to Canada, Hr. Poul Erik Dam Kristensen, visited the Museum, among 10,000 visitors from May to September.
- The Museum received the David Thompson Region Tourist Award for tourist promotion.
- A drilling company tried to drill holes for bridge pylons, but found the soil was too unstable.
- A new deck was built on the west side of the Café, to add more seating room and take advantage of a great view of the grounds in pleasant weather.
- The Annual Gift Campaign continued for fundraising.
- A Family History and Genealogical Center was initiated.
- The Folke Fest celebrated the 200th anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen, and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alberta.
- Off-season events were the first Fastelavn celebration, bridge lessons and Danish lessons, all very successful.

### 2006

- The library (one of the original five bedrooms upstairs) was insulated and upgraded.
- The brick bridge and Memorial Wall were nearly completed.

## ORGANIZATIONS

- A pioneer log house built by the Thomsen family, and donated to the Museum, was hauled to the grounds by the current owner, Nick Nicholson. He also restored the house and offered the Museum a video of the cabin's move.
- A Dormitory Reunion was held in July.
- "Buy a Brick" campaign was started for raising funds for the Museum.
- Kresten and Karen Sommer bequeathed a large sum designated for a Museum project. The Sommer family decided a Viking ship would be fitting memorial to their parents.



*Thomsen Cabin after restoration*

### 2007

- Carl Sorensen met with the Shipyard Manager at the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, Denmark, and arranged for an authentic replica Viking ship to be built for the Danish National Canadian Museum.
- The Mindelund (Memorial Wall) was finished in the summer. People can donate for plaques to be mounted on the Wall in memory of their loved ones.
- Screw piles were installed to support the bridge and the foundation before it was laid in November.
- In the early 1900's, the Canadian Pacific Railway sold ready built farmstead packages to immigrant settlers to encourage settlement in Western Canada. A CPR house, built by the Nielsen family at Standard, Alberta, in 1910-11, was donated to the Museum by the farm's current owner. A foundation was poured for the house, which arrived in December. The Nielsen family donated the cost of moving the house to the Museum site.
- The Danish Canadian National Museum was awarded with "Recognized Museum" status from the Alberta Museum Association.



*Left photo: Mindelund Wall*



*Right photo: The Nielsen CPR House after its restoration*

## ORGANIZATIONS

### 2008

- The authentic hand construction of the Viking ship was started in Roskilde, Denmark. The Slykke Bridge at the Museum was opened. The bridge was built by Bendt Husted. It was a miniature replica of the bridge that his father had built in his Danish hometown of Slykke, when Bendt was a bricklayer apprentice to his father.
- Pathways to the bridge were surfaced, funded by the Red Deer Danish Canadian Club.



*Left: Carl Sorensen in Denmark with the oak used to construct the Freydis Joanna  
Right: Slykke Bridge*

### 2009

- The Thomsen cabin was officially opened July 25, 2009.
- The Viking ship was christened “Freydis Joanna” at the Roskilde Viking Ship Museum in Denmark with Carl Sorensen, Egon and Norma Sommer and other family members and dignitaries in attendance. The ship was brought to Halifax where it was displayed at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic for three weeks. It was then transported west by Egon Sommer as part of the family’s donation for the ship. The ship toured Danish settlements in Red Bank and New Denmark, New Brunswick; Montreal, Quebec; Ottawa, Toronto, and Pass Lake, Ontario; Winnipeg and Gimli, Manitoba; Redvers, Saskatchewan; Tilley, Standard, Calgary, Red Deer, Ponoka, Edmonton, and Sylvan Lake, Alberta, before arriving at the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. A celebration was held at the Museum on August 23, 2009, in honor of the Freydis Joanna’s arrival.

### 2010

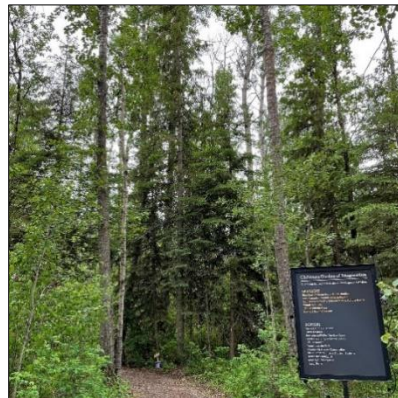
- A roof over the patio was started.
- Repairs were made to the Nielsen CPR house roof.
- The “Children’s Garden of Imagination,” featuring Hans Christian Andersen’s fairy tales was improved and walking trails were constructed.
- Eight donors of \$10,000 or more were honored at the first “Legacy Builders” supper.
- About 200 people attended the dedication ceremony of the Freydis Joanna at Viking Day, August 15.
- Plans for a *Vikingskib naust* (Viking ship house) were discussed.
- In September, Egon Sommer toured with the Viking ship, *Freydis Joanna*, to Burnaby, Ladysmith, Cowichan Bay, Victoria, and Kamloops, B.C. Egon’s parents had funded the

## ORGANIZATIONS

ship's authentic construction in Roskilde, Denmark, as well as the tour. The ship was returned to its home at the Museum on September 23, 2010.



*Left: Testing the Freydis Joanna in Roskilde Fjord  
Right: The Freydis Joanna arrives at the DCNM*



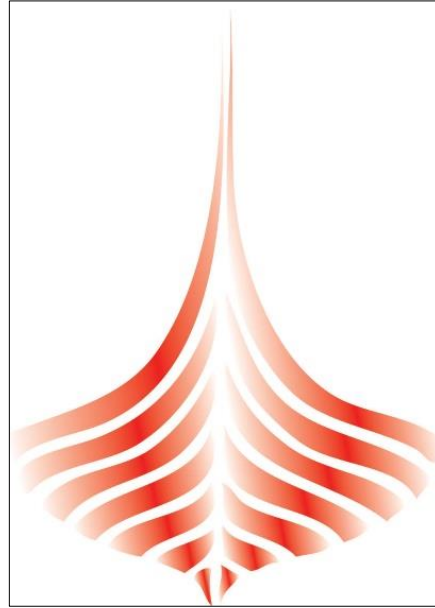
*Walking paths and signage in the Children's Garden of Imagination*

### 2011

- The patio roof, delayed by poor weather the previous summer, was completed.
- Steve Morck made a power point presentation of the Museum to be shown in Denmark.
- A work bee to tidy the Museum and grounds for opening and an æbleskiver instruction workshop were held. Signage for the Children's Garden of Imagination was improved, and Hans Christian Andersen stories were read to children in a gazebo built for that purpose.
- Danish Canadian clubs in the Ontario Region continued to donate funds to help pay for the extra land purchased from the Bethany Lutheran Church.
- The second annual Legacy Builders dinner was held honoring 10 people who had made large donations to the Museum. Seventeen members stated that they had included the Museum in their estate planning.
- "Step into the Saga" was adopted as a new brand and logo.

## ORGANIZATIONS

- Plans were drawn up for building a Naust to replace the tent in which the Freydis Joanna was stored.



*Left: New roof on the west deck  
Right: New branding for the museum*

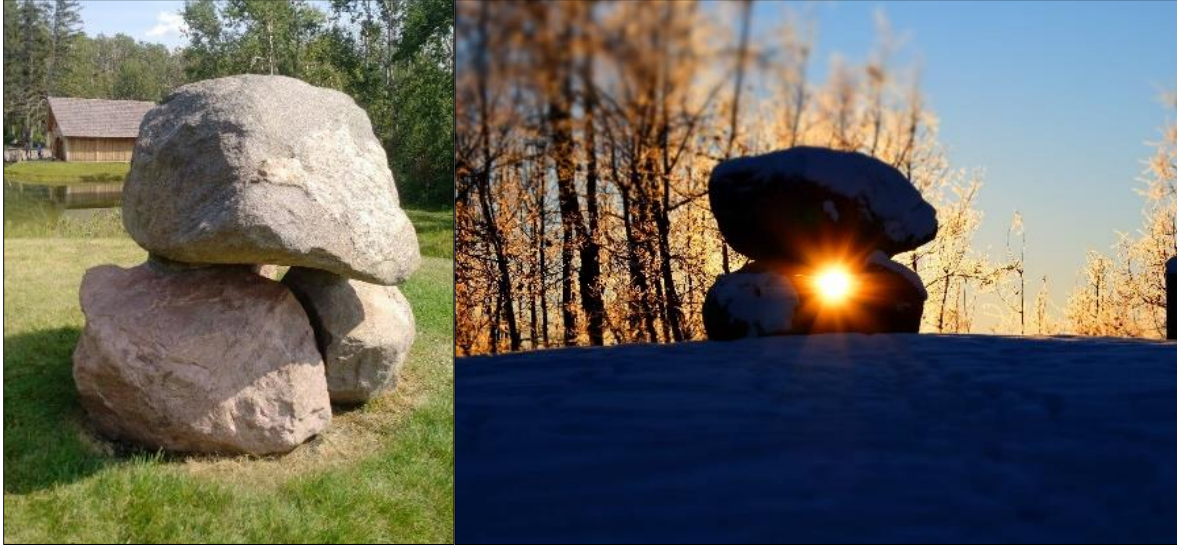
### 2012

- This was a year of policy making, planning, and restructuring for the Museum, with consultants hired to help volunteers operate the museum efficiently. A new web site design was initiated, and plans made for marketing the Museum to a wider audience. Policies, committee structures and strategic plans were developed or revised.
- In December, pilings were poured to build the Naust for the Freydis Joanna. Viking Day was held on August 19.

### 2013

- Marketing strategies were planned and a year-round manager hired.
- Large boulders for a *stenhøj* (dolmen) were located.
- In March, Svend Nielsen and Bendt Husted set up the *stenhøj* and started building the Naust, with the help of Christoph Niggli's expertise in timber frame buildings.
- A Policy Handbook for the annual care of the Viking ship was developed.
- The Naust was opened in the summer.
- A wish-list was developed for people who wanted to donate to a specific project.
- A power point presentation was developed for directors to display the Museum in their home provinces and the Facebook page was updated.
- A Danish church service and family picnic was held at the Museum.
- The Museum reported 5,000 visitors during the season.
- Steve Morck made a Museum presentation in Halifax, and Gordon Petersen in Vancouver.
- Anne Lise Pedersen of Toronto spent a working holiday at the Museum.

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*Stenhøj (dolmen) overlooking the pond*



*Building of the Naust from frame to completion and the Freydis Joanna in her new home*



*Left: Danish church service and family picnic  
Right: Vejen Garden performing at the Museum*

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### 2014

- “Saga Café” and “Saga Gift Shop” were the new names adopted as part of the rebranding.
- A new Museum sign was made and set up at the Dickson Corner.
- “Urban Systems” was hired to make a report on improved management of the Museum.
- The mortgage on the land purchased from Bethany Church was paid off, thanks to the Ontario Region of the Danish Federation.
- A dinner with the Danish Ambassador to Canada was held, with a raffle and Tombola (bingo), raising funds for the Museum.
- Vejen Garden (boys’ band from Vejen, Denmark) perform at Museum on Canadian tour.
- A story telling and writing workshop was introduced.
- Bendt Husted, Svend E. Nielsen and Egon Sommer laid the floor in the Naust.
- Three hailstorms did considerable damage to the Museum buildings and grounds, requiring insurance claims to be filed. The siding on the Museum was changed to a stucco and beam surface when it was repaired, to make it look more like a Danish building.
- Painting of the CPR House was completed.
- Loss of several Government grants left the Museum in financial difficulties.



*Left: The historic Verbena Dormitory building with stucco and new paint*

*Right: New signage at the Dickson corner, kitty-corner from the Dickson Store Museum*

### 2015

- A new Danish Canadian Museum website was developed.
- “Friends of the Museum” was initiated to help raise operating funds.
- A work crew from Bowden Penitentiary prepared the trails for resurfacing in 2016.
- The floor in the Nielsen CPR House was sanded and varnish removed. It was opened to the public in August.
- Steen Jochumsen donated and installed a new furnace in the Verbena Dormitory building.
- Svend E. Nielsen dredged the lake during the winter.

## ORGANIZATIONS



*Dredging the pond to improve the water clarity*

### 2016

- Steps and a landing were rebuilt at the east entrance to the Museum. The exterior finish of the Museum was completed.
- Walkway resurfacing was completed thanks to the Red Deer Danish Canadian Club donations.
- The Museum received the Red Deer Heritage Recognition Award for the Freydis Joanna and the Naust.
- Partnership was discussed with “Odin’s Ravens” for the annual Viking Days event.
- The Museum received many letters of support for a “Canada 150 Fund” grant application for a virtual museum project. The Museum was not awarded the grant, so the project will be revisited in the future.

### 2017

- The Museum’s Annual General Meeting was held in conjunction with the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada Conference in May.
- The Museum received the Travel Alberta “Growing Rural Tourism” Award.
- The Grand Opening of the Nielsen CPR House, with family members attending, took place in the summer.
- New signage was installed on the road by the entrance and trees were removed to enlarge the parking lot to make the Museum more visible.
- In addition to the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission bingos that had been worked for many years, volunteers raised funds by working at an AGLC casino.

### 2018

- Bus tours and weddings are booked for the summer.
- Bendt Husted drew up a proposal for a decorative fence along the road in the parking lot. Anne Lise Pedersen donated funding for this project.

### 2019

- Danish Ambassador to Canada Thomas Winkler visited the Museum and was favorably impressed, especially by the grounds and outdoor exhibits. He applauded the vision of the people who started this project.

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*Removal of trees and construction of the new fence and gate*

- The Ontario Region of the Danish Federation donated funds for a golf cart for elderly and handicapped visitors to use on the Museum grounds.
- The parking lot was gravelled.
- Screw piles were installed to begin the fence along the east edge of the property. Work on the fence continued for the next couple of years as time allowed, with Svend E. Nielsen leading the work crew.



*Left: Anne Lise Pedersen conducting tours in golf cart  
Right: completed stone pillars for the fence.*

### **2020 and 2021**

- The Covid virus put a damper on the Museum activities, though take-out food orders and events were carried on when permitted.
- A Rune Stone replica, in honour of Bendt Husted, was commissioned by his family and installed near the Dagmar Pioneer Church. With its runic inscription, it is a copy of the monument made by King Harold Bluetooth to honor his wife, Queen Thyra, in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The original Stone in Jelling, Denmark, and is referred to as the “Jelling Stone.”

## ORGANIZATIONS



*Left: Bendt Husted finishing the Naust  
Right: Rune Stone replica placed in his honour*

### 2022

- This year we hope to be able to fully reopen and resume presenting the Museum artifacts, events, cuisine, gift shop and attractions to everyone. We are busily refreshing the Saga Café and Gift Shop and will have everything ship shape for visitors in May.
- With its lovely garden and grounds, Dormitory, Dagmar Pioneer Church, Slykke Brick Bridge, dolmen, Naust and Freydis Joanna, pond, mermaid, woodland trails, Mindelund Wall, pioneer log cabin, and CPR settler's house — it is a major attraction in the area.

Thank you to the vision and hard work of the original group of Danish dreamers, as well as many directors, volunteers, and dedicated supporters over the years, a recognized Museum of note has been created. Much has been accomplished in the first 30 years.

There are plans to enlarge the Museum and also to develop a virtual museum to showcase many more of the thousands of artifacts presently in storage.

*A special thank you to: Ellen Bonde, Svend E. Nielsen, Rolf Buschardt Christensen, Steve Morck, Lynne Morck, Connie Swarbrick and the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde for their contributions and photos. We apologize if any credits have been missed.*

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# St. Ansgar's Church

## Montreal

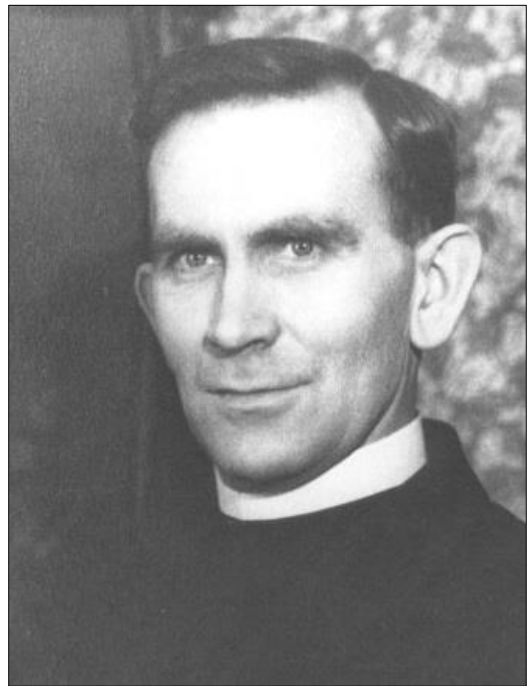
**Jette Blair and Rebecca Mancuso**

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Although the roots of our church are Danish, and we continue to celebrate our Danish connection, our church is now an international church, with members and visitors from a wide range of backgrounds. Our church services and events are in English, except for a few specifically Danish events during the year. Nevertheless, if you listen carefully you may still hear some Danish spoken, and meet some Danes!

Our congregation is nearly 100 years old. During the 1920's the number of Danes in Montreal grew substantially due in great part to the encouragement of the Canadian government, as well as the new restrictive quota system in the United States. The Danes who didn't go West to work on farms on the Canadian Prairies, found employment in factories, stores, restaurants and the construction industry in Montreal. Many of the Danish immigrants started as domestic workers, nannies, housekeepers, butlers and chauffeurs, until they were able to find better employment.

Pastor John M. Jensen, minister at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in New Denmark, N.B., also served as a travelling minister from 1922 until 1926, ministering to the Danes in Eastern Canada, including those in Montreal. Pastor Jensen was born of Danish parents in Toledo, Ohio, in 1893, but raised in Denmark. He came back to study for the ministry in the U.S., graduating in 1922. In 1926 he moved to Montreal and in 1927 he was asked by the synod in the U.S. to form a permanent Danish Lutheran Church in Montreal. It was formally established that year and officially incorporated in 1930.



*Rev. John M. Jensen, Pastor 1926-1937*

The needs of the new immigrants were quite pressing in those days and Pastor John M. Jensen found himself meeting new immigrants at the train station, helping them find housing and employment and even teaching English in his home. So in addition to being a pastor, he was also social worker.

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At first St. Ansgar's Church held its services at the German Church on Jeanne Mance Street. Then in 1928 the congregation rented a four-storey house. The congregation converted it in order to house church meetings and administration. The house had a dining area and rooms to rent at minimal cost to the young Danish immigrants. Pastor John M. Jensen was in charge of administration of the building and rooming house. He had a special gift for working with young people, many of whom were away from their families for the first time.



*The altar and new altar pieces in St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church, Montreal*

St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church became a focal point for the Danish community. The young people's group, *Dansk Luthersk Sammensluttet Ungdom*, had weekly meetings with about 75 young people attending. In 1928 the Danish Lutheran Ladies' Aid, a volunteer service and social group, was founded. Pastor Jensen's wife, Ragnhild, was its first president. The Danish Ladies' Aid supported the congregation through fund-raising activities such as bazaars and fairs, the upkeep of the Young Peoples' Home and more directly by helping individual families in need.

With the Great depression disaster struck many of the new Danish immigrants. Some moved back to Denmark. Others stayed. Many lived a hand-to-mouth existence and came to rely on the help of friends or the church. The burden of caring for families was growing heavier for the church. Sometimes the congregation could not pay the pastor's salary. Else Gøtsche, who worked at the Danish Consulate, gave part of her monthly salary to the church to pay the pastor. When the young people's home was closed, Pastor John M. Jensen soon resigned his calling, fatigued by the heavy workload with the Danish immigrants, which at times was much like disaster relief.

From the beginning St. Ansgar's Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church worked well with other Danish associations. For instance The Danish Club of Montreal, which had been founded in 1922. Other, less formal networks also emerged. Then in 1935 the Danish Canadian Society was founded. Its mandate was in part to unite Danish people living in Montreal and vicinity in

## ORGANIZATIONS

charitable and welfare work and to promote Danish culture. Like St. Ansgar's Church, the Danish Canadian Society became a source of support and stability. For a short period a nationwide network of Danish organizations existed. Odin Kuntze, the editor of *Danske Herold*, and Danish Consul Georg Holler deserve credit for much of this work. The Consul General also played a key role in the founding of the Danish cemetery in Pointe Claire.

Pastor Vilhelm Beck arrived in Montreal in 1938 and saw the congregation through the final years of the Depression, the Second World War as well as the postwar years of prosperity. Pastor Beck was born in Denmark in 1888 and studied at the seminary at Dana College, Blair, Nebraska. He served with the U.S. Armed Forces in WWI and was in 1918 gassed, leaving his lungs seriously damaged. After his convalescence he returned to his studies.



*Delegates, outside St. Ansgar's Church attending the 2016 Danish Canadian Conference*

After graduation in 1925 Pastor Beck and his bride, Marie, immigrated to Canada, first settling in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and then in Standard, Alberta, before moving to Montreal. Pastor Beck immediately gave priority to finding an appropriate property to purchase so the congregation could have a building of its own. Soon a suitable building was found on Dorchester Boulevard. The seller was none other than Georges Vanier, a Canadian diplomat and later Governor General of Canada.

Renovations began in the fall of 1939. The building was divided into three sections, the main floor for the church sanctuary, the basement for meetings and the parsonage on the upper floor. The dedication of the new building in December 1939 began a period of significant growth for the church, although attracting new members to St. Ansgar's was continuing to be a challenge. A majority of local Danes were not regular church goers.

By the mid-1940's St. Ansgar's congregation was changing to include more non-Danes, but also children of Danes. Many of them did not speak Danish. Eventually (in the 1970's) the name 'Danish' was dropped and the church became known simply as St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church.

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After the Second World War the church entered a new era of prosperity. In 1950 St. Ansgar's church achieved full equity in the property on Dorchester and celebrated the occasion by burning the mortgage. Meanwhile, a new wave of Danish immigrants started to arrive in the 1950's. Expansion plans to accommodate the growing congregation commenced in 1952 with additions to the Sanctuary and meeting room. But these solutions were only temporary. The congregation needed even more space. As well, parking was an issue on busy Dorchester Boulevard, a major downtown thoroughfare.



*Danish Canadian Conference delegates enjoying Danish open face sandwiches in Beck Hall, 2016*

In 1959 Pastor Beck retired at the age of 71, but he stayed active in the church, assisting the new ministers into the 1980's and conducting services in Danish on certain occasions, most notably on Christmas Eve. Pastor Beck was followed by Pastor Frederik Jensen in 1959, the son of St. Ansgar's first pastor, John M. Jensen. Frederik Jensen, like Pastor Beck, had graduated from Dana College in Nebraska and had received his master's from Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota.

In the early 1960's St. Ansgar's church moved to Notre-Dame-de-Grace, a residential neighbourhood west of downtown. The cornerstone of the new modern church was laid by Pastor Emeritus Vilhelm Beck in 1963. The first service in the new building was held by Pastor Frederik Jensen in 1964. Then in 1965 Pastor Frederik Jensen accepted a call to Minnesota. After

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Pastor Frederik Jensen left Montreal, church services in Danish virtually ceased, as subsequent ministers did not speak Danish. Moreover, the congregation was by then reflecting the mix of nationalities that had begun to worship at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church.

Subsequently Pastor Harry Carlsen served St. Ansgar's for nearly two years. He was followed by Pastor Sidney M. Nelson, who arrived with his large family in Montreal in 1968. He served St. Ansgar's congregation until 1981. Elaine Nelson, Pastor Sid's wife, served as church organist. Under her direction, the church choir flourished.

In 1981 Pastor Marat (Marty) Holobow came to serve St. Ansgar's Church. His wife, Marian, led the church choir and filled in as organist. Pastor Holobow retired in 1989. That same year Derk Michael Strauch came to serve as pastor of St. Ansgar's. In 1996 he left and was followed by Pastor Thomas Zumbrock, who served for two years, until Pastor Samuel King-Kabu came to St. Ansgar's Church with his family in 1998. Pastor Samuel is still serving the congregation and also takes part in various Danish activities, such as playing on the Danish soccer team. Meanwhile, the annual Christmas Bazaar at St. Ansgar's still has a distinct Danish flavour. In addition, the Danish Canadian Society continues to hold a well-attended Danish Christmas Service at St. Ansgar's every December.



*Pastor Samuel King-Kabu*

<b>Years</b>	<b>Pastors at St. Ansgar's</b>
1926 – 1937	Pastor John M. Jensen
1938 – 1959	Pastor Vilhelm Beck
1959 – 1965	Pastor Frederik Jensen
1965 – 1967	Pastor Harry Carlsen
1968 – 1981	Pastor Sidney M. Nelson
1981 – 1989	Pastor Marat M. Holobow
1989 – 1996	Pastor Derk-Michael Strauch
1996 – 1998	Pastor Thomas Zumbrock
1998 until present	Pastor Samuel King-Kabu

*N.B: The source of much of the information on the early pastors came from the book by Rebecca Mancuso, "Faces of Change – the Danish Community of Montreal", Montreal, 1997, copyright by the author and the contributors, as well as from the website of St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church.*

# Lodge 328 turns 90

## Kjeld Christensen, Secretary, Danish Brotherhood Lodge 328

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About 150 years ago, in the 1870s, a large number of Danish immigrants started to arrive in the United States. Many settled in Nebraska, and in 1881 they formed a Danish Brotherhood. At the founding convention in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1882, the name Danish Brotherhood in America (DBIA) was chosen, and the first six lodges of the Danish Brotherhood in America were chartered. At that convention a constitution was adopted and a board of directors elected. Soon a number of other lodges were formed in other mid-western States.



*Group photo in Granly Hall, Surrey, BC - September 2021, on our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

After the United States implemented immigration quotas in 1924, the number of Danish immigrants to the U.S. decreased. As a consequence the rules for becoming a member of the DBIA were eased, allowing sons and daughters, and later spouses of members, to also become members.

In 1923 there were 350 lodges in fifteen American states, three in British Columbia, and one in Copenhagen, Denmark, with a total of 19,000 members. By 2010 the number of members had decreased to 8,000 and there was only one lodge in British Columbia. Despite its decline the

## ORGANIZATIONS

Danish Brotherhood in America is still the most active and most popular Danish organization in North America. Practically from its inception the DBIA played the role of a fraternal benefit society, acting as an insurance company for its American members.

Vancouver Lodge 328 was started in 1931, just over 90 years ago. The first president of Lodge 328 was Carl Brinck Christensen. Unlike the lodges in the United States, Lodge 328 did not become a fraternal benefit society, providing insurance to its members. Yet, a few of Lodge 328's members have chosen to become members of Lodge 29 in Seattle in order to take advantage of the insurance benefits.

In 1995 Lodge 328's association with the Danish Brotherhood in America came to an end and the lodge along with most other lodges joined the Woodmen of the World, after a short association with The Sons of Norway. At its peak Lodge 328 had 170 members. At present the number of members of Lodge 328 is around 80.

### Soccer

Over the years Lodge 328 has participated in various sports. In 1985 a soccer tournament with Lodge 29 started in a serious way. Prior to 1985 friendly games between the two Lodges had taken place. The Seattle soccer teams were much better organized and always won handily. I was asked in 1985 to organize a team to go to Seattle for the usual Sunday afternoon of fun. I did not know the history of the soccer exchange but phoned some soccer friends that I had been playing with over the years. Off we went to Seattle with an over 30 soccer team. That year for the first time Vancouver beat Seattle's men's team 4-1, much to Seattle's surprise. Are you all Danes they asked? And the answer was yes. Are you all Brotherhood members? Not yet, but we will be soon, was the answer.



*2011 soccer game against Seattle Brotherhood, our captain is Arne Pedersen, centre top row*

## ORGANIZATIONS

That was the start of many years of friendly but quite competitive soccer matches between Vancouver and Seattle, the two cities taking turns at hosting the fun tournament. After a few years a young team and a ladies team were formed in both cities, consisting of mostly sons and daughters and wives of the male soccer players. The yearly tournament became quite a hit with three to four games taking place. After the games dinners for all were arranged, followed by dancing until the small hours of the morning. A terrific time was had by all who participated.

On the initiative of a team in Los Angeles a North American tournament was started with teams from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Spokane, Toronto, Chicago and Fort Lauderdale participating. The teams took turns hosting the tournament and invited all the other teams to their tournaments. Vancouver has hosted the tournament twice, in 1990 and 1996. At the tournament in 1990 with young, over 30, and the ladies team we were 300 at the dinner party and dance Saturday night. Those tournaments were very popular for many years. Several players from Vancouver travelled to all of the host cities for the games. Nevertheless, the North American tournaments came to an end around 1997.

### Dragon Boat Racing



25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Dragon Boat Race: Kjeld Christensen is the drummer and John Lyth the coxswain

## ORGANIZATIONS

In 1985 the Chinese Benevolent Society sent out invitations to numerous teams and organizations in Vancouver and the lower mainland of British Columbia inviting us to something new for this part of the world: Dragon Boat Racing. This was a year before Vancouver was scheduled to host Expo86, a World Exposition. Dragon boat racing had been a tradition in China and Hong Kong for many years.

For Expo86 the Chinese organizations in Vancouver planned to introduce Dragon Boat Racing to this part of the world. Lodge 328 had plenty of sportsmen who were in good shape. We accepted the invitation and paid the \$500 participation fee. The Chinese organizers provided the Dragon Boat. Each boat needed 20 rowers, a drummer and a coxswain.

We had a great deal of fun practicing for this brand new challenge. When the big day came our team did very well. We participated in several races over a two day period. Our team was gifted with mostly good athletes and also several former Olympic rowers. We participated in the races for three years and had a great deal of fun. In 2001, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Expo86, invitations again went out. For the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary race we managed to put together a team for a one day event. An unforgettable experience!

### Lodge Meetings

For many years the meetings of Lodge 328 were conducted in Danish. By popular demand, brought about by mostly second generation members, the language at meetings was switched to English some ten years ago. The general meetings and board meetings have been held at different venues over the years. For many years now the general meetings have taken place at the Hall of the Granly Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey, British Columbia. Board meetings take place in the Danish Room at the Scandinavian Community Centre in Burnaby. In 2022 we will again be looking for a place to have our general meetings, as Granly is closing and the property is being sold.

The membership numbers of Lodge 328 are slowly decreasing as members are getting older and others pass away. Luckily a few new members have been initiated, so the lodge is still in relatively good shape. We hope to keep the lodge going for many years to come. The tradition of enjoying Danish open face sandwiches at the meetings was started a long time ago and is a big draw to get members to attend meetings.

For many years Lodge 328 sponsored four dinner/dance parties a year that were all very popular. More recently the lodge has only sponsored two parties a year: A Valentine dinner/Dance in February and a Bingo dinner/dance in the fall.



*Karl Kristensen (centre) receives 60-year pin  
Bent Ostergaard to his left and  
Kjeld Christensen to his right, 2021*

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*Valentine Party 2018, from left: Christine and Peter G. Jensen (President of Lodge 328) with Pat and Niels Jensen, father of Peter and former president of Lodge 328*

Lodge 328 has for many years financially supported a number of local organizations, the Surrey food bank, the Vancouver food bank, the Burnaby and Granly Danish Lutheran Churches, Dania Home Ladies Auxiliary and the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta.

Last year a milestone was reached in Lodge 328. In April 2021 member # 495 Karl Kristensen had been a member of Lodge 328 for 60 years, having joined the lodge in April 1961. Karl has always been a very popular member with a large presence and a terrific sense of humour, often keeping members amused and entertained. Karl has over the years taken on many different responsibilities in the lodge including being lodge president for a number of years.

We are presently hampered by restrictions due to Covid-19 running rampant in British Columbia. No celebration to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary took place in 2021, and none is planned for 2022 at this stage.

# Farewell to Danish Sisterhood Lodge 179

**Tina Taylor, President Lodge 179**

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The time has come to bid farewell to the Danish Sisterhood Lodge 179 British Columbia and welcome the Danish Sisters Club of BC.

The Danish Sisterhood of America was established in 1883 in Negaunee, Michigan by Mrs. Christine Hemmingsen. It was originally established to provide social and financial aid to fellow Danish Sisters who had immigrated to the United States. Over the years the Sisterhood expanded, opening many Lodges across the USA.



In 1971 the first Canadian affiliated Lodge (No. 179) was established in British Columbia. At that time it was a going concern. The Sisters participated in many events, including Scandinavian Bazaars, Bingo (along with the Danish Brotherhood), Midsummer Festival, Summer Picnics and theme parties. 2021 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lodge 179, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have not been able to have a proper celebration. Plans are in place to have a Sisterly Celebration once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Over the past few years the Danish Sisterhood membership has been declining, with fewer members attending meetings, and little or no interest from younger Danes in joining. The question came up as to whether we should carry on with the

Lodge, or was it time to make a change? After many long discussions the Sisters decided to put it to a vote. Ballots were mailed out, and in December of 2021, the votes were tallied with the majority of Sisters in favour of dissolution of the Lodge.

This chapter of the Danish Sisterhood Lodge 179 has come to a close, but many of the Danish Sisters are excited to carry on with Danish traditions in a new social club format.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Taylor  
President, Danish Sisterhood Lodge 179

# Two years in the shadow of the pandemic

**Pastor Simon Kangas Larsen, Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto**

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Distress teaches a naked woman to spin is an old saying about a woman who has to find ways to keep warm to cope with the cold. The proverb can be used in many contexts, where one desperately has to find new ways to manage in order to survive. In the two years that the Corona virus has ravaged the world some of those who have experienced the cold, figuratively speaking, are the congregations and employees of the Danish churches around the world. Outside Denmark we have experienced the pandemic with a myriad of restrictions that have often been tougher and longer than those to which Denmark and the Danish National Church were subjected.

## **Online worship services at the Danish churches in Canada**

The pandemic has made it clear how big the differences are between being a parish church in Denmark and being a Danish church abroad. Whereas the churches in Denmark are located in the middle of the parish, on the local town square or where two roads intersect, the 25 Danish churches associated with the Danish Seamen's Church and Danish Church Abroad (Danske Sømands-og Udlandskirker – DSUK) are spread around the world. The distances between these churches are great, but so too is the distance from the church to the parishioners, who rarely live just around the corner. In other words, these parishioners do not just pass by their church in the same way that people in Denmark pass by their local church. This state of affairs was intensified with the outbreak of the Corona virus when local, regional and national restrictions were mandated.

The above applies directly to the five Danish DSUK congregations in Canada, located in Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, Burnaby and Surrey. For instance, during the pandemic the Danish Church in Toronto was impacted by a lock-down for a full year without the possibility to worship in person, and the rest of the time there were provincial restrictions on how many people were allowed to gather in churches at any one time. We therefore had to think of new ways to operate the church, and as the woman who had to learn how to spin, we had to rearrange how we operated our church in order to, literally, be able to keep warm and pay the heating bill.

Our first and immediate response was to resort to our digital communications toolbox. Church, Christianity and communication are inextricably linked, and in the DSUK congregations we have had to adapt our communications to the new Corona reality. After the first year with Corona, we evaluated what was difficult and what was a success. The evaluation showed clearly that we pastors had become resourceful and versatile on the internet and know much more than just the

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Lord's Prayer. It turned out that conducting online worship services and devotionals takes up a lot of time, taking significantly longer to prepare than a regular Sunday service. So in addition to using the well-known communication platforms like websites, Facebook and church newsletters, several of the pastors popped up as YouTubers and the churches established their own YouTube channel. This also applies to the Danish churches in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and here in Toronto.

Despite my background as a journalist and many years of work in church communication, I hesitated to jump on the YouTube bandwagon. I thought there were so many others who would be able to do it better than me. Many Danish and Canadian pastors produced fine video worship services, and I thought that our congregation could just watch these. But I soon learned that there was a desire to have our own Toronto services. Being near by and familiar was important, I was told; and it turned out to be true. Yet, it was 'near' in a strange way, for the distances had never been greater. People sat at home and followed the service Sunday after Sunday. Meanwhile the number of viewers increased as Danes in other parts of Canada, the U.S. and Denmark tuned in.

I know from my time as a producer at Danmarks Radio that it can be meaningful to hold worship services together – yet separately. I now also experienced it myself as a YouTube pastor and we have found ways to celebrate communion, christenings and funerals over long distances. Despite our return to physical in-person worship services, we will continue to live-stream the worship services; partly out of a desire from the new parishioners who joined us, and partly because there are still many who fear attending church in-person.

Zoom has also become an important tool. For many it is a tool for business meetings, but it can also be used for church services, teaching confirmation classes, for the weekly church café, the annual general meeting as well as other meetings or gatherings.

A major innovation was moving our bazaar online. For the Danish church in Toronto, similarly to the other DSUK congregation in Canada, the bazaar is one of the most important social and economic events during the year. People donate, volunteer, meet and talk, as well as buy, and the profits go to the operation of the church. In Toronto we had already bought items for our spring 2020 bazaar when the pandemic appeared in March. We were therefore forced to move our bazaar online, because we had to dispose of the goods we had imported from Denmark. It turned out to be a good idea and we have since held several online bazaars. The digital shop made it possible for us to sell all the goods, generating an important income. In the process it also satisfied the Danes' hunger for rye bread, Matador mix and remoulade.

An unforeseen benefit of the Corona Bazaars has been that we have reached many more people. Licorice and marzipan have provided a good opportunity to get in touch with more Danes, and the church in Toronto has not in recent times been in contact with as many as we are now. This too is the case for the other Danish churches in Canada after we were forced to communicate digitally out of necessity. In short, our position and visibility as churches have been strengthened.

The pandemic has hurt our finances and affected attendance. After two years of various restrictions the number of people who attend services or come out for events is far from the level before the pandemic. We must therefore work to ensure the relevance of the Church, Sunday services, other church activities and everything else that happens between Sundays.

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The pandemic provided me with an opportunity to reflect on why we actually have Danish churches in Canada since it could all be done digitally. Nevertheless, the pandemic has taught me that a digital church cannot replace a brick and mortar church with in-person attendance. I have heard the same reasoning from fellow pastors. The digital relationship with people has been a way to stay connected when we are not together. But the absence of a human, physical community has shown us how valuable personal relations are, and our need for social interaction. The pandemic has reminded us that people enjoy life and are happy when interacting with other people. Danes want to socialize, holding a hot cup of coffee, or enjoying open face sandwiches and above all they want to be comforted by tranquility and *hygge*.

Therefore our justification as a Danish church in Canada may never have been greater than when facing this pandemic. Our church must be a place that can accommodate the worries and sorrows that follow in the wake of this pandemic, making our church a peaceful sanctuary for fellowship, conversations and consolation.

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### THE DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO

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# Short History of the Danish Canadian Club of Winnipeg

**Karl Sørensen, Winnipeg**

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To begin the history of the Danish Club one has to go back to the year 1912 when the Danish Brotherhood was founded in Winnipeg. Back then the meetings were held at the old Scott Memorial Hall on Princess Street. Family picnics, hosted by the Brotherhood, played an important part in family activities. In the late 1920s the Danish St. Ansgar Lutheran Church on Bannerman Avenue was completed and the Brotherhood moved their activities to there. Membership in the Brotherhood was for men only. Emil Christensen was a member of the Brotherhood and his wife Agnes played an important role in its activities by helping arrange events and she made most of the food all by herself, primarily open faced sandwiches.

Many members became dissatisfied with the Brotherhood so in 1934 they started the Danish Club of Winnipeg. The Club continued hosting traditional socials as well as Christmas parties and Fastelavn for the younger generation. In the 1950s the club joined forces with the Swedish Male Voice and the Norwegian Glee Club at a rented facility at 470 Main Street, and for several years this location was home to the Danes.

In 1962 the Club found a new home when the Scandinavian community bought a building on Young Street. Here all the parties were held, such as social evenings with dinners and dancing, as well as Christmas parties for the children. One of the contributing members to both the Brotherhood and the early Danish club was Hans Brodahl, who became a popular personality due to his many contributions to local and public affairs. One of his friends, Chris Schubert, was also very active in the club, acting as secretary for many years. Later Inge and Knud Markmann too were very active and provided a solid foundation for the club. Knud acted as secretary for a number of years and he was the president of the club when I joined in the late 1960s.

Post-war Danish immigration peaked in the 1950s. During the 60's the influx of newcomers slowed and gradually fewer people attended Club functions. In February 1972 the Club hosted a Fastelavn evening at the Charleswood Legion for adults. Knud Markmann had made the barrel and filled it with goodies for adults. However, hardly anybody showed up and it became the last event for the club for a number of years.

In the summer of 1979 my wife Marilyn and I visited Denmark and stayed with my sister and brother-in-law on their farm near the town of Kerteminde. Outside town there was a village and for the celebration of midsummer the village invited the people in the village to a Saint Hans midsummer party. The people brought their own food and a party with live music was held in a lovely, decorated barn. At dusk the band led us on a march down to the fjord where a huge

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bonfire was waiting near the shore. We sang and danced till the early morning hours and had a wonderful time. Marilyn quickly suggested we should try something like this in Winnipeg. So the following year, 1980, Chris Johannesen and I started looking for a place near Winnipeg to celebrate Saint Hans. We finally found a suitable camp site on Fermor Road near Tinker Town. We phoned all the Danes we knew and combed the phonebook for Danish names. About 80 people showed up for the event. The Godfredsen family brought a load of fire wood and we build a huge bonfire. However, it was a very hot and dry summer, so when the owners of the land saw the size of the bonfire they told us we could not have a fire because of the dryness. While we were enjoying our food, the skies suddenly opened up and the rain poured down. After the rain stopped the owners told us it was now alright to have a bonfire and we partied till past midnight. When the participants were leaving they told us to do this again. And so in 1981 we repeated the event. During the evening we asked people if they would support reviving the Danish Club and they all agreed that it would be a great idea. For the next number of years we continued the Saint Hans bonfire at the same place. But in 1994 we received a somewhat silly refusal from the owners, which led us to leave the place. The next year the Godfredsen family invited us to celebrate the event at their farm in Ostenfeld. We had a huge turnout that first year and celebrated with lots of fun games in front of the bonfire. Since then we were invited several more times to celebrate Saint Hans and other fun picnics at their farm; a wonderful way to bring the Danes together.



*Karl Sørensen welcoming everyone to the picnic at the Godfredsen farm in Ostenfeld, 1986*

In August 1981 when Rigmor and Karl Rasmussen were owners of the restaurant Kronborg on Pembina Highway, they made their facilities available for a Sunday meeting to discuss the obvious desire to get a Danish club going again. On September 21, 1981 we were back at restaurant Kronborg. About 60 people attended the meeting and a steering committee of nine was elected with Niels Lund at the helm.

The committee got to work right away and in the next year revived some of the old traditional types of socials, such as Harvest Fest, Saint Hans Fest, Fastelavn and Christmas parties for the children. The next annual meeting was held in September at Vasalund. At the meeting it was agreed that the club should adopt new bylaws and elect an official board of directors. The steering committee went to work on the bylaws and at a general membership meeting, held in February 1983 at the new Scandinavian Centre on Erin Street, the bylaws were approved and a ten-member board of directors were elected. Karl Sørensen was elected President and re-elected again in 1984 and 1985. In 1986 Chris Christensen took over for one year and in 1987 Anni Markmann, the youngest daughter of Inge and Knud Markmann, took over for two years.

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*The Board of directors, Winnipeg Club, 1984, with the Danish Consul  
From left is Peter Kaufmann, John Kristiansen, Annie Markman, unknown person,  
Marianne Lauritsen, Chris Christensen, Lissen Lockwood, Danish Consul Anders Bruun,  
Mrs. Brun, Niels Mose and Karl Sørensen*

In 1983 the club joined the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada and we have been a member ever since. The Club has hosted several Danish Canadian conferences, with participants from across Canada, the first one in 1988 when Anni was President. We hosted the Danish Canadian conference again in 1998, 2010 as well as in 2019, which several members from across Canada claimed was the best conference they had ever attended. During the conference in 1988 we celebrated the 100th birthday of Agnes Christensen and I had the pleasure of having a dance with her. In 1985 I had written her biography in the Danish Federation's Heritage Book.

On July 29, 1984 we celebrated the 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday of Mr. and Mrs. Ingvarsen whose birthdays were less than a week apart. We hosted a coffee party with several dignitaries in attendance, including, then Premier Howard Pawley. The occasion received a lot of publicity in the media.

Over the years we have celebrated many events such as socials, film nights showing popular Danish films, sing-a-longs, and children's Christmas parties with dancing around the Christmas tree as well as Christmas dinners and Smørrebrødsaften - Danish sandwich nights. At the annual membership meeting in 2006 Karl Sørensen stepped down as president of the club and Susan Person took over as the new president. During her leadership we saw a huge change at our functions. Susan showed us so many new games and activities during our regular events and created new ones, such as Pop Nights and dance parties with music from the 50s and 60s, which were always enjoyable.

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Like many Danish clubs across Canada we have recently experienced a decline in membership as people are getting older. It is hard to get the younger generation involved and no new Danish immigrants are coming to Canada. We are lucky to have some younger members on our Board and if anybody can appeal to new members, it is our president, Susan Person. But we need input and participation from everybody so our club can continue well into the future.



*The Danish Canadian Club participated with a banner in the parade in Kolding, Denmark, held in connection with the Danish Canadian Conference, 1987*

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*Vancouver Island*



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

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

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

***"VIKINGER PÅ ØEN: DE KOM, DE SÅ, DE BLEV"***

# Granly – Sixty Years Old

**Ann Larsen and Manfred Hoff**

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In 1962, Pastor Arnold Vang, Minister of the Danish Church in Vancouver, bought a five-acre farm in Surrey. He and his wife, Elly, planned to use it as a retreat where they could get away from the city when time allowed. The farm was surrounded by tall evergreens, huge Douglas firs, so Elly called the place Granly.



*Granly Parsonage, 15144 92A Avenue, Surrey, with hall and church to the left*

Pastor Vang travelled frequently around looking up Danish names on mailboxes, knocking on doors to locate Danes that were interested in his idea of creating a place of worship, support, and fellowship.

Many Danes lived in Surrey, about 2,000 at that time, and they did not find it easy to come to the Danish Church, at that time, situated in East Vancouver. The trip could take an hour or more, as all roads in Surrey were poorly maintained gravel roads, with the exception of Fraser Highway and King George Boulevard.

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There was a small farm house on the Granly farm, and here Pastor Vang conducted services two Sunday afternoons a month. Coffee always followed, of course, and many people enjoyed the fellowship. Soon, the living room became too small. Some of the men added one of the two bedrooms to the living room which now could hold about 20. Before long, discussions started about erecting a building to use as church. The women raised funds by holding bazaars and by selling coffee and baked goods to those who came from afar to celebrate the St. Hans bonfire at Granly. This celebration will still happen in June 2022.



*Members of the Granly congregation in the church hall, Pastor Ruth Wegeberg on the left*

There was a large shed on the property and this was moved to a suitable place and converted to a church. The church was heated by a furnace which had previously done duty in a bakery, so a lovely aroma of fresh-baked bread filled the room when the furnace was on. All the families working on this were recent immigrants with young children, and Sunday school was held in the house: three classes, divided between the living room, bedroom and kitchen – a total of 36 kids. When the church service was finished, it was time for coffee and chatting; most children were sent to the church for their juice and cookies. At that time the altar was hidden behind a curtain.

Pastor Arnold Vang and his wife Elly returned to Denmark in 1968. Donations, fund-raising and some personal loans enabled the Granly people to raise enough money to buy the property. That same year, Granly became an annex-church to the Vancouver church and had their own minister, retired Pastor Jens Hansen, who conducted the bi-monthly services. The church soon became too small, so an addition was built. In 1981, an application was made to Surrey Municipality for permission to build a larger church. Permission was denied, so instead, a roomy meeting hall with kitchen, office and toilets was built. A parsonage followed in 1986.

In order to finance all this expansion, some of the acreage was sold, with 1.3 acres being retained. The East Asiatic Company (ØK) donated all the necessary lumber from their Tahsis location on Vancouver Island. All work was done by volunteers from the congregation, without which the projects would have been impossible.

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*Christmas Luncheon in the Church Hall, Granly Church, 2010*

In 1978, Granly ended its status as an annex and became an independent church with ties to Dansk Kirke i Udlandet. At that time, Granly also acquired a full-time minister, Olga Grening. Four more full-time ministers followed, each contributing to the welfare of the congregation, and each putting his or her unique stamp on the church. As the years went by and the congregation aged, it became difficult to raise enough funds to keep a full-time minister, and in 2008, a new model was adopted: Pensioned pastors through DSUK in Denmark came for two-year terms; expenses were lower, and the work-load lighter. Renting the facilities out to other congregations also helped the economy.

In spite of exceptional efforts by the congregation, it is now apparent that Granly's time has come to an end. The second and third generation do not have a great need for celebrating their Danish ancestry; they gladly attend special events, but don't come regularly. A nice number from the older generation attend services regularly, but can no longer take care of all the practical work required. We have therefore decided to close the church as of August 2022. The property has been sold to a developer for \$11,700,000 which will be paid out in August, and the new owner will take possession on November 1, 2022. The money from the sale must go to other Canadian registered charities, and will be distributed according to a vote by the members of the congregation.

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At present Pastor Ruth Wegeberg Christensen is doing wonders with cheerful sermons and maintaining the attendance numbers by creating new ways to serve us during the Covid Pandemic. As well, a thank you goes to her companion, Tom Sjøby, who has looked after all maintenance and janitorial work during the past few years.



*Julestue and Christmas Bazaar in the Church Hall, December 2015*

Although Sunday services will continue throughout the summer, we shall commemorate the life at Granly with a special by-invitation event on May 28/29, 2022. We are proud that we managed to keep the church going for 60 years and the friendships we made will continue. We are lucky that the Vancouver Church is now located in Burnaby, an easy 20-minute drive from Granly. We thank DSUK in Denmark and all the ministers they have sent us through the years, and we especially thank all people who read this who have supported us all along. May God bless you all!

During the past 15 years the church board remained basically the same, with no new directors coming on board. Granly has served the immigrants well, being a place for worship and friendship!

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Years	Granly's Pastors			
1962-1968	Arnold Vang; pastor of Vancouver church; held services twice a month in Granly.		2003-2008	Anne-Sophie Christiansen
1968-1978	Immanuel Rasmussen, Vancouver; held services twice a month; at the same time, Jens Hansen, retired minister (auxiliary to Vancouver), held services on alternate Sundays.		2008-2010 <u>and</u> 2012-2014	Morten Larsen
1978-1987	Olga Grening, Granly's first full time minister.		2010-2012 <u>and</u> 2014-2016	Claus Franck
1987-1992	Benny Grey Schuster		2016-2018	Mogens Mye
1992-1997	Jørgen Kappel Hansen		2018-2022	Ruth Wegeberg Christensen
1997-2003	Folmer Johansen			



*The altar with the Seven Candles Holder from Bornholm, and the Church ship "Danmark".*

Years	Granly's Presidents			
1965- 1968	Aage Iversen		1993-1993	George Hansen
1968- 1971	Bernhard Johansen		1993- 1994	Preben Sønderby
1971- 1975	Chris Andersen		1994- 1995	Kjeld Frederiksen
1975- 1979	Richard Therkelsen		1995- 2005	Ann Larsen
1979- 1983	Aage Iversen		2005- 2006	Sandra Alexander
1983- 1989	Richard Therkelsen		2006- 2011	Henry Hansen
1989- 1993	Aage Iversen		2011- 2022	Manfred Hoff

# The Granly Congregation

## Introducing the members of the Granly Danish Lutheran Church

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Granly Danish Lutheran Church, located at 9243 – 152<sup>nd</sup> Street in Surrey, British Columbia, will be closing in 2022, as the 1.3 acre property, including the Church and Parsonage, have been sold to developers. Closing Granly, due to the dwindling number of parishioners, means that Granly will be saying goodbye and thank you to the many people who have contributed funds, hard work and support, including faithful attendance, over many years and for whom Granly has meant much more than mere words can express.



*Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey, British Columbia*

Who were these faithful Danish immigrants who built and supported Granly? They were profiled in Granly Church Bulletins in 2021 and 2022 and are reproduced here to bring their story to a wider audience. We will begin with the members of the Board.

### **Pastor Ruth Wegeberg Christensen**

Pastor Ruth Wegeberg Christensen, Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey, was born on May 14, 1953. She was raised on the island of Bornholm, and later in Jutland. In 1982 she received her Master of Theology in Århus. She was pastor in Åbyhøj, Århus, before becoming pastor in a

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new church in the west of Århus. For 33 years she served in the parish of Skjoldhøj, an Århus suburb. The new church became a “lighthouse” with lots of different people meeting in sorrow or in joy. Music, art and concerts created hope. In 2006 she was Interim Pastor in Toronto for two months, and in 2012 Interim Pastor in Norway. She is the mother of four children aged 29 to 44, and grandma to six grandchildren. Since May 2018 she has been Pastor in Surrey, where she lives and enjoys the West Coast with her partner Tom Søby. They will be returning to Denmark.

### **Manfred Hoff, President of the Church Council**

Manfred Hoff was born on March 22, 1941 in Sønderborg, Als, Denmark. Just having graduated as a mechanical engineer from Sønderborg Teknikum, he boarded the Polish ship *Stefan Batory* in Copenhagen, and landed in Montreal August 11, 1969. By train he arrived in Toronto, where he stayed and worked for nine months at an auto parts manufacturer. Seeking the great outdoors, he and another Dane packed their cars and drove across Canada, sightseeing along the way and arrived in Vancouver three weeks later. After exploring the West Coast for another month and meeting local Danes by chance, and by joining the "Danish young people's club" in Vancouver, they found jobs; Manfred in a family owned foundry – which lasted 36 years. Several of Granly's founding members, who happened to renovate the house of his boss, were Chris Andersen, Svend Larsen and Bent Kristensen, the latter maintaining the typewriters in the office. After living in Langley for eight years with his young family, they moved to Fleetwood in Surrey, his current residence, just two kilometres from Granly. He joined as a member in 1980, helped build the parsonage, assisted setting up for Skt. Hans, helped out with maintenance, and then sat on the church board for numerous years, the last ten as president. Granly has been family to him and he has tried his best to keep Granly operating. He says, “We should all be proud of what we have accomplished!”

### **Kjeld Frederiksen, Vice-President**

I was born in 1935 and I was 33 years old when I and my family, wife and three children, left Jægerspris, Nordsjælland, Denmark. We had decided to immigrate to Canada, sold the house and left in May 1968. A building stop, imposed by the Danish government, forced us to make that decision. I had started my own business as an architect, shortly before, and the future didn't look too bright. When we arrived in Canada we were picked up by our friends Lilly and Keld Poulsen, who we had known before we left Denmark. They had rented a motel room for us, where we lived for the first three weeks. We spoke no English, when we arrived in Canada. We were contacted by a Danish realtor, having a house for sale on Elwell Street in Burnaby. It was an old house, but since we had a chance to get the financing arranged, we bought the house, moved in and lived there for three years. Then we moved to North Delta on Gilmore Crescent, lived there for thirteen years, sold again, and moved to 144 Street, Surrey. There we lived for 20 years, sold once again and moved to 19A Avenue in Surrey, where we now live. My first job was as a carpenter. Henning helped me get into the Carpenters Union, and I worked as a carpenter the first four years, after which I landed a job in Langley, designing and supplying materials for playgrounds and farm buildings. I worked there for eight years, after which I worked for myself, doing house designs and carpenter work, the last three years mostly drafting house plans. What has the Danish Church meant for me and my family? In Denmark I was a member of the KFUM (YMCA), so the church was not a stranger to me and my family. When we moved to North Delta we started to go to the small Granly Church, and soon got involved in all its activities. But now, 60 years later, the church must close, because no new immigrants are coming from Denmark. At

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present I am Vice President. It is extremely sad for us to have to close. But that is reality. We will now try to support the other Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby.

### **Else Jensen, Secretary**

I was born in 1939. I arrived in Canada on June 29, 1957, from Balle, two km northwest of Silkeborg, Østjylland, Denmark. I had my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on the ship *Stockholm* which sailed from Århus to Halifax. My brother had immigrated to Canada in 1954. I was drawn by what he told us in his letters, and wanted to come and see for myself. My parents, Chris and Kirsti Andersen



*Granly Danish Lutheran Church from the back and side*

didn't want to be left alone so we all left Denmark. In 1960 I married my husband Søren Jensen in Edmonton, Alberta. He was an electrician, and worked on large construction jobs throughout British Columbia that brought us to Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Hudson Hope, Houston, Prince George, and Williams Lake and finally White Rock, where we have lived since 1972. I started out as a hairdresser, but was a stay-at-home mother to our three daughters, Karin, Linda and Kirsten. We joined Granly Church after arriving in White Rock. My parents were already active members, and it became a meeting place, not just spiritual, but also social. Both Søren and I became involved in the different functions and running of the church. Søren was a member of the choir and helped with the building of the church hall and parsonage. I was one of the founders of the Wednesday Club, became a member of the Auxiliary and I am now on the board as secretary. The Wednesday Club meets the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm in the Church Hall. We start with a song and a cup of coffee and then watch a Danish movie or listen to a presentation. It will be a very sad day when Granly closes.

### **Ann Larsen, Treasurer**

I was born in 1938 and came to Canada from Odense, Denmark, with my family as a 14-year-old with my younger siblings Ulla, Ebba and Steen. Another brother, Chris, was born one month after our arrival. Our father had spent time in Canada before his marriage. Our mother had never been outside Denmark. Our parents were prompted to emigrate because of the Cold War threat and the poor economy in Denmark. We came directly to Vancouver and lived in Kitsilano. Later, after my training as a medical lab technician, I shared an apartment with three friends, and I subsequently went to live in Kamloops, where I worked at the Royal Inland Hospital. Just before my transfer to Kamloops, I met Ole, and he wore out a VW Beetle commuting between Vancouver and Kamloops on a regular basis – in those days, a six-to-eight-hour trip. After our marriage, we lived in Surrey for 44 years, after which we moved to our present home in

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Chilliwack. We have two children, Kenneth and Lynette. The first place our family sought out after arriving in Canada was the Danish Church in Vancouver. As well as being a church, this was also a refuge where we could speak Danish and observe various customs and holidays, which were familiar to us. Also, Pastor Peder Kronborg frequently functioned as a go-between for Danish employers and prospective employees. Our friends in the Church took the place of the relatives we had left behind. I have been active in the church as president of the Young People's group, as a young people's choir member (Vancouver), a Sunday school teacher and Lucia instructor (Granly), and taken a lead in the Literature Study Group, a book club where Danish books are discussed in Danish. In addition, I have spent 27 years as a board member in Granly. Currently, I am the treasurer. My other great interest has been Scouts Canada which has afforded me many memorable adventures.



*The Granly Church Council, From left: Pastor Ruth Wegeberg Christensen, Kjeld Frederiksen (Vice-President), Henry Hansen, Arne Møller, Ann Larsen (Treasurer), Lisbeth Madsen, Emmy Wegner, Else Jensen (Secretary), Manfred Hoff (President) and Bente Pastro.*

### **Emmy Wegner, Board Member and Danish Federation Liaison**

I was born in 1934. I came to Canada from Tarm, Vestjylland, Denmark, in 1957, 23 years old, after just finishing my four year Nursing Training at Bispebjerg Hospital in Copenhagen. My plan was to save money for a trip to Africa, where my Aunt, Olga Grening, was a Missionary. But instead my girlfriend talked me into going with her and her sister to Vancouver. I did not speak any English. We stayed at the YWCA the first two weeks, and then found a suite on Spruce Street. My first job was with a Family with four small children. I made four dollars

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working an 8 hour day. I went to night school to learn English. Then I got a job at the Children's Hospital as a practical nurse for a few months. After having to take two months psychiatry and one month Operating Room training, I finally was allowed to write my exam and become a Registered Nurse. I retired at the age of 78. The Danish Church has meant a lot to me. Three of my children are confirmed at Granly. We are like a small family and I have enjoyed the sermons and the festivities.



*Congregation milling around in the Church after Service, 2022, note the stars made by the Study Group*

### **Henry Hansen, Board Member**

I was born in 1937. When I was 23, I left Visby, southwest of Tønder, Sønderjylland, Denmark. I meant to take a trip around the world. But I never left the first place I came to, Canada, where I in 1963 married Sussie Søndergaard. I worked as a landscaper around British Columbia. We have two children, a son and a daughter. We have lived ten years in Lynn Valley, 23 in Richmond and 23 in White Rock, and now New Westminster. Since 2005 I have been on the board of the Granly Church and it has been like a “forsamlingshus” (community centre) and a “friendshipmaker”, which has helped us to keep up with the Danish church traditions, baptism, confirmation, funerals and so on.

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*'Studiekredsen' at Granly, Pastor Claus Franck using the flip chart*

### **Lisbeth Madsen, Board Member**

I was born in 1933 and spent my childhood in Allerup, Vendsyssel, Nordjylland, Denmark. I arrived in Vancouver in February 1976 from Copenhagen, after a romantic meeting in Denmark with a Danish widowed man, whom I met through a friend. We married in Canada in April and lived in Surrey. In Denmark I was trained as a Registered Nurse but worked at Surrey Memorial Hospital as a Nurses Aid. My husband Bill died in 2014, (Wilmar Johannes Bach Madsen, March 25, 1926 - January 26, 2014). Granly is my extended family and for the last thirty years I have lived a just five minute walk from the Granly. Over the years I have participated in almost everything, the Book Club, Bible Studies, Church Services and festive events, including taking reservations for the Spring Dinner as well as Fall Dinner, where The Tivoli Singers or others would entertain. Sadly my second home is now closing for good.

### **Arne Møller, Alternate, webmaster and co-editor of the newsletter**

Arne Møller, son of Jørgen Monrad Møller and Karen, née Behrendt Hansen, was born in Jammerbugt, Vendsyssel, on July 11, 1940. In 1943 the family moved to the island of Als, and Arne graduated from Sønderborg Statsskole with Realeksamen. He then went to sea, sailing between Denmark and other countries bordering on the North Sea. In 1957 he enrolled at Sønderborg Teknikum to become an electrician. A fellow schoolmate was Manfred Hoff, Arne graduated in 1963. Then in November 1970 he immigrated to Canada, flying from Copenhagen to Vancouver, where he had an aunt. There was much unemployment when he arrived, so it was not until February 1971 that he found work in his field. Arne has been active within the Danish

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community. He joined the Danish Brotherhood lodge in Vancouver, the Danish House Society at the Scandinavian Centre and the Scandinavian Cultural Society where he is a director. He joined Granly and became involved with the congregation. One of his hobbies is photography, naturally taking pictures at Granly events. At present he sits on the Granly board as an alternate. For the past six years he has been the co-editor of Granly Kirkeblad, along with the pastor. As well, Arne is webmaster of the Granly website.



*September 2002 Heritage Seminar at Granly, held by Pastors Folmer Johansen and Kai Glud, Burnaby*

### **Hermann Grøn, Alternate**

Hermann Grøn was born in Esbjerg on April 27, 1935, but already a year later the family moved to Hvidovre in Copenhagen. He went to sea at a young age and became a sailor, just like his father, Peter Grøn. He worked mostly on freighters belonging to the East Asiatic Company (ØK), Maersk or Rederiet Christian Andresen. He would often spend weeks and even months in port in India, Thailand, Indonesia, China and Japan. He sailed for ten years. He then settled in Denmark, got married and had a son, who remained in Denmark and recently, (2022), passed away. Then in 1962 Hermann immigrated to Canada, flying from Copenhagen via Amsterdam to Vancouver, and then to Victoria where his older brother, Egon, lived. On Vancouver Island Hermann worked in lumber camps, in a saw-mill and in a warehouse. About 17 years ago he moved to Surrey, where within a year he became a member of Granly. Hermann has helped mow the lawn, sung in the church choir and has attended both *Studiekredsen* (where they read and discuss novels in Danish) and the Wednesday Club. He has been a board member and is currently an alternate. Hermann also joined the Danish Brotherhood and the Danish House Society. In the 1980s he got

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a private pilot licence and bought a two-seat Cessna airplane, which he kept at Langley Regional Airport. Regarding hobbies, Hermann likes reading books, particularly books about airplanes. Another hobby is painting. In his home he has five oil paintings of ships, pictures of the ships he used to sail on.



*The Study Group made 240 Christmas stars to decorate the church  
The instructors were Kjeld Frederiksen and Else Jensen*

### **Bente Rose Pastro, Deacon and President of the Ladies Auxiliary**

I was born in 1943. I was twelve years old when I came to Canada from Buddinge, Storkøbenhavn, (northwest of central Copenhagen) with my family, parents and three siblings. There was more work in Canada. We came to Vancouver by train across Canada. I was confirmed in the Danish Church of Vancouver. Since my mother and father were not church goers, we did not get involved with the congregation. We moved several times, to Burnaby, to New Westminster, and when I got married to an Italian man in 1961, my mom and dad moved to Kitimat, B.C. When my husband died in 1987, I went back to the church, now Granly Danish Lutheran Church. My mother was buried from Granly and this church was my only connection to Danish people. I even started speaking Danish after 25 years. Besides being a member of the congregation I am a church deacon and president of the ladies auxiliary. I always enjoyed bible study in school in Denmark, so I joined the Bible Study Group at Granly. I also like all the events that we have in the church hall. My own children are not church goers, but all my grandchildren are baptized at Granly, of which I am very proud.

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### **Dora Larsen**

Dora Larsen, born in Hobro in 1924, was one of the founders of the Granly Church. In 1954, she and her husband, Svend, and two children (4 and 7) arrived in Halifax by ship. Here they boarded the train crossing Canada, arriving in Vancouver 6,500 km later. She was promised that after five years they would return to Denmark, if her longing for Denmark was too great. Svend worked as a carpenter and Dora took care of the home. Later two more children were born. They moved fifteen times, because they, as many others, built a house and then sold it, in the process making some money. In the Vancouver Church many Danes would gather for immigrant evenings. Then in the 1960s, Pastor Arnold Vang wanted to sell his summer house and lot for 11,500 dollars. Dora and Svend as well as others knocked on the doors of Danes they knew and asked them for money to buy the lot. At the time, cows were lying near the then gravel road. Nowadays, 34,000 cars a day zoom by. What a change! In 1984 Granly sold a part of the lot they had purchased, and shared the money with the Danish Church in Vancouver, so they could build a new church in Burnaby. In Granly an adjacent hall and a parsonage were built - everyone contributing with their time and skills. The challenge was to make it work, which formed the base for the congregation and the everyday life at Granly. Many young people were baptized, confirmed, and attended Sunday school at Granly. Other activities included Saint Hans, a spring dinner, a fall dinner and the popular Christmas bazaar, in addition to other Danish cultural events. The children, however, integrated well into the Canadian way of life and Granly lost its importance as a Danish cultural and spiritual centre for the younger generation. But Dora is still here. Her chair in the church isn't empty, unless she is busy with family affairs. It should be noted that Dora was the only member of the congregation not voting for the church to close. The Church is a part of her.



*Members of Granly congregation, voting to close the church, July 2021*

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### **Maureen Hansen**

I was born in 1937 near Gatwick, Sussex, England, and immigrated to Canada in 1968, because I needed a new chance. In this melting pot I met Herman Hansen, who took me skating. We married in the United Church, since he was Lutheran and I was Anglican. Herman Hansen (1914) was a Dane from Hobro. Many Danish friends encouraged us go to the Fall Dinner and the New Year's Dinner, so eventually we became part of the Danish community. We appreciated Danish humour and companionship, which is quite like English humour. Herman died eleven years ago. After that, I have attended the Granly Church, because my friends were there. Ever since I have appreciated very enlightening sermons and enjoyed much fun and companionship.



*Stuffing the Granly newsletter in envelopes, March 2022*

### **Johnna Kristensen**

Johnna, born in Copenhagen in 1937, met Jørn Kristensen on Bakken, the amusement park outside Copenhagen. He was born in Esbjerg and served in the Danish Navy. They were engaged and Johnna was invited to Canada in 1960. For fourteen days they lived in a house near Boston Bar, without electricity or toilet. So she knew she had come to the wilderness! Then they moved to Vancouver and within 28 days, they had to marry. While they ran a business for convertible boat tops, two children arrived. They attended Sunday school, and were baptized and confirmed in the Granly Church. In 1980 they moved to Surrey. Sadly Jørn died in 2016. Johnna now lives, not far from her brother Oluf and her sister-in-law. Johnna is a faithful churchgoer. She often enjoys the Bible Study Group and the Wednesday Club, as well as the Sunday services.

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*Entertainment at Granly Spring Dinner, 2017*

### **Willy and Lene Olesen**

Willy Olesen was born in Hejnsvig in 1934 and Lene Olesen was born in Skagen in 1948. Willy arrived in Canada in 1957. He was originally a farmer, but eventually in 1970 he became the first Canadian Lutheran working pastor in Mackenzie, British Columbia. He worked as a painter, while trying to start a new church. Lene arrived in Canada 1970, where her father's brother and family had moved to Alberta in 1952, and several cousins had been in Alberta for a year or two. She decided to come too, but went to Vancouver instead. Her teacher from Skagen, Willy's brother, was visiting with wife and three children, and Lene went to visit them. Lene worked in Cunningham's Drugstore at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Main Street. Lene and Willy were married in 1971 and together moved to Saskatchewan, where Willy served a three-point parish. In 1973 they moved to Fort St. John, British Columbia. While working as pastor, looking after two congregations, he organized the building of an Intermediate and Personal Care Home. After becoming the administrator and chaplain, he spent the next twenty years expanding the facility. In 1997 they moved to Coquitlam and became a part of the Danish congregations in Burnaby and Granly. Pastor Willy has at times filled in for the pastors in Burnaby and Granly when needed. Willy and Lene have two daughters and seven grandchildren.

### **Inge Frederiksen**

I was born in 1938 and came to Canada from Jægerspris in 1968 with Kjeld and our three children, Soren 8, Henriette 6 and Per 4. Kjeld wanted to travel. I said yes to live in Canada for two years. We didn't speak English. We had just built a beautiful house, and Kjeld had started on his own as an architect. Then in 1968 came the building stop. So in January, we put our house up for sale and started to pack. In May we left for Canada. We bought an old house in Burnaby,

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where we lived for three years, then we lived in Delta for 13 years, then to an old house on one acre in Surrey, and finally we built a new house and lived there for 20 years. Per, our son bought part of the house and we lived in our motor home and got to see Alaska, California, Texas and more. Then we moved to South Surrey together with Per. He now lives upstairs, and we live downstairs. We still have a one acre lot so we are kept busy. I was a stay-at-home mother for ten years. I then worked as a home support worker for twenty years. We have been involved in many things at Granly. We started the Young People Group and the Wednesday Club, and arranged exchange trips to Toronto. Kjeld is Vice President on the Church Board and I am a member of the Lady's Auxiliary. I was also the treasurer for many years. Kjeld and I celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2019.



### **Vivi and Gunnar Pedersen**

Vivi and Gunnar Pedersen were both born in Skanderborg in 1945. They came to Canada from Aarhus in 1979 with three children 14, 11 and 4 years old, plus a black Labrador. They decided to give it 5 years here. If just one wanted to go back to Denmark, they would all go back. No surprise, nobody wanted to return to Denmark. Gunnar, a painter tradesman, worked with his brother and Simon Larsen until the Spring of 1981, when he started with the Vancouver Parks Board. He stayed there until for health reasons he was forced to stop in 1996. As a legal secretary, it was not easy for Vivi to obtain such a job in another country, so she chose to be a stay-at-home mom until their youngest graduated from high school. She then took tax courses for a few years, and ended up working for Revenue Canada. They came to Granly at Christmas in 1980 for the first time. Vivi remembers how they were all sitting in the old house having coffee and goodies, talking to Danes who came here in the 1920s. Pastor Grening was minister and she was the one who introduced Vivi to the Ladies Auxiliary. Over the years Vivi has been a part of many things at Granly: a short stint on Granly's Board, treasurer for the Ladies Auxiliary for 18 years, and started the church paper together with the late Birgit Rosenberg (wife of Morris Rosenberg). She was there when the Young Peoples Group and Wednesday Club were started. Their two youngest were confirmed at Granly and their youngest was married there in 2005. Vivi says, "There'll be a big void in our lives when Granly closes."

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*At the installation of Pastor Mogens Mye, 2016*

### **Sussie Hansen**

Sussie Hansen was born Inger Bodil Søndergaard in 1944. She arrived in Canada with her parents and two siblings in 1957. The future in Denmark looked very bad. Sussie was born in Brande but considers herself a Fynbo as she lived most of the time in Assens. A huge folk dance group (around 50) met weekly, and out of them about 20 couples married. So did Sussie and Henry Hansen in 1963. They have two children, Danny and Tina, who have given them much joy - and now two grandchildren, the love of their lives. Sussie first worked as a hairdresser at Inger's Beauty Salon on Robson Street. Later she worked at the airport for 25 years as a passenger's agent, starting with Wardair in 1979 and ending with Air Canada. They started coming to Granly when Folmer Johansen was the Pastor. His wife Else became Sussie's good friend.

### **Simon and Lone Larsen**

Lone Larsen, born in Skive in 1946, arrived in Vancouver by plane in May 1957 with her mother Nina and four siblings. Her father, Kaj, was waiting for them in Vancouver. He had moved to Vancouver three months earlier to find work and a place to live. The family moved a lot in those early years. In 1962 the Danish immigrants celebrated Danish Constitution Day at Peace Arch Park. It was there that Lone first met Simon. In November 1964 she married Simon, who was born in Brønderslev. Simon and Lone have three children, Marianne, Vicky and Kevin. Lone took care of them while Simon worked at his own painting company. After Simon had a heart attack Lone took a job in a restaurant in White Rock. Lone has attended the Granly Church almost every Sunday and for two years now, due to the corona virus, that is unfortunately the only place people are allowed to meet. Lone decided she needed a better job and switched to work at IKEA, where she worked for many years. Lone was confirmed and married in the Danish Church in Vancouver. Their children were all baptized in the Vancouver church and confirmed at Granly and they take part in the social life of the church. Luckily, Lone was able to retire early since Simon was twelve years older. He passed away in 2008 at the age of 73.

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### **Kirsten Graham and Willy Kristensen**

Kirsten Graham was born in Nordfyn in 1949 and Willy Kristensen was born in Glamsbjerg, Fyn, in 1943. She trained as a teacher for children. Kirsten was an adventurer and in 1969 she left Denmark to see her 17 year older brother in Canada. She married Boyd Graham and they lived for a while in Manitoba. They then left for Denmark, but Boyd who used to work in an office was not able to get an office job in Denmark. So they returned to Canada, this time not for Manitoba, but for Richmond, south of Vancouver. They had two boys, Randy and Steven. Kirsten trained as a teaching assistant, and worked in Delta for 25 years. For a long time Boyd was ill; he passed away in 2018. Kirsten was a member of Granly. She has served on the board, the choir and Auxiliary and enjoys the services. Two years ago Kirsten met Willy. They are engaged and enjoy life together. Willy was a sailor from 1958 to 1965. When his ship was frozen in the ice on Lake Ontario in Toronto, he went ashore and became a truckdriver. Willy had married Christine from Germany and they lived for many years in Guildford. Two girls arrived, Monica and Susan. Christine died in 2019. Willy has now moved to Parksville. They enjoy the Danish services and hymns, after which they feel warm and uplifted, ready for the new week ahead.



*Julestue at Granly, 2015*



# Granly

Danish Lutheran Church - Surrey, B.C.



**1962 - 2022**

The Granly Danish Lutheran Church saga, which has lasted sixty years, will sadly end this year due to an aging congregation and lacking a younger generation to continue it. The sale of Granly Church will help fund the remaining Danish churches in Canada and miscellaneous registered charities, subject to the decision by the members, when the last AGM is held. Heartfelt thanks to the twelve venerable ministers throughout Granly's 60 years, to intern and assistant pastors, to DSUK, to donors and to other supporters of Granly Church - and Godspeed to its churchgoers, who now can join the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby, British Columbia.

# 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CANUSA

**Anton Petersen, President, CANUSA**

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The Danish Canadian American Friendship Association (CANUSA) was founded sixty years ago. The idea of creating such an association occurred when Gunnar Kristensen of Kolding was visiting his brother, Hans, in Edmonton, while they were hiking in the mountains. For these two it was not far from idea to action.

The following year, when Gunnar had returned home from his stay in the U.S., and Hans was home in Denmark on holidays, they set out to find others who shared their vision of creating such an association. They succeeded and convened a founding meeting for March 15, 1962. The association was named Danish Canadian Friendship Association, with high school principal, O. Helstrup Andersen, as president. Gunnar Kristensen was of course also elected to the board. After its founding, it was agreed that the association should cover the whole of Scandinavia. A Norwegian and a Swede were therefore later elected to the board.

Hans had contacts with the Canadian airline Wardair, based in Edmonton. With Wardair, he entered into an agreement to fly Danish Canadians to Denmark so they could visit their Danish families. As a charter flight, the air fare could be significantly cheaper than on a commercial flight. Through the Danish Scandinavian Canadian Association (SCV), it was possible - after the first year - to gather as many Danes and other Scandinavians as was necessary to fill the plane on the return flight. Thus, the fare could be made even cheaper for each traveller.

The Association developed further in the 1960s and 70s so that, together with the Danish IAEA society, young Danish farmers could go on farm exchanges to Canada, gaining work experience on Canadian farms. Many young Danish farmers thus gained valuable experiences in Canada, particularly on farms in Alberta. For Canada, this meant that some of these young people stayed in Canada and found their life's work there. Many of those who returned to Denmark, are still members of SCV, and enjoy coming to our meetings, where they have the opportunity to refresh and share memories from their time in Canada.

The association's travel activities continued until 1984, when there were some changes to aviation regulations, which meant that the association had to discontinue the charter flights. Instead, close cooperation was initiated with Vestjydsk Rejsebureau, a travel bureau which then served as our travel organizer. However, in the early 1990s this cooperation ended, and Vestjydsk Rejsebureau was changed to My Planet travel bureau.

In 1990, SCV established the Friendship Association's travel fund. The purpose of this fund is to promote personal contacts between Danes and Canadians, with a view to developing social, cultural and business contacts between the two countries. In addition the fund has provided financial support to artists, writers and students.

This year, the fund decided to support the further development of the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta. We think it was appropriate on our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary to provide a grant of 30,000 dollars to the museum in their 30<sup>th</sup> year. We hope the money will help the

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museum carry on the great work it performs to preserve our common Danish Canadian history.

In about 2000, Scandinavian cooperation ceased. Consequently the name of the association was changed to Danish Canadian American Friendship Association or CANUSA for short.

Like many other associations, CANUSA is today facing a declining membership. In the association's heyday there were several thousand members. Today we number approximately 260 members, a large number of which are older than 60.

At present the association offers members four to five activities a year. There are lecture evenings about recent journeys, concentrating on travel in Canada or the rest of the Americas. One annual event is a film night where an American film is shown, preferably with some spectacular landscapes. As well, we publish a membership magazine four times a year, focussing on travelogues. In conclusion, I extend my warmest wishes to all Danish Canadians.



*Gunnar Kristensen receiving flowers from  
CANUSA president Anton Petersen*



*Anders Friis Knudsen, secretary, Ole Poulsen, vice-president, Søren Larsen, director, Svend Erik Rasmussen, treasurer, and Anton Petersen, president. Missing is Torben Hvass, director.*

# New Parsonage in Calgary

**Karen Falkenberg-Andersen, Vice-President, Calgary Church**

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In 2010 Sharon Lutheran Church on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Calgary approached the Danish Lutheran Church on 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue with a proposal to amalgamate the two Lutheran congregations, both of which had a Danish background.

The Sharon congregation had been established in 1911 by a group of Danish immigrants but had seen a significant drop in membership at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. On the other hand the much younger Danish Lutheran Church, established in 1965, had been able to maintain its membership and had been able to support financially a full time Pastor from Denmark.

On May 29, 2011, the two congregations officially merged under the name Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary, though they had begun worshipping together already in 2010. For legal reasons the name “Sharon” could not be retained. The Danish congregation sold its church building on 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to the Jamaican Pentecostal congregation. For several years they had been renting it for Services from the Danish Church. With a few specific fixtures and other items the Danish congregation then moved completely to the Sharon Lutheran Church location.



*New Parsonage in Calgary*

The charming Sharon Lutheran Church had been completed in 1931 in the style of a traditional Danish village church at a cost of about \$8,000. The interior is remarkably beautiful with stained glass windows and a

large amount of wood carvings added to the sanctuary over the years. The wood carvings had been carried out by Niels Weismose (1904-1972), a Danish master woodcarver who had immigrated to Calgary and who was a devoted member of the congregation.

The Sharon Church, situated on a residential street, also owned the two houses on either side of the Church. One of the houses had been built in 1942 as a parsonage and was used as such until 1972. The former parsonage was then used as a meeting place for the congregation, administrative offices and storage. It was also rented out to the Hosanna Chinese Lutheran Church, which still rents the space from the amalgamated congregations. The other smaller house on the west side of the church, built in 1912, had been purchased by Sharon in 2002. The house was rented out, but by the time of the merger it was in extremely poor condition. As a consequence the congregation decided in 2014 to tear down this old house in order to avoid

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spending money on costly repairs and renovations. The lot then stood empty until 2020.



*Parsonage's back deck*

The amalgamated Church had several assets that did not generate much income, and as a charity we must be careful with our investments. An investment committee was therefore established to investigate what we could do to optimize the assets we had, including the empty lot. A year later the committee presented a proposal to the congregation. The committee recommended that the congregation build a new parsonage on the empty lot and add a rental suite on top of the garage in order to provide extra income for the Church. The project could be funded by the money we had in the bank (most of which had come from the sale of the former Danish Lutheran Church building to the Jamaicans), and by selling the current parsonage, which had been erected next to the former Danish Lutheran Church building in 2010, just prior receiving the proposal to merge the two congregations.

At the Church's Annual General Meeting on May 26, 2019, it was decided to proceed with building a parsonage on the empty lot. In order to meet Calgary City requirements for the project the west wall of the Church building required additional fireproofing, and some modifications to the house plans were also necessary. This was completed in early 2020, prior to the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. After much discussion it was decided, on May 7, 2020, through a special meeting (called via our website and email news), and conducted via telephone, that we should proceed with the building of the new parsonage, despite the arrival of the pandemic. It was felt that now was just as good a time to build as later. Then came selecting a builder and getting applications sent in for permits from the City.



*Double garage with a suite above*

Despite the pandemic slowing down the process of building the new parsonage, the ground was broken later in May of 2020. Present at this socially-distanced official sod turning event, and prayer for blessing of the project, were Pastor Charlotte Berg, Karen Falkenberg-Andersen (Church board vice president), Joshua Propp (Church youth), and Jimmy Blindkilde (building contractor). Funds for the building project were initially taken from the Church bank account and the balance needed was borrowed from various members of the congregation.

By the end of February 2021 the house was officially turned over to the congregation, and in early March Pastor Charlotte Berg and her husband Peter Berg moved into the beautiful new parsonage. The landscaping of the garden and yard began in June 2021 and was duly completed by July.

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*Parsonage left of the church on the right*

As soon as Pastor Charlotte and Peter had moved out of the former parsonage, it was prepared for sale. It was put on the market in April and sold in less than 24 hours, with a possession date of June 11, 2021. When the payment went through the Church was able to pay back the members who had lent the Church money for the construction of the new parsonage and the Church could also replenish a significant amount of the funds in its bank account. For various reasons there had been cost overruns on the new parsonage, not least due to a steep increase in the price of lumber, which had occurred right across Canada during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, in March and April of 2021 a small group of volunteers worked many hours on painting, cleaning and renovating the other house on the east side of the Church. This was to prepare it for the new renters, a young couple from the Hosanna Chinese Lutheran congregation, who moved in on May 1, 2021. This helped to optimize the use of this under-utilized asset. Moreover, at the beginning of July 2021 the suite above the garage of the new parsonage was rented out.

Despite the fact that the way forward was complicated by a number of factors, not least the Covid-19 pandemic, the goal of optimizing the assets of the amalgamated congregations has largely been achieved. Hopefully this will go a long way to ensure a sound financial footing for the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary as well as providing a convenient, modern and beautiful parsonage for the Pastor.

### **Danish House Society**

Scandinavian Community Centre  
6540 Thomas Street,  
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# Georg Holler and Henrik Kauffmann: Danish Canadian Relations 1940-1945

**Rolf Buschardt Christensen**

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The 1938 Munich Agreement, concluded on September 30<sup>th</sup> by Germany, Britain, France, and Italy, allowed Germany to take possession of the Czechoslovak Sudetenland, home to about three million ethnic Germans. The next day German troops marched into and occupied the Sudetenland. In March of the following year, Germany annexed the rest of Czechoslovakia. The British and French reaction to the annexation was pathetic: neither mobilized nor threatened immediate war. But the annexation brought to an end the policy of appeasement and other attempts to accommodate Germany. Britain and France now resolutely promised to come to the aid of Poland should Germany attack it.

Moreover, the annexation of Czechoslovakia led President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States to ask Adolf Hitler in April 1939 if he would guarantee that Germany would not attack certain named states. The inquiry provided Hitler with an opportunity to present a peace-loving Germany to the world and he therefore offered a number of countries a non-aggression pact, among them Denmark. Danish Foreign Minister Peter Munch saw no option but to accept the offer; even though it was rejected by Norway and Sweden, who he had hoped would also sign. A protocol to the May 31, 1939 Danish-German Non-Aggression Pact stated that in case of war Denmark, as a neutral country, would be free to trade with all countries. This condition was inserted at the request of the Danish government to ensure that Denmark could maintain its trade and commercial relations with Britain in the event of war between Germany and Britain. The feared war broke out three months later, when Germany attacked Poland.

The Non-Aggression Pact did not mean much to Germany. It was primarily a propaganda ploy. Early in the morning of April 9, 1940, Germany invaded Denmark by land, sea, and air. The Danish military offered only scattered and uncoordinated resistance, and at the command of the Danish government and King Christian X, ceased fighting after a few hours.

The Danish government was convinced that it was hopeless to resist the German armed forces. The Germans were keenly aware of Danish attitudes and preparedness, and therefore the invasion was not a violent military attack but a rather peaceful and orderly landing of German forces. Instead of fighting, the Danish government informed the Germans that it would continue to “manage the state of affairs in this country, duly taking into account the occupation which has taken place.”<sup>1</sup> It was fairly easy for the Danish government to reach this decision, as the German

invasion was so sudden and Germany promised that it did “not intend now or in the future to interfere with Denmark’s territorial integrity or political independence.”

*Forhandlingspolitiken* (policy of negotiating) was the policy the Danish government followed vis-à-vis Germany from the time of the occupation until August 29, 1943, when the Danish government resigned, no longer willing to give in to German demands. The Wehrmacht immediately declared a military state of emergency in Denmark. That sparked a growth in the Danish underground resistance movement, and it was thanks to this active resistance movement and not the government that Denmark was eventually granted status as an ally by Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union.

Germany’s main strategic goal was not really Denmark, but Norway, which it attacked at the same time, on April 9, 1940. The German fleet wanted to use Norway’s ports and fjords as bases for the submarine war in the Atlantic. At the same time, the occupation of Norway could help safeguard the vital transport to Germany of Swedish iron ore from Kiruna via the northern Norwegian port city of Narvik. At the same time, the occupation of Denmark could close the Baltic Sea to British and French shipping.

When Germany occupied Denmark, Britain feared that Danish territories in the Atlantic — the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Greenland — would fall into the hands of the Nazis and consequently Britain pre-emptively invaded the Faroe Islands on April 13, 1940. This action prevented the Faroes from being used as an Atlantic naval base by the German navy. Later, the British built an airfield on the Faroese island of Vagar, and Faroese fishermen provided large amounts of fish to Britain, where food was rationed.

Concerned that the Danish merchant fleet would be taken over by the Germans, the British government appealed to all Danish ship captains to seek refuge in British or French ports, where they would be treated as friendly neutrals. Nearly all Danish ships headed for Britain, where they were fully protected and Danish property and human rights were guaranteed. Meanwhile, the Danish Minister in London, Count Eduard Reventlow, was allowed to remain fully in charge of Danish interests and keep his diplomatic status.

Prior to the German invasion, the Danish merchant fleet had been instructed to seek neutral ports should Denmark be occupied. However, most Danish seamen wanted to sail for the Allies and therefore sought Allied ports. In June 1940, Danish shipowner A.P. Møller sent his son Mærsk McKinney Møller to New York to look after the company’s interests during the war. The Americans were not as generous or even-handed as the British and Canadians: in 1941 the U.S. impounded the 40 Danish cargo ships in American ports, and at the end of the war only 17 were still afloat.<sup>2</sup>

In Canada between April 20 and 23, 1940, five Danish merchant ships were seized in prize in St. John, New Brunswick, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. “Seized in prize,” under International Law, meant that ships and their cargo could be seized in time of war. The five cargo ships were the *MS Europa*, *SS Christian J. Kampmann*, *SS Erik Boye*, *SS Randa* and *MS Asbjørn*. The five ships were requisitioned for immediate service under the authority of Order in Council PC 1594 of April 22, 1940. Four of the ships were empty when seized, while the *MS Europa* had cargo destined for Britain. All five ships were immediately transferred to Canadian registry. The Danish crews manning these ships were invited to carry on under Canadian regulations; by so doing they were able to avail themselves of the full benefits provided for the Canadian Merchant

Marine. The conditions under which Danish seamen served under the Canadian flag followed in all details, with very few exceptions, those pertaining to Canadian merchant seamen. The SS *Erik Boye* went down on her first voyage in convoy from Montreal to Britain, torpedoed by a German U-boat on June 15, 1940. Only two of the Danish vessels were still afloat by the end of the war, and both were returned to their owners in Denmark in November 1945.

\*

On May 10, 1940 Britain invaded and occupied Iceland. Soon reinforcements arrived from Canada, and before long there were more than 25,000 Commonwealth soldiers in Iceland. The troops made arrangements all over Iceland to hinder a German invasion and large construction projects followed, including the building of roads and Reykjavik airport.

The invasion of Iceland also led to the United States' first military engagement in the war, when the U.S. entered into an agreement with Britain to relieve most of the Commonwealth forces in Iceland in July 1941, well before the United States was forced into the war in December.

Both Britain and Canada considered occupying Greenland to thwart a German occupation there. Strategically, from an Allied point of view, Greenland had to be secured quickly. But in this case the issue was more complex due to the stance of the U.S. vis-à-vis Greenland.

From the first day of the German occupation of Denmark, Canada was busy dealing with the issue of Greenland. On April 9, Canadian Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs Norman Robertson received a letter from Fraser W. Bruce of the Aluminum Company of Canada, stating:

You will recall our conversations regarding cryolite and will understand how essential this raw material is to the aluminum industry and therefore, why we are so deeply disturbed this morning to learn of the German occupation of Denmark, since natural cryolite is found only at Ivigtut in Greenland.... Should it be decided to occupy Ivigtut, we would be only too glad to place our extensive mining experience at your disposal and operate these mines for the benefit of the Allies. In any case, action should be taken quickly, because at this time of year a supply ship sets out for Ivigtut, the non-arrival of which, due to the present unsettled conditions, may seriously hamper operations. This matter, in fact, is so important to us, and to the Allied aluminum industry, that we urge the Canadian Government to see that immediate action is taken to protect the Greenland cryolite mines and ensure their production for the Allies.<sup>3</sup>

On April 11, Danish Consul General Georg Holler, Montreal, the highest-ranking Danish diplomat in Canada, met in Ottawa with Norman Robertson to explain the background to the Danish situation as well as the Danish reaction to Germany's sudden military occupation. At this point Georg Holler had been posted to Canada for ten years. Canada would be his last posting until he retired in 1951.

According to a Canadian External Affairs note of the meeting of April 11, Georg Holler's personal position was a refusal to recognize the German "absorption" of Denmark; he was not prepared even to accept orders from the Danish government. He was determined to follow a course that would make his return to Denmark impossible in the event of a German victory, notwithstanding that this course would involve the forfeiture of his personal fortune and that of

his wife. Holler also explained that he would like the Canadian government to continue to recognize him as consul general and that he had enough funds to maintain the consulate for a year. Or, if the Canadian government was not prepared to recognize him officially, he asked for permission to remain in Canada as a private citizen. In any event, “he is anxious to be used in any capacity which would be consistent with the preservation of the position of Denmark as a potentially independent State.”



*The cryolite mine at Ivigtut in Greenland*

Holler had been born in Copenhagen on January 21, 1886, to sea captain Otto Pedersen Holler and Kirstine, née Jørgensen. After graduating from Ordrup Gymnasium, he attended the University of Copenhagen, where he obtained a master’s degree in economics. In 1913 he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was posted to the Danish consulate general in Vienna, serving as legation secretary. He was posted to Vienna from 1913 to 1915, which meant that he was in Vienna in 1914 at the outbreak and first part of the First World War. In 1916, Holler was back in Copenhagen, but in 1917 was sent to Petrograd (St. Petersburg) in Russia, where he saw first-hand the Russian Revolution unfolding. In 1918 Holler returned to Copenhagen, where he spent the next ten years in the Foreign Ministry, dealing with among other things, Russian matters. In October 1921, he married Valborg Hoffmann, who came from a wealthy family. She would play a key role within the Danish community in Canada, helping the war effort. In 1928 Holler was posted to Iceland. That posting did not last long. On November 23, 1929, the Danish Consul General in Montreal, Johannes Bøggild, died suddenly. In early 1930, Holler was appointed Danish Consul General to Canada and Newfoundland.

In normal circumstances, Canada would have been a quiet and attractive posting with great opportunities to improve relations between Denmark and Canada and to expand trade. But the Great Depression had begun. In 1930 the United States passed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which implemented protectionist trade policies and prompted similar tariff increases in other countries, immediately causing a major decline in international trade. In September 1931, Great

Britain was forced to leave the Gold Standard and no longer guaranteed the Pound Sterling by gold. In 1932, to address mounting trade and tariff issues, Great Britain called her major colonies and dominions to a conference, which was held in Ottawa. Participants, including Canada, granted each other Imperial Preferences, whereby they agreed to adopt a schedule of mutual tariff reductions within the British Empire and Commonwealth.

While Georg Holler had to deal with official relations between Denmark and Canada, he also became involved to a considerable degree with the Danish community across Canada. One of his first forays was to support the establishment of a national Danish Canadian society with branches across Canada, an idea promoted by Odin Kuntze, editor of the Danish Canadian newspaper *Danske Herold*. On January 25, 1934, Consul General Holler convened a public meeting in Montreal on behalf of Kuntze. An impressive 200 people came to the meeting, where Kuntze emphasized the necessity and benefits of a national association, to be called Danish Canadian Society. At another public meeting on March 14, the Montreal branch of the Danish Canadian Society was officially founded and Cyrus Pedersen elected chairman. During the war he would play an active role on the board of directors of the Danish Relief Fund.



*Consul General Georg Holler, Montreal*

With the worsening economic situation in the early 1930s, a good number of the Danes living in the Montreal area became destitute; when they died, there was no money for a proper burial and they were buried in a common and unmarked grave in the paupers section of the Côte-des-Neiges Cemetery. As a consequence of this sad situation Holler took the initiative to establish a Danish cemetery in 1934. He called a meeting of the two Danish associations in Montreal, the Danish Canadian Society and The Danish Club, plus representatives from St. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church and the consulate. Together they raised \$100 to buy 50 burial plots in the Lakeview Cemetery in Pointe Claire. Later more plots were purchased, and that part of the Lakeview Memorial Gardens is now known as the Danish Section.<sup>4</sup>

In 1937 Holler took part in establishing the King Christian X Jubilee Foundation. To commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the king's reign, Danes across Canada set up the foundation to award travel grants to Denmark for Danish Canadians who otherwise could not afford the trip. The foundation was administered by the Danish consulate general in Montreal. The foundation existed until 1986.

In February 1940, Holler agreed to collect funds for a gift for King Christian X on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in September. The fundraising campaign had been initiated by Ernst Carlsen, a Danish advertising executive, who had headed several successful and high-profile fundraisers in Denmark. Ernst Carlsen got Dansk Samvirke on board, it being an association of Danes living abroad (or who had lived abroad). Thus the president of Dansk Samvirke, Judge Niels Vilhelm

Boeg, wrote to Georg Holler asking for his help in promoting the fundraising campaign in Canada.<sup>5</sup> Holler accepted and wrote letters to the honorary consuls across Canada, to Danish Canadian newspapers, Danish Canadian associations, and various Danish pastors. The money collected across Canada was then to be sent to the consulate general in Montreal. After the occupation of Denmark in April, Holler then again wrote to all his contacts, informing them that this fundraising campaign had now been disbanded.

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In June 1940 Georg Holler wrote to Norman Robertson outlining how he saw his position as Danish consul general in Canada, despite the fact that the German armed forces were in complete control of Denmark. Holler confirmed that Henrik Kauffmann, the Danish minister in Washington, had promised to make funds available so that Holler would be able to maintain his office in Montreal. Kauffmann had access to the funds from the sale of cryolite as well as the Danish gold reserves at Fort Knox. Meanwhile, Holler was determined to take care of Danish interests in Canada, including Denmark's significant shipping interests.



*Norman Robertson, External Affairs*

In response to Holler's letter, Robertson emphasized that the Canadian Government did not consider Denmark an 'enemy.' Robertson wrote that the,

Canadian Government is prepared, for the time being, to recognize you as Consul General. Your name will be maintained on the List, and you will be given precedence in the same manner as if the German occupation of Denmark had not taken place. You will be recognized as a proper person to deal, informally, with the interests of Danish subjects in this country and Danish shipping. As Consul General you have not been accorded diplomatic immunities, but you will continue to be accorded such privileges as are customarily extended to Consuls General in Canada.<sup>6</sup>

### **Registration of Danes Born in Schleswig**

Only a few months after the Nazi occupation of Denmark, Consul General Holler helped Danish Schleswigers in Canada avoid being registered as enemy aliens. Pursuant to an Order in Council of June 10, 1940, it was decided that "all aliens of German or Italian racial origin and all persons of German or Italian racial origin who have become naturalized British subjects since the first day of September 1929" should be registered in accordance with the Defence of Canada Regulations. Pursuant to this provision, the Canadian authorities demanded that persons born in Southern Jutland (Northern Schleswig) under German rule should be registered. It hurt these Danes deeply that they should be registered as Germans. After Holler had been made aware of a couple of cases, he presented the case to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and drew his attention to these Danes' admirable struggle in Schleswig for the preservation of the Danish language and culture during the German period from the Peace Treaty of 1864 until Southern Jutland again became Danish after a referendum in 1920. Understandably these Danes were particularly sensitive to a registration that stamped them as German. Holler was successful

in his endeavour and his efforts resulted in the cancellation of the registration of these Danes by the Registrar General of Enemy Aliens.

### **Reaction of the Danish Community**

The Danish community in Canada was shocked and saddened to hear of the invasion and occupation of Denmark. At the annual general meeting of the Danish Brotherhood lodge in Winnipeg on May 1, 1940, the members expressed their surprise and dismay and decided to set up a fund to help Denmark when it again became a free and independent country. The lodge decided to set aside \$50 for this purpose, hoping that a national across-Canada fund to help Denmark could be established. That evening Knud Schioler, on behalf of the Danish Brotherhood, wrote a letter to Georg Holler in Montreal suggesting that such a fund be created. Schioler ended his letter by asking if Holler would be willing to head such a fundraising campaign.

In his reply, Holler pointed out that it was impossible to provide any assistance to persons residing in Denmark or to Danish institutions whose mission was to alleviate deprivation, due to the fact that the Canadian authorities would not allow the transfer of funds from Canada to Nazi-occupied Denmark, and also there was no certainty that funds sent to Denmark would be used for their intended purpose.

The war was a major blow to the many Danish-Canadian organizations in Canada, as the focus of many community activities shifted due to the war effort. As a consequence some organizations became dormant during the war with few or no activities while others basically struggled just to survive; and a fair number simply ceased to exist. Common to all the individual members of these Danish organizations was that the occupation of Denmark had been completely unexpected and had truly come as a shock.

Immediately after the occupation, Honorary Vice Consul Christian Emil Christensen in Edmonton wrote to Consul General 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. Holler wrote back explaining that he had received no instructions from Copenhagen and that the fundraising campaign to collect money for a gift for King Christian X's birthday had been abandoned.

Holler kept the various Danish consuls and vice consuls across Canada informed of developments as they unfolded and also answered correspondence from private citizens. One such was Sven A. Larsen of Carleton Place, a small town on the Mississippi River, about 50 km southwest of Ottawa. Larsen, formerly of Toronto, had moved with his family in 1937 to Carleton Place, where he had bought the Queen's Royal Hotel. On June 10, 1940, he wrote to Consul General Holler:

The German occupation of Denmark can have caused but one feeling among Danes in this country. To the best of the writer's recollection no official statement has been made by you immediately following the German occupation of the Danish Kingdom, nor at any later time. The question then arises whether your Consulate is at the present under domination of the Germans, or acting as a free Danish opinion. If the former, it is possible that opinions by the Consulate are muzzled, but if the latter, why has your Consulate not voiced the sentiment that

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must be in the heart of every Dane in this country: a substantial condemnation of the German invasion.

I speak as a Dane of no particular social or economic status in this country, certainly without political aspirations, and yet I feel that the thousands of Danes in the Dominion of Canada are feeling as I do, that as a body, we should do something to assist the British Empire in the fight for freedom and liberty. It is inconceivable to me that the 25,000 odd Danes in this country are not feeling as I do, for indeed if they were not I should promptly and immediately dispossess myself, and I speak for my family as well, of any connection whatsoever with Denmark. It is my belief that a movement should be started immediately to in some direct way assist the Allies towards victory. It might take the form of a general subscription, for purchasing tanks or aeroplanes for Britain, or again it might substantiate itself in other ways, but certainly some action should be taken immediately, and without delay. I am determined to find out how my countrymen in Canada stand on this issue and in addressing you believe I am taking the proper steps of procedure.

Will you be kind enough to advise me by return mail as to whether or not you feel not only competent, but in a political position to further the lead of this movement. If you are not able to further the lead so badly needed now, I shall ask your permission to accord that lead to me, and I shall immediately proceed at my own expense to do such organizing as I should deem necessary and important to, in every way shape and form, help the Allies.<sup>7</sup>

Only four days later, Holler wrote a four-page reply in Danish to Svend A. Larsen, which reads in part, in English:

With regard to the position of the Consulate General after the occupation of Denmark, I would like to inform you that this question is quite dependent on the position taken by the Canadian Government. The situation is considerably more difficult for Denmark's consular representations in Canada than for the representations of the other countries occupied by Germany, as the countries in question have either fought with the Allies against the occupying troops and after the occupation moved their governments to Allied territory or, as in the case of Czechoslovakia, after the occupation of the country without a struggle established a national committee in Allied territory which now organizes its struggle for freedom. As you will have seen in the news, the Danish government still exists, even though it is controlled by the German government, and there is no Danish government in opposition outside Denmark's borders. This greatly complicates the position of Danish foreign representations in the warring countries. In the case of England, an arrangement has been made under which the present Danish Embassy may continue to informally take care of certain Danish interests outside hostile territory, such as Danish citizens in England and certain Danish shipping interests, provided that these matters do not conflict with the interests of the Allies. The Canadian government has not yet made a final decision on the status of the current Danish representations, which have prevented me from issuing a statement on the position of the Consulate General after the occupation. However,

I expect in the near future to receive a communication on the position of the Canadian Government.

All communication by letter or telegram between Canada and Denmark and vice versa has been cut off since the occupation. The consequence of Denmark's occupation is therefore that it is quite impossible for the Danish consular representations in war-time Canada to be in contact with the Danish government. During the negotiations with the Canadian Government, the Consulate General has concentrated all its efforts in obtaining permission for the continued maintenance of Danish consular representations in Canada, thus avoiding that Denmark, due to the aforementioned particularly unfortunate position, becomes the only country, except for Germany and Italy, which must close its representations in Canada. As you will understand, this is of considerable interest to Danes in this country and to several Danish interests such as Danish shipping interests and the threat of Danish assets being seized under the Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property etc., issues the Consulate General has been able to take care of, regardless of the fact that the Canadian government has not yet made a final decision regarding the status of the Consulate General. At the same time, Danish consular representations must take into account that the Danish government still exists and continues to be in charge of the country's management, and therefore cannot take steps that will complicate the Danish government's existence and possibly result in it being replaced with a solely Nazi government.<sup>8</sup>

### **The Case of Greenland**

Greenland was vulnerable. It was remote, vast, and endowed with a harsh climate. Greenland itself had no police to speak of and no military defences, except for two Danish coast guard patrol vessels. Yet, Greenland was of considerable economic and military significance, as the source of cryolite and due to its strategic location, ideal for the installation of weather stations, naval bases, and aerodromes.

Britain and Canada were very much aware of Greenland's significance and started to lay plans for the occupation of strategic points along the coast of Greenland. In Ottawa on April 14, 1940, a National Defence sub-committee chaired by the director of Military Operations and Intelligence supported plans for the defence of the cryolite mine and the occupation of Greenland.<sup>9</sup> The Canadian armed forces were ready to be deployed and eager to occupy strategic points in Greenland before the Nazis did.

However, the day before, having heard of Canadian plans to occupy Greenland, the U.S. State Department in Washington called in, separately, representatives of Britain and Canada. Invoking the Monroe Doctrine, the U.S. told the two representatives that it was firmly opposed to any occupation of Greenland by Britain or Canada. In 1823 in an address to the US Congress, President James Monroe had stated among other things that the Western Hemisphere was off limits to future colonization; and any attempt by a European power to oppress or control any nation in the Western Hemisphere would be viewed as a hostile act against the United States. Meanwhile the US was willing to have its Red Cross provide supplies to Greenland. Later President Roosevelt repeated the same message to Prime Minister Mackenzie King. As a result,

plans for the occupation of Greenland were dropped, and Britain and Canada, who were at war and who needed safe shipping lanes in the Atlantic, did not send troops to Greenland.

Being cut off from Denmark the two Danish governors, Eske Brun, Governor of Northern Greenland, and Aksel Svane, Governor of Southern Greenland, agreed to invoke the emergency clause in the 1925 law which specified how Greenland was to be ruled should it be cut off from Denmark. The two Governors proclaimed that for now Greenland would be governed as a self-ruling territory, believing this to be in the best interest of Greenland.

Henrik Kauffmann, the Danish Minister in Washington, realized that the Danish government in Copenhagen was, under the current circumstances, unable to exercise its full sovereignty and execute its own foreign policy. He therefore began to act in an independent capacity. On April 13 Kauffmann contacted the two Governors in Greenland and after some discussion they finally agreed to recognize him as their representative in the United States. Since the U.S. would not offer diplomatic recognition and aid unless Greenland's administration was independent, the governors informed the local advisory assembly (*Landsraad*) on May 3 that there was no choice but to act as a sovereign nation. In this decision they were influenced by their determination to avoid becoming subject to a Canadian occupation and thus be drawn into the war. Moreover they were aware of the Norwegian presence in Canada, Norway being a Canadian ally, and concerned in the event of a Canadian occupation that the Free Norwegian Forces could possibly also be stationed in Greenland — and threaten Danish sovereignty. This was a cause for concern as Norway had been vying for control over a large part of Eastern Greenland until the Permanent Court of International Justice in The Hague had settled the dispute in favour of Denmark in 1933.

At first Brun and Svane had not wanted to accept Henrik Kauffmann as the sole representative of a “free and independent Denmark”; they believed that they had the legal right to govern and negotiate on behalf of Greenland. Thus they were surprised and frustrated in 1941 when Kauffmann concluded a treaty between Greenland and the U.S., particularly when they heard about Article X, which basically meant the treaty could not be terminated unilaterally by the Danish side.

Weighing their options in 1940, Brun and Svane preferred protection from the neutral U.S. to that of war-faring Britain and Canada. The U.S. agreed to dispatch a coast guard vessel to its capital Godthaab with supplies and a consular team to establish a provisional consulate. Another coast guard vessel was sent to the cryolite mine at Ivigtut. Due to diplomatic considerations, no U.S. soldiers could be used to protect the mine, and so the Coast Guard identified 15 recruits who were voluntarily discharged and in turn hired by the mine as guards. Two weeks later Canada sent diplomat Kenneth Kirkwood and Alf Erling Porsild to Godthaab as, respectively, Canadian consul and vice consul. Porsild, a prominent Canadian botanist, had been born in Copenhagen and had grown up in Greenland.

### **Henrik Kauffmann**

Henrik Louis Hans von Kauffmann was born in Frankfurt, Germany, on August 26, 1888, as the son of Aage Basse Gustav von Kauffmann, a Dane, and Mathilde Bertha Louise von Bernus, a German. In 1902 when Henrik was 14 years old, the family moved “home” to Denmark, where the family belonged to “high society”. (One of Aage Kauffmann's best friends was Crown Prince Frederik.) Henrik's grandfather and namesake, Heinrich Kauffmann, had been a general in the

Danish army and had fought in the wars against the Holsteiners in 1848 and the Prussians in 1864.<sup>10</sup>

Henrik spoke perfect Danish, but at times it was possible to trace a faint German accent. He attended the University of Copenhagen and later studied at Oxford and Geneva. In 1911 Henrik started working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but in 1912-1913 he had to take leave to serve in the Danish Army, Denmark having conscription. After serving in the Royal Danish Guards, he returned to the Foreign Ministry, which on his first posting sent him to New York. Then followed: Berlin, Rome, Peking, Tokyo, Oslo, and finally Washington in 1939, just before the outbreak of the Second World War. In 1926 Kauffmann married Charlotte MacDougall, an American. Her father was Rear Admiral William MacDougall, Supreme Commander of the American fleet in the Philippines.



*Charlotte and Henrik Kauffmann, Politikens Forlag*

On April 9, 1941, on the first anniversary of the German occupation of Denmark, Kauffmann, against instructions from his government, signed “in the name of the King” the Greenland Agreement with U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull, allowing the presence of U.S. troops in Greenland and authorizing the U.S. to defend Greenland against German aggression. The Greenland Agreement was approved by the two governors of Greenland, but declared null and void by the Danish government in Copenhagen. Kauffmann ignored the government, citing the fact that Denmark was occupied by a hostile power and incapable of protecting Danish interests. The Danish government responded by charging Kauffmann with high treason, stripping him of his rank and recalling him. Again, Kauffmann ignored the instructions from Denmark.

The cryolite mine was a unique asset that made it possible for Greenland to manage fairly well economically during the war. The U.S. provided Greenland with supplies and sent boats to patrol the east coast of Greenland, although these patrols were limited by seasonal ice and severe weather conditions. Rather than request a higher level of assistance, Governor Brun decided that Greenland should have its own defence force and established a 15-man North East Greenland Sled Patrol, tasked to report any actual or potential landing of German troops. The patrol also had a morale-boosting purpose, in that it demonstrated to the U.S. that Danish citizens were willing to fight against Nazi Germany. This sled patrol still exists, under the name *Slædepatruljen Sirius*.

Nevertheless, the Nazis did succeed in setting up some covert weather stations along Greenland’s east coast, which informed U-boats about weather conditions. The last Germans to be stationed in Greenland were technicians manning the weather station Edelweiss II. This base was captured by U.S. troops in October 1944, with all German staff taken prisoner.

### **Kauffmann visits Canada**

Just prior to Kauffmann's first official visit to Canada, Georg Holler travelled to Ottawa to meet with officials at the Department of External Affairs. After the meeting a memorandum was written for Prime Minister Mackenzie King, stating:

[Holler has been] carrying on correctly and discreetly as Consul General of Denmark since the occupation of his country by the Germans, but his anomalous position appears to be becoming more difficult, particularly when contrasted with the position taken by the Danish Minister in Washington, Mr. Henrik de Kauffmann, who, disregarding instructions from the German-controlled Government in Copenhagen, went ahead and signed the agreement with President Roosevelt under which the defence of Greenland is entrusted to the United States. Kauffmann and most of the Danish consular officers in the United States have taken a vigorous anti-Nazi line, ignored instructions from Copenhagen, relieving them of their posts, and have done a good deal to organize the Danes abroad in support of the Allied war effort. Kauffmann is speaking to Danish societies in Toronto and Montreal this week, and he has suggested to Holler that the latter had better put in an appearance at the Danish meeting in Montreal, which Mr. Holler is reluctant to do.

I do not think that there is any advice we can give Holler in the matter beyond pointing out that any adverse press comment on his attitude towards Kauffmann and the Free Danish Movement was bound to make it more difficult for us to continue to recognize his position as Danish Consul General in Canada.<sup>11</sup>

Two days later, another External Affairs memorandum ventured that Holler's relations with Kauffmann had never been very cordial and that they had perhaps been exacerbated by Holler's financial dependence on remittances from Kauffmann. The unidentified civil servant who wrote the memorandum was quite frank:

Holler, who strikes me as an intelligent, conscientious and rather conventionally minded civil servant, had been quite worried and upset by the way in which the Agreement with the United States for the protection of Greenland had been concluded by the Danish Minister at Washington on his own authority. It would, he said, have been very much easier for many Danes if Canada or the United Kingdom, as active belligerents, had occupied Greenland to prevent German encroachment. This would have been entirely understandable in the exercise of belligerent rights, and the Danes would have been completely confident that we would have restored the occupied territory to them as soon as the war was over. Holler hoped the United States would take the same course, but had some doubts in his own mind and intimated that there were similar misgivings in the minds of Danes and Greenlanders, though they all agreed that the de facto situation resulting from the United States action was entirely satisfactory.<sup>12</sup>

In mid-October 1941, Henrik Kauffmann made an important five-day visit to Canada, full of meetings and speeches. On October 15, he visited Little Norway, the Norwegian Air Force Training Camp in Toronto, where he was introduced to the 33 Danish volunteers who had signed up with the Norwegians. Accompanied by Danish Canadian Major Jan Eisenhardt of the Irish

Fusiliers, he met with base commander Major Ole Reistad, as well as with other Norwegians he knew from his former posting in Oslo.

In the evening Kauffmann spoke in Toronto to nearly 400 Danes, at a meeting arranged by the Danish Canadian Aircraft Fund. The next day he visited St. Ansgar Evangelical Lutheran Church in Toronto, a focal point for Danes in Ontario. Earlier in 1941, Pastor Aage Bugge, dean of the Lutheran Church in Greenland and responsible for the Greenlandic School Board, had visited St. Ansgar and arranged for a handful of students from Greenland to attend high school in Toronto.<sup>13</sup> After Toronto, Kauffmann visited Ottawa, where he had meetings with officials in the Department of External Affairs.

On the evening of October 18, Kauffmann, accompanied by Consul General Holler, spoke to about 200 Danes at the McGill University Faculty Club in Montreal. The hall was decorated with Canadian and Danish flags and a large map of Denmark that bore the slogan of the Free Danes in London, "Britain's Victory, Denmark's Liberty." Kauffmann began his talk by thanking the many Danes in Canada who had written to him in support of his stand vis-à-vis the Danish government. He emphasized that the position of the Danes abroad was much more difficult and uncertain than that of people in occupied countries that had moved their governments to London, and went on to state:

Our position is different, but in sentiment it is the same....We have clear evidence of Denmark's desire for freedom. It is alive and burning. Danish sailors and Danish volunteers, be it in the army, navy, in the air force or in the Red Cross, are good examples. It is of less importance where and how the help is given. The main thing is that it is given. It is impossible for Denmark today to thank the volunteers in Little Norway, in the Canadian army and the fifteen young Danes who are now leaving Canada to enlist in England in their Regiment, the Buffs, where King Christian X is honorary colonel, as well as the Danish sailors who sail in convoys to England. But there will come a day when Denmark can and when Denmark will thank them for the help they have given in this war. They will not be forgotten... Since Denmark is silent today and cannot show her true face, we the Free Danes must be spokesmen for the true spirit of Denmark and must show it in words and deeds.<sup>14</sup>

### **Holler severs relations with the Foreign Ministry**

After invading the Soviet Union in June 1941, Germany forced the Danish government to intern prominent Danish Communists and later compelled it to ban the Danish Communist Party. Moreover, the Danish government was told to applaud publicly the anti-Bolshevik crusade against the Soviet Union and in November was invited to sign the Anti-Comintern Pact. When the Danish government hesitated, the German invitation became a demand. Signing the Anti-Comintern Pact would explicitly compromise Denmark's ostensible neutrality and make Denmark an ally of Germany. The demand caused a government crisis and there were threats of resignations, but in the end Danish Prime Minister Erik Scavenius travelled to Berlin and on November 25 signed the pact.

Although Georg Holler had been cut off from Denmark since April 1940, he carried on as Consul General as best he could, with the approval of the Canadian government. However, his precarious status as a diplomat changed when Denmark signed the Anti-Comintern Pact.

Within days of signing the pact, the Danish Minister in London, Count Eduard Reventlow, informed King Christian X via Stockholm that he would no longer take instructions from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Upon severing relations with the Danish Foreign Ministry, Reventlow accepted the honorary presidency of the Association of Free Danes in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. There was no similar association in Canada or the United States, yet Holler immediately took the same stand, informing the Danish Foreign Ministry of his decision by telegram via the Danish Legation in Sweden. Holler sent a copy of his telegram to all the Danish consuls and vice consuls across Canada. All supported his decision in writing. Consul Laurits Stilling in Saskatoon, for example, wrote:

May I congratulate you on the stand you have taken. I am sure that your view is that held by all true Danes in Canada. I fully realize the very delicate situation you have been faced with since the invasion of Denmark. After reading the copy of the letter which you received from the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in Canada, Mr. Norman Robertson, I know that your work with the Canadian Government must now be considerably easier.

The gratitude of the Danes for the faith which the British and Canadian Governments have placed in Denmark and the Danes abroad is deep and I sincerely hope we shall always merit this trust. With this in view, I assure you of my fullest support and recognize you as the Representative of a Free and Independent Denmark.

In Vancouver, Laurids L. Jessen, Danish consul for British Columbia and Yukon, wrote to Holler stating that, "I have never for a moment supposed that the German instructions in Denmark had any bearing on our actions, and you may rest assured, that my efforts as Consul will be for furthering British-Danish relations only."

On December 9, 1941, Holler explained in *The Montreal Daily Star* why he broke with the Foreign Ministry in Copenhagen:

Count Reventlow, the Danish Minister in London, forwarded to me on December 3 a copy of his telegram to the Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, by which he severed himself from the Danish Government on account of the adherence to the Anti-Comintern Pact. I am well aware that the adherence of the Danish Government to this Pact took place under the severest pressure and against the will of my King and the Danish people, and nothing could be more significant of the Danish people's attitude than the riots which followed in the wake of the signing of the Pact, but it is apt highly to harm Denmark's good name, and the signing of the Pact may likely give the impression of a line-up with the Axis Powers.

Denmark's geographical position made it completely impossible for us to fight. Resistance would have meant certain suicide and a terrible slaughter. Denmark is, as so many other countries, a victim of the German aggression, an occupied country, and the Anti-Comintern Pact should therefore never have been signed by the Danish Government, as this places us in the wrong camp. I revolt against this situation, and for that reason on December 3, I asked the Danish Minister in Stockholm to inform the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen that I fully

agree with Count Reventlow in his viewpoint. I shall hereafter carry on the work in Canada that was entrusted to me when I, eleven years ago, was appointed Consul General for Denmark to the Dominion of Canada by a free Danish Government.<sup>15</sup>

### **Rechendorff to Washington and Mexico**

On May 13, 1942, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen announced that Consul General Georg Holler and Vice Consul Johannes Rechendorff, both of Montreal, were dismissed without pension by the Danish Civil Service as they refused to follow instructions from headquarters. Both Holler and Rechendorff believed the action to dismiss them was made under duress and so illegal and invalid.

Johannes Rechendorff had been appointed Danish vice consul to Montreal on April 1, 1936, and he worked well with Holler. When Holler was away, Rechendorff would serve as Acting Consul General. After six-and-a-half years in Montreal his situation changed. In mid-October 1942, Henrik Kauffmann, who paid the salaries and rent in Montreal, instructed Rechendorff to come to Washington, as he was needed there. In his place Holler hired his own son, Svend Aage Holler, as legation secretary. Svend Aage Holler worked for his father until 1951, when Georg Holler retired. On occasion during the war Svend Aage Holler was authorized to sign on behalf of the consul general, an arrangement approved by the Canadian Department of External Affairs.



*Danish Vice Consul in Montreal  
Johannes Rechendorff*

When Denmark's official representative to Mexico, Carl Jørgensen, passed away in the spring of 1944, Kauffmann sent Rechendorff to Mexico City to be chargé d'affaires. Rechendorff would later represent Denmark at meetings of the United Nations.

\*

On Friday, August 14, 1942, Henrik Kauffmann spoke to over 200 Danes in Winnipeg. The dinner in Picardy Hall had been organized by the Danish Brotherhood and coordinated with the Danish Social Club and Ansgar Lutheran Church. Grace was said by Pastor Niels Damskov. Prior to his speech Kauffmann was moved by the warm remarks by Norwegian Consul Carl Kummen. Kauffmann reciprocated and told the assembled that his eight years as Danish enjoy to Norway, prior to his posting to Washington, had been the happiest years in his life. Kauffmann was then officially introduced by Knud Schioler of the Danish Brotherhood, even though an introduction was not really necessary. Sunday morning, prior to leaving Winnipeg, Kauffmann spoke on CBC radio.

\*

In late November 1942, Montreal welcomed a Danish visitor from London, Christmas Møller, who was in the middle of a very successful five-week trip to North America. Christmas Møller had been elected leader of the Danish Conservative Party in 1928, a position he still held at the beginning of the war. After the German occupation he joined the new coalition government, but because of his harsh criticism of the German authorities, in October 1940, the Germans insisted he resign from the government and in 1941 compelled him to resign from the Danish parliament. In 1942 he fled to London, where he became a broadcaster for the BBC's Danish language service, broadcasting to occupied Denmark. He spoke out against Prime Minister Erik Scavenius and the Danish government's collaborative stance towards the Germans and encouraged sabotage and other resistance activities, in the process becoming enormously popular. Since he was the only major Danish politician to leave Denmark during the war, he was thus never in a position to form a government in exile, but in 1945, he became foreign minister in the Liberation Government. His speech to the Danish community in Montreal in November 1942 was a huge success. He was regarded as a hero as he embodied a fighting spirit and was intensely engaged in having Denmark recognized as one of the Allies.



*Dinner in honour of Mr. Christmas Møller, given by the Danish Relief Fund, Montreal, Nov. 26, 1942*

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During the war Henrik Kauffmann visited Canada several times, giving speeches in Winnipeg, Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. In October 1942 he was in Toronto, and in September 1943 he was in Ottawa, where he gave a speech to the local Danes at the Chateau Laurier. This was immediately followed by another visit to Toronto, where he spoke at a reception at the Royal York Hotel, organized by the Danish Relief Fund.

The meeting with the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa in September 1943 was noteworthy, as Kauffmann requested that Canada recognize him as the senior official representative of Danish interests in the Western Hemisphere. Such recognition would make him Holler's superior and blatantly undermine Holler's status as Denmark's chief representative in Canada. Supportive of his argument was the fact that three Danish diplomats in Latin America had earlier severed their relations with the Foreign Ministry in Copenhagen and then recognized Kauffmann as the senior Danish representative in the Western Hemisphere. They were Carl

Jørgensen in Mexico, Ove Sehested in Brazil, and Fin Lund in Argentina, who was also accredited to Chile and Uruguay. When the pro-Nazi government of Argentina refused to recognize Fin Lund's arrangement with Kauffmann as well as his economic dependence on Kauffmann, he was forced to move the Danish legation to Uruguay.<sup>16</sup>



*From left: Henrik Kauffmann, Knud Schioler, Charlotte Kauffmann and Danish Consul Grettir Johannson, Winnipeg, Aug. 15, 1942*

From a Canadian point of view, recognizing Kauffmann as the senior representative of Danish interests in the Western Hemisphere could be interpreted as an intrusion into Danish political and administrative life. By according Kauffmann special status, Canada could become entangled in Danish politics. Moreover, Kauffmann did not have a mandate from the Danish government or from any identifiable organized group, nor was he taking steps to establish himself and a team as a national committee or government in exile.

At the meeting Kauffmann admitted that the U.S. government had advised against the Danes forming a Danish national committee and acknowledged that there were too few Danes abroad with substantial political standing in Denmark to facilitate the establishment of a Danish national committee.

At the same time, External Affairs did not see much difference between Kauffmann, Reventlow, and Holler in the fall of 1943, except that Kauffmann could perhaps be described as a rebel. "Indeed, their position has for some time been politically little different, from that of Scavenius today."<sup>17</sup> That is, since Scavenius resigned as Danish Prime Minister.

The relationship between Kauffmann and Holler was correct, but never close. Holler was beholden to Kauffmann for his salary as well as the expenses associated with running the consulate general and resentful that Kauffmann had taken Rechendorff from him. Moreover, they disagreed about certain policies. Holler was opposed to Kauffmann's Greenland Agreement with the United States. Holler would have preferred a Canadian or British occupation of Greenland, which he was convinced, would have ended shortly after the war, and was convinced that American troops would remain in Greenland after the war; which they did.

Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs Norman Robertson advised Holler not to become involved in a public quarrel with Kauffmann. But while External Affairs rejected Kauffmann's request for special status, the department thought it prudent to establish as close contact as

possible with Denmark and Kauffmann, “with the object of getting the United States out of Greenland at the earliest convenient moment.”<sup>18</sup>



*From left: Christmas Møller, Henrik Kauffmann, Ferdinand Krøyer Kielberg (Free Danes in the UK), Count Eduard Reventlow and Danish Minister for Iceland Sage de Fontenay, London, March 28, 1944*

Being rejected by the Canadian government as the senior representative did not keep Kauffmann away from Canada. Nor did he shy away from publicity. The public adored him and he received very positive media coverage. He held the Danish flag high and personified the fighting Danes. Admittedly, not all his visits created publicity, but his speech to the Empire Club of Canada on February 10, 1944, did. Given at the prestigious Royal York Hotel in Toronto, his address was entitled “Denmark under the Nazi Heel.” Kauffmann gave a short overview of Danish history and then spoke about the German invasion and

Denmark under Nazi rule. He covered the Danish government resigning in August 1943 rather than yielding to new German demands whereby German military courts, and not Danish civilian courts, would try saboteurs because the Germans thought the Danish courts were too lenient; sabotage of factories and railway lines steadily increasing as Britain’s Special Operations Executive parachuted more agents and arms into Denmark; and the Wehrmacht taking control of Denmark the day after the resignation of the Danish government and declaring martial law.

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### **Danish Relief Fund**

After the German occupation of Denmark, several attempts were made by local groups of Danes in Canada to raise funds for the Canadian and British war effort and for the welfare of Danish seamen who now sailed for the Allies. The most successful was the Danish Relief Fund, established to assist Danish seamen who were now cut off from Denmark and their families. According to the Maritime Museum of Denmark, 240 Danish merchant ships and about 6,500 Danish sailors joined the Allied war effort.

The Danish Relief Fund, registered under the War Charities Act of 1939, was founded in Montreal on April 9, 1941, and registered on May 13 of that year. The contribution made by Danish sailors was important to the war effort, and these sailors needed club facilities in ports as well as an organization to address their wants and needs. To contend with this need the Danish Relief Fund established a Sailor’s Home in Halifax and a reading room at St. John, N.B. The organization also supported the Danish branch of the Canadian Red Cross and supplied small

gifts to the volunteers in the Danish Unit in England. In December 1943, over 700 Christmas parcels were sent to Danish sailors. As well, the fund assisted Danish sailors with clothing if their ships were torpedoed and they were rescued from the sea.

The fund's driving force throughout the war was Danish engineer Per Hall in Montreal, but it was actually organized by Per Hall's close friends Carl and Nonny Wright, who at the time were posted to Montreal. Carl Wright, born in Copenhagen in 1906 and a graduate of the University of Copenhagen, was employed by the International Labour Organization in Montreal. Nonny Wright, née Hartnack, was born in Copenhagen in 1909. She studied at the University of Copenhagen, the Sorbonne, and Oxford. She later became one of Denmark's first women ambassadors, serving in Ghana, Argentina and Peru. In Montreal in 1941 she helped organize the Danish branch of the Canadian Red Cross.

The board of directors of the Danish Relief Fund was called the Central Administration and consisted of six people in Montreal: President Pastor Vilhelm Beck, minister at St. Ansgar Lutheran Church; Vice President Cyrus Pedersen, who was also president of the Danish Canadian Society; Treasurer Svend Nielsen; Secretary Per Hall; and Recording Secretary K. Rasmussen. Consul General Georg Holler was honorary president.

There were 12 active Danish Relief Fund branches across Canada: in Halifax, N.S.; St. John and New Denmark, N.B.; Toronto, Ontario; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Saskatoon and Regina, Saskatchewan; Calgary, Edmonton, Standard, and Wayne, Alberta; and Vancouver, B.C. The branches would not only pass the hat around but would also hold events to raise money. For instance, on February 19, 1944, the Winnipeg branch showed Knud Rasmussen's film *Palos Bruddefærd (The Wedding of Palo)* at the University of Manitoba, with the proceeds going to the Fund.

After the war the Danish Relief Fund sent to Denmark 2,500 parcels, each weighing 11 lbs., as well as 125 tons of material that was otherwise not available in Denmark, including 25 tons of tea, 25 tons of coffee, 10 tons of hospital cotton and other medical supplies, as well as aluminum sheeting for making cookware.

\*

For Denmark the occupation and war ended on May 5, 1945, without any part of the country becoming a battlefield. The day before, the German armed forces in Northern Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark had officially surrendered on the battlefield in Germany, acting under instructions from the new German Dönitz Government, while at the same time facing the advancing British and Canadian 21<sup>st</sup> Army Group. The surrender was broadcast to Denmark by the BBC on the evening of May 4<sup>th</sup>. That same evening the Danes tore down their blackout curtains, lit candles in the windows, and celebrated the end of the war in the streets.

With victory and peace, it was time to celebrate, but also to mourn the fallen who had sacrificed their lives so others could live in freedom. In Canada some of these commemorations took place the following year when most of the soldiers had returned home.

On April 8, 1946, Danes in Toronto gathered at St. Ansgar Evangelical Lutheran Church on Wellesley Street, where the Danish Relief Fund presented a Victory Book to Toronto's Danish Consul Ditlev Vilhelm Klein, who represented Consul General Georg Holler.<sup>19</sup> The leather bound Victory Book, which had been worked on for years, had been prepared, "as a tribute to

King Christian X and the Danish people for the determination and the courage they showed through Denmark's years of war." It contained the names of the Danish-Canadians who had contributed to the Danish Relief Fund. The dark red leather cover displayed maple leaves and fleurs-de-lis in 23-karat gold. The illustrations were created by Danish-Canadian artist and poet Thor Hansen. Following the dedication inside the Victory Book, a project already begun by the Danish Relief Fund in Toronto back in October 1943, were the names of all the donors arranged by province from east to west. Significantly, the very first name on the list was that of Henrik Kauffmann. The gala event was chaired by John A. Madsen, head of the Toronto branch and chair of the Victory Book Committee. The speakers were introduced by Dr. Vibeke Engelbert of the University of Toronto, who was Secretary of the Toronto branch of the Danish Relief Fund. One of the guest speakers was Montreal-based Per Hall, who spoke about the return of the "Danmark," the full-rigged Danish training ship, which had been lent to the U.S. Navy during the war and on which Per Hall sailed on her triumphant return to Copenhagen.

There was practically no end to the victory celebrations. On September 26, 1946, the Danish-Canadian Club of Toronto held a Welcome Home Party in the Crystal Ballroom at the King Edward Hotel. The program included an honour roll, with names of those who had served and photographs of many of them. It also listed those who had lost their life on active service.



*Welcome Home Festival for members of the Armed Forces, St. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto, May 5, 1946.*

### **Holler Reinstated**

On May 8, 1945, Consul General Holler was re-instated by the Danish Foreign Ministry, now led by Foreign Minister Christmas Møller, and informed that he had done the right thing for a Free Denmark. Soon after, Holler received the King Christian X's Freedom Medal for his war-time contribution. The medal was also awarded to Count Reventlow, Henrik Kauffmann, and the leading members of the Danish Relief Fund.

In 1946 Holler was promoted to Minister, and in May he set up his office at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. Within months he found suitable accommodation and opened the Danish legation in the Birks Building on Sparks Street. When he retired in 1951, Holler returned to Denmark and settled in Rungsted, a fashionable coastal town north of Copenhagen. In the 1950s, with Denmark's more active foreign policy after the war, Denmark having disbanded its low-profile neutrality and having joined NATO, the legation in Ottawa was upgraded to an embassy and moved into a large house on Daly Street in Sandy Hill.

**I would like to thank Valerie de Montigny for editing and improving this article.  
Much appreciated.**

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- <sup>1</sup> *1940 Studier i Forhandlingspolitikken og Samarbejdspolitikken*, Henrik S. Nissen, Gyldendal, Cph., 1973, p. 20.  
<sup>2</sup> *Defiant Diplomacy*, Bo Lidegaard, Peter Lang, New York, 2003, p. 63.  
<sup>3</sup> Fraser Bruce, Aluminum Company of Canada, to Norman Robertson, Department of External Affairs, Documents on Canadian External Relations, Vol. 7 1939-1941, Part I, Department of External Affairs, 1974  
<sup>4</sup> "Lakeview Memorial Garden, The Danish Section" Svend Berg, 2008 Heritage Book, Danish Federation, p. 231  
<sup>5</sup> Letter from Niels Vilhelm Boeg to Georg Holler of February 21, 1940. Holler papers, Rigsarkivet G-5-40  
<sup>6</sup> Letter from External Affairs to Georg Holler, June 14, 1940, LAC RG25 Vol. 2749, 499-40-C  
<sup>7</sup> Letter from Sven A. Larsen to Georg Holler, June 10, 1940, Rigsarkivet, G-5-40, Translated by the author  
<sup>8</sup> Letter from Georg Holler to Sven A. Larsen, June 14, 1940, Rigsarkivet, G-5-40  
<sup>9</sup> Grant, Shelagh D., "Why the St. Roch? Why the Northwest Passage? Why 1940?", Arctic, The Arctic Institute of North America, Vol. 46, No. 1, 1993, pp. 82-87  
<sup>10</sup> *I Kongens Navn*, Bo Lidegaard, Samleren, Copenhagen, 1996, p. 19  
<sup>11</sup> Memorandum for the Prime Minister, October 13, 1941, LAC RG25, 499-40-C  
<sup>12</sup> Memorandum for the Prime Minister, October 15, 1941, LAC RG25, 499-40-C  
<sup>13</sup> *O Canada! Erindringer 1941-1945*, Self-published in 2005 by Ida Ebbesen and K.E. Bugge, Copenhagen  
<sup>14</sup> "Minister Kauffmann hædres og hylles i Canada", *Dannevirke*, October 29, 1941  
<sup>15</sup> "Consul seeks Free Denmark", *Montreal Daily Star*, December 8, 1941  
<sup>16</sup> *Besættelsens Hvem-Hvad-Hvor*, Politiken, Copenhagen, 1965, p. 182  
<sup>17</sup> Memorandum for Dr. Keenleyside, External Affairs, HSF/LSTA 20/12/43 p. 7  
<sup>18</sup> Memorandum re Recognition of Mr. H. Kauffmann, Danish Minister to the United States, LAC RG25 499-40-C  
<sup>19</sup> "The Victory Book", *The Evening Telegram*, Toronto, April 6, 1946

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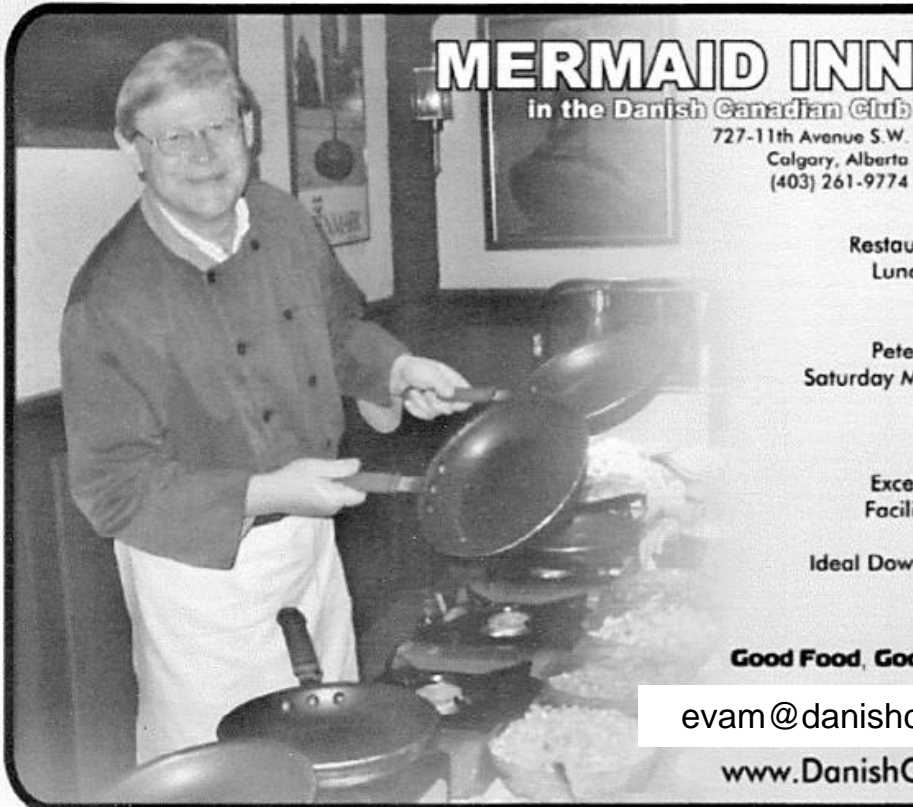
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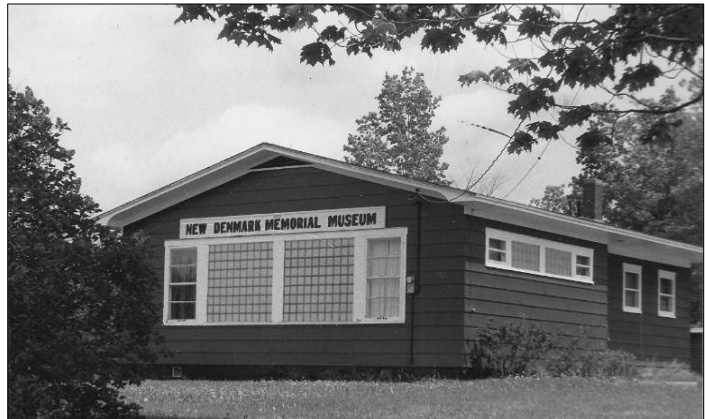
# New Denmark Historical Society and its Museum

## The New Denmark Women's Institute, 1967

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During the summer of 1959 a meeting of interested persons was held at the home of Miss Janet Currie in Andover, for the purpose of organizing a Historical Society in Victoria County. Delegates were present from Grand Falls, Plaster Rock, Perth, Andover, Aroostook, New Denmark and the Scotch (sic) Colony.

Dr. B.A. Puddington was elected as president of the new organization and Anita Lagace was elected as secretary-treasurer. Directors were elected from each of the various districts represented at the meeting. These directors were expected to organize branches of the Historical Society in their respective districts. The director for New Denmark was Mrs. Peter L. Hansen. Later in September of 1959, a special meeting was held in St. Ansgar's Sunday School Hall for the purpose of organizing the New Denmark Historical Society. The following officers were elected: Edgar Brinkman as president, Margaret Christensen as vice-president and Marion Pray as secretary-treasurer.



The first meeting of the New Denmark Historical Society was held on January 20, 1960. During that first year our enrolment was 24 members. Since that time it has varied 15 to 24 members. Five meetings are scheduled for each local society and a County Convention is held in June or July of each year. Various projects have been undertaken by the New Denmark society and with a good degree of success. Our very first project was to have the name of our post office changed from Salmonhurst to New Denmark. New Denmark seemed a more appropriate name because the post office with its two rural routes served the whole Danish colony. This change was effected on August 21, 1962, as a result of our efforts.

Several papers of historic interest have been prepared by the members and some of these have been placed in the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John. Among these papers are:

*This was Grandmother's Way* by Margaret Christensen  
*The Potato Industry in New Denmark* by Vinal Christensen  
*Changes in New Denmark 1872-1918* by Edgar Brinkman  
*Changes in New Denmark 1918-1940* by Theresa Hansen

*Changes at New Denmark Station 1940-1965* by Faye Johansen

*Changes in New Denmark 1940-1965* by Rose Jeppesen

*Evolution in Farming* by Edgar Brinkman

*History of St. Peter's Lutheran Church* by Rev. Immanuel Johansen



*Members of the New Denmark Historical Society, 1970*

*From left: Rose Jeppesen, Mrs. G. Folden, Hans Larsen, Hans Madsen, Maren Madsen, Signe Larsen, Theresa Hansen, Magnus Funk, Mrs. Niels K. Jensen, Mrs. Funk, Niels K. Jensen and Vinal Christensen.*

In 1961 and 1962 displays of antiques were shown on June 19<sup>th</sup> at the New Denmark Memorial School. These were very interesting to the large number of visitors who every year attend the Memorial Services held at the Immigrant Lot. On several occasions our society has been host to the County Convention. This is an annual event and guest speakers are always asked. Among the guest speakers, we have had Dr. George McBeath, curator of the New Brunswick Museum, and now director of the Department of Historic Resources, Mrs. K. Ryder, also with the New Brunswick Museum and a collector of antique glassware, Dr. Louise Manny, a New Brunswick historian and a collector of folk music, Dr. Frederick Clark, also a New Brunswick historian, and Mr. Ken Homer, at that time president of Carleton County Historical Society. All of these addresses were most interesting and informative and were very much appreciated.

FYI



We have a collection of obsolete farm machinery stored in a vacant barn in the community. These were donated to the society, and we hope to have them labelled and put in a more permanent storage place. As a result of our efforts to preserve records of a way of life which is rapidly fading into the past, we have unearthed documents and artifacts which, we hope, will be preserved and appreciated by our descendants for many generations to come.



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

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

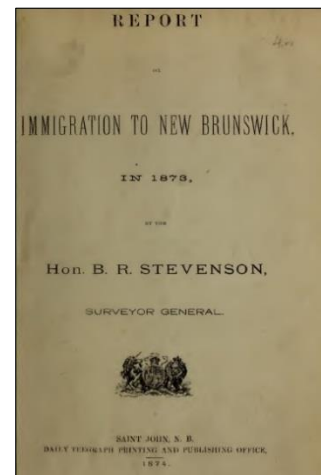
# The Danish Colonists in New Denmark

## B. R. Stevenson, Report on Immigration to New Brunswick in 1873

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The first Danish colonists arrived in New Denmark in June 1872. The Surveyor General of New Brunswick, Mr. Benjamin R. Stevenson, duly recorded their arrival by ship and briefly commented on how the Danes got settled on the land which the government had set aside for them. The Danes thought they would be settled on farm land, but it turned out that they had to clear the forest first. The following year Stevenson wrote the following account, which was published by the New Brunswick government in its annual Immigration Report on pages 3 to 5 plus 27:

The discharge of the various, and in many respects arduous, duties devolved upon me during the past year, in carrying out the administration of the Immigration Policy of the Government, has called for more assiduous attention, and greater sacrifice of personal and private interest, than has usually been required of the Surveyor General of the Province; and it now becomes my pleasing duty to make a report to your Honour [the Lieutenant Governor] upon the efforts in Immigration to New Brunswick made since the date of my last report, and the success which has attended them.



### The Danish Colonists

The best that could be done for the Danish colonists during the winter was to give them some chopping of land for the Danish immigration (to arrive in the spring under the contract with Capt. Heller), and the clearing out of some of the road line on which the expected colonists would be located. [*Not a clear and understandable sentence. Indeed, the report contains numerous grammatical and typographical errors, and generally it is not well-written.*] Many of these settlers found work in the County of Victoria, outside of the colony, having acquired sufficient knowledge of the English language, since their arrival in New Brunswick, to enable them to undertake almost any manual labour they were able to obtain.

Though the winter was very severe, good health prevailed among them; and on my visiting them, about the 21<sup>st</sup> April, I found they had passed through the winter quite as satisfactorily as I had expected they would. I found, however, that there would be a great difficulty in satisfactorily carrying out the arrangement in Capt. Heller's contract, whereby the government agreed to secure to them work for two years; and, during this visit, I made efforts to arrange with them to accept

the same terms as were secured to Capt. Brown's [Scottish] colonists, and succeeded at this time with some of them.



Expecting a considerable addition this year to this colony, I was required to make some preparation for their reception at the colony; and made arrangements for the erection of a building, 100 feet long by 18 feet wide, which I divided into eight rooms, in each of which I placed a cooking stove. Already some of the colonists had made arrangements to remove from the "temporary accommodation" provided for in Capt. Heller's contract. With this temporary accommodation vacated, and such other accommodation as I was able to obtain in the settlement, I believed I could, with the building I then contracted for, make comfortable provision for the number I expected. The snow at this settlement, at this date, was very deep for the season of the year.

On my way down the river, I learned that Capt. Heller and part of his colony had arrived, and the Scotch colony with Capt. Brown had sailed. I advised that the Danes be retained at St. John, and employment be obtained for them there, if possible, until the season should be more advanced, the snow gone, and the building completed.

The active demand for labour on the St. John Water Works afforded an opportunity for this suggestion being carried out. Temporary accommodation was secured for them in the Barracks at St. John, which were fitted up comfortably for their reception. Good health generally prevailed among them, and they gladly assented to accept the employment on the Water Works as a fair fulfilment of the government engagement to provide work.

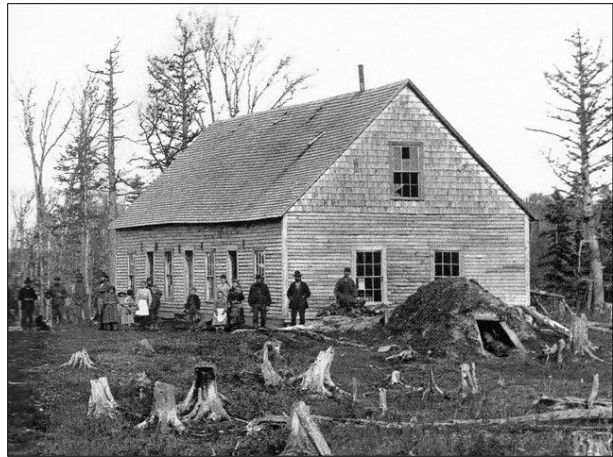
On my arrival at St. John, I met Capt. Heller, and opened negotiations with him for a change of his contract so that the government might be relieved from their guarantee for two years' work to the Danes.

The experience of the past year had fully satisfied me that the satisfactory fulfilment of this part of the contract involved a very great deal of anxiety, and a considerable outlay of money, when the work could not be provided for them on the roads in their own settlement. The difficulty in

securing such work as each person is desirous of obtaining, necessitates extensive inquiries and many details, the result of which are not an equivalent for the labour, time and expense involved; and oftentimes over-fastidiousness as to the character of the work is, too apparently, made an excuse for unwillingness to faithfully perform work secured, tendered, and accepted.

In this matter of change of contract Capt. Heller met me very cordially, and after full explanation to him of the reasons which induced me to endeavor to negotiate it, cheerfully assented to bring the matter before his immigrants and urge it upon their favourable consideration and adoption. The terms offered were that they accept, in lieu of Capt. Heller's contract, the same terms as were given to Capt. Brown's colonists under the minute of Council of 16 August 1872....

I regret I am not able to give a tabulated statement of the Danish Immigration similar to that herein before given of the Scotch (sic). It would not, however, be of the same satisfactory character. With them I found, that, with few exceptions, only such as are married men with families, and who were in their own country practical farmers, became actual settlers. Without having an accurate statement, I feel warranted in saying that over one third of those who came to this country, under Capt. Heller's control, have left it. Those however, who are settled, are a fine hardy industrious and energetic people, most of whom will, I think, make good settlers.



*The Immigrant House, New Denmark, 1870s*

The loss on these is largely owing to the non-selection of immigrants, who in Denmark had been farmers, or farm laborers. Those who are accustomed to other trades or callings, are not well fitted for the hard labour of clearing of new farm. The tract of land on which they are located, is one of the finest I have seen in New Brunswick, and I feel satisfied it will yet become a fine agricultural district.

During this winter, they will find plenty of employment, at a short distance from their homes, in getting out cedar sleepers, of which there is a large supply, and for which there is an active demand.

From some cause which I cannot explain, there was considerable sickness in this colony during the past summer, though only one death occurred. This sickness is remarkable, inasmuch as among the Scotch colonists, there were but very trifling illnesses. I am assured that by the whole Scotch colony, for the six months after landing, there was occasion for paying for medical attendance, not more than fifty dollars, while among the Danish colony, in several families, the bills for medical attendance were more than that sum.

# New Denmark

## The Pioneer Settlement and its development

### The New Denmark Women's Institute, 1967

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In a triangular area, two sides of which are formed by the Saint John and Salmon Rivers, there is a smiling settlement among the beautiful hills of northern New Brunswick, about 10 miles south of the Grand Falls in Victoria County. In 1872 a lusty band of Danish immigrants settled in that locality, and for old times' sake they named their wooded heritage New Denmark.

The first mention on record referring to the New Denmark settlement we find in reading the speech from the throne by Lieutenant Governor Lemuel Allan Wilmot, made at the opening of the Legislative Assembly on February 29, 1872. When referring to a delegation which the New Brunswick government had appointed to go to Ottawa to sit in concert with the representatives from all the other provinces of the Dominion on the important subject of immigration, he stated that such arrangements had been made and approved by the Dominion government which would ultimately lead to the introduction of a numerous and valuable class of immigrants.

The government of New Brunswick entered into an agreement with Messieurs Søren Severin Heller and George Stymest for the introduction into the province from the Scandinavian countries, of about 500 persons of whom two-fifths should be males 18 years of age and upwards, and in pursuance thereof the government of New Brunswick undertook:

- (1) That each male immigrant over 18 years of age should have 100 acres of good farm land with good accessible roads, a chopping of two acres to be made on each lot of 100 acres at the expense of the government, the immigrant to be employed to do such chopping. A suitable temporary building or buildings to be provided for the reception of the immigrant, upon or a short distance from his lot, such temporary building and the lot on which it stands to be reserved for school or other public purpose. On three years' actual residence a grant to be issued from the crown to each male settling as above.
- (2) That the able-bodied males over 18 years of age would receive employment on the railways or at other works, at the rate of, or at not less than one dollar per day, for a period not exceeding two years.
- (3) Any grants of land which the New Brunswick Railway Company agree to make to labourers in the employment of said company will be guaranteed by the government.

On May 31, 1872, a party of six families, including ten children and seven single men, making a total of twenty-nine persons, under the supervision of Captain Heller, left Copenhagen on a steamer bound for Canada. They touched at Hamburg, Hull, Liverpool and Halifax. They went from Halifax to Saint John in a smaller steamer and continued up the Saint John River to Fredericton, thence on a yet smaller boat equipped with a paddle-wheel up the river to the mouth of the Salmon river, where they landed on the Whitehead Flats on June 19, 1872. As two of the

women were ill, they sought aid from the settlers living on the flats. One of these settlers, Charles Watson, with a team of horses and a sled, took them up the two-mile trail through the woods to their destination. The route which they travelled was slightly south of the road which is now known as the Lucy Gulch Road.

On that first group, only three families remained in New Denmark. They were Anders Carlsen, Niels Christensen and Lars Clausen, as well as Sigvardt Johansen and Ferdinand Nielsen.

The first settlers lived in a building built by the government near the centre of the settlement, which became known as the Immigrant House. Here the people lived until such time as they were established. Mr. Oliver Curless, a contractor from Grand Falls, built the Immigrant House and the Main Road, near which it was situated.

Terrible must have been the misgivings of those early inmates of the old Immigrant House, where they all lived packed together. They had come from a country that resembled a gigantic garden, and now they looked out on an endless forest. They were used to the fertile plains of Denmark, but now they gazed upon the precipitous woodland trails threading their way through the tall hardwood growth. Many of the weaker hearts, whose hopes had been reduced to dust



*Holstein cows provided milk for the cheese factory*

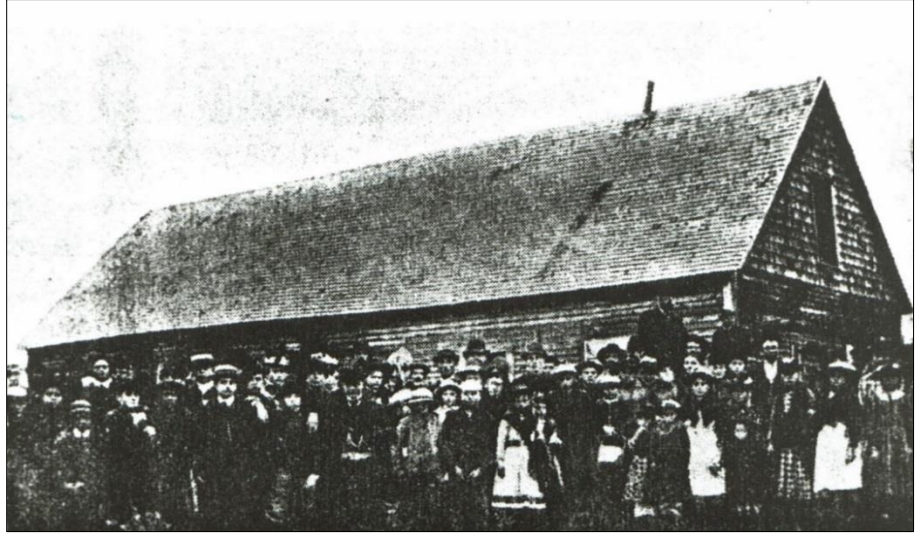
and ashes at the first sight of their new home, sought solace in useless tears. The stouter characters, however, faced the future with grim determination. Men and women alike prepared to overcome seemingly insurmountable hardships. They were like children abandoned in the merciless woods. The experience of others was of little use to them, because they were unfamiliar with the language of their adopted country. At first, in frenzied hopelessness, they attempted with inexperienced hands to feel the giant trees, then, not knowing the uses to which fire can be put in an extremity, they set to work to bury the hardwood logs in order that they might snatch from the forest a small area on which to raise some precious grain. Frequently, today, when excavations are undertaken in this district, the remains of these logs are unearthed.

Another party of four or five families came in August of that same year and then the following year a party of 75 people came to the new colony. These three groups were all that Captain Heller brought over. Others who came later, came on their own. So, gradually the settlement increased in size. The quaint inhabitants, dressed in homespun clothes, knitted from homespun yarn, clattered about their work in wooden clogs. Chill penury demanded of them the most rigid economy, but in spite of this they were often scarcely able to repel starvation. Sometimes growing hunger forced them to go to their small potato patch and devour the seed planted there to produce the next year's crop.

The women of the Danish nation have always been used to take a large share in outdoor occupations, but the wives of these early farmers undertook the most onerous duties. They

thought nothing of making the round journey to Grand Falls on foot, and bearing a heavy burden on their backs. Possibly, at that time, this way of covering those twenty miles was more comfortable than travelling over appalling roads in their primitive springless wagons, the wheels of which were narrow cross sections cut from large trees. Money was practically unknown in this settlement for several years. Any small surplus product of the farm had to be exchanged for other necessities at the stores in Grand Falls. There were many hearts in Denmark thirsting for news from their family and friends in the New World, but the old folks could not be satisfied because these pioneers were unable to obtain the necessary five cents to procure a postage stamp for overseas mail.

An immigrant, L. P. Lysgaard Petersen, was the leader of activities in the new colony and his duties were varied, among them officiating at the funeral of the first victim of scarlet fever, which took its toll among the children of the tiny settlement during the first year. The church records show that the great majority of deaths in those early years of the colony were among



*Danes outside the Immigrant House in New Denmark, 1889*

children and this fact is not surprising when one considers that there was no immunization for contagious diseases in those days. These people, poor enough at any season, were ten miles from the nearest doctor, and without telephones or good roads. Moreover, the roads were often impassable for many days at a time during the winter and early spring. Christen Madsen, one of the immigrants, made coffins for the colonists for many years. He made them from boards and covered them with black or grey material, lined them with white cotton and made handles of rope and covered them with material. In later years he used metal handles. The price of a coffin was for many years \$3.00. Later the price of a coffin rose to \$5.00 and finally to \$10.00.

In the early years of the settlement, the mail was delivered once a week on horseback from Grand Falls by James White. Many improvements have been made during the intervening years until the present day when New Denmark receives daily rural mail delivery.

During the first years of the settlement the people were engaged in clearing land and mixed farming. By 1892 the dairy herds had increased so greatly that a cheese factory was erected. It was located on the Mill Hill. Some years later another section was added to the factory for the purpose of making butter. There was another factory for cheese-making at the Petersen section of New Denmark, but it was in operation only a few years.

Making butter did not prove to be very successful as there was no market for large quantities. Cheese, on the other hand, could be marketed readily. Very large cheeses, weighting from 40 to

80 lbs. each were shipped to England, while smaller ones of 12 to 14 lbs. were sold in the neighbouring towns or were consumed by the farmers themselves. The cheese making enterprise proved to be most successful. For more than 25 years the factory was run with great success and was the means of making New Denmark a very promising dairying district. The farmers had herds of from 5 to 10 milking cows and a few had more and by taking turns in collecting the fresh, whole milk daily the maintenance costs were kept down. The factory was run on a co-operative basis, and in that way the farmers got practically all the profits there were in the business.



*Harvesting potatoes on the H. Rasmussen farm, New Denmark, 1953*

The first cheese maker was Mr. Tilley, who came to get the factory started. Then Mr. William Fowler from Sussex, New Brunswick, took over the job. By this time the Danes themselves understood the operation and Mr. Lewis Hansen, Peter L. Hansen and John Hansen each had a turn at cheese making.

The cheese made was cheddar. It was shipped once a month, as it was necessary to have four or five teams haul it to Grand Falls. Farmers were paid by cheque per pound of milk until it was found that some ambitious folk were adding water to it and then it was paid for by test as our cream is today. From a herd of seven or eight cows a farmer might realize about \$200.00 in a season. Cheese sold for 12 cents per pound.

The method used in cheese making was the same as it is today. However, it was not sealed with wax, but was merely wrapped in cheesecloth for shipment. Yet, it had amazing keeping qualities, sometimes being kept from fall until the following summer in homes without refrigeration.



*After the Second World War dairying in New Denmark gave way to potato farming*

There were two other kinds of cheese made in the homes, “knapost” and “myseost”, one of which used the curds of milk and the other used the whey. Caraway was used as seasoning and both were considered as delicacies when served on dark or rye bread.

As we have pointed out previously, the cheese factory in New Denmark passed out of existence with the start of potato farming. At first only small one-half acre fields were planted for the farmer’s own use. These potatoes were tended to by hand in all stages. Some improvising farmers wishing to save themselves work would sometimes ‘plough’ the harvest out, instead of digging them by hand.

When the farmers realized that they could market all the extra potatoes they could raise, they started to clear more land. Quickly forested areas were cleared, turning them into fields, ideal for potato raising. As well, it took some careful and clever planning to secure the minimum machinery for the job, which included a plough, harrow, horse-hoe, cultivator, planter, sprayer and digger.

Most farmers had one good team of horses, sometimes two, to haul the machinery in the fields, and to haul the produce to market. At this time horses were an indispensable aid on the farm and did much to assist the farmer in the early years of potato growing. Horses hauled countless loads of potatoes to railway sidings. Distances of seven or eight miles were common.

The price of potatoes varied from ten cents to ten dollars per barrel, but because of the low cost of labour and fairly steady market demands, these were years of rich rewards for potato farmers.

Naturally, the depression of the Thirties hit them hard, but despite this they did much better than a farmer could starting today with the present high overhead costs.

In a short period of time the farms in New Denmark became increasingly highly mechanized with the addition of powerful tractors and trucks to replace horses. Farmers could raise three times as many potatoes as before with less work. Then, improved spray materials such as D.D.T. (an insecticide) and Dithane (a fungicide), again increased the yield. However, by this time professional people such as doctors, lawyers or bankers impressed by the seemingly quick returns from potatoes,



*The New Denmark Women's Institute participates in the Founders' Day Parade in New Denmark, June 1997*

invested money in the potato industry. It did not take long to create a serious state of over-production. The uncertainty created by this overproduction has caused many farmers to consider selling their farms and seeking a more steady source of income. It has at this point become a race to try to stay on top.

Nevertheless, farmers are a happy and optimistic lot and although the future does not look bright for the potato industry in New Denmark any more than it does anywhere else, there may still be a solution. Just as the cheese factory gave way in this community to potato farming, so it, in turn, may give way to another enterprise that may again reward the farmer for his labour.

There was a time when potatoes were not packaged. Today the city housewife finds her potatoes neatly packaged on the supermarket shelf bearing a proper label according to variety, grade and the grower's name. It was not always so. Several years back potatoes were shipped in burlap bags and before that they were merely dumped into the railway cars in bulk. It was the supermarket's job to have them bagged and packaged on receiving them.

A potato council existed for several years to try to find new markets for the farmers of the Victoria-Carleton area and to facilitate the marketing of their crops. In theory it seemed a good idea, and it was endorsed by the federal government. One Dane was represented on the council. However this scheme did not work in accordance with the council's ideas. Hence, after a time the potato council was disbanded. Yet, seed potatoes from New Denmark are exported to about 35 countries, Latin America being an important market.

# Self taught artist has sold hundreds of paintings

May 11, 1977 interview with Vinal Christensen, New Denmark

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When Vinal Christensen of New Denmark retired from the Department of Agriculture in 1964, he retired 'to work'. "I've been busier than ever," he says. I'll say he has. Vinal took up painting in oils about a year after he retired and that alone is quite something. "I thought I'd do a few paintings for myself and gradually they started selling. In the last 10 to 12 years I've sold hundreds and have probably given 75 away to relatives and friends."



It isn't like he's had a lot of art instruction either. Vinal completed just two lessons from a correspondence school when he was 17. Since he had paid for the whole course in advance, he was out this money and this was probably the biggest lesson the course taught him! Mr. Christensen farmed until 1945 when he went to work for the Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture. By the time he retired, he had 20-some inspectors working under him in the department.

At one point the artist developed an allergy to something and he broke out in a rash. Many tests were required before it was discovered that he was allergic to the oil paints. As soon as he switched to acrylic paints, the rash vanished. Besides, he has found that the acrylics are tougher and dry very quickly, whereas oils take months. How long does it take to paint a picture? Well, he has been asked this many, many times and it all depends, usually one to three days.



*Centennial sign at the Immigrant Lot painted by Vinal Christensen, presented to the Museum in 1971*

Doing his own framing is yet another of Vinal's activities. Vinal buys his moldings in Bristol and works them up into a distinctive but simple pine frame. If he used an expensive imported frame, he feels that it would increase the value of the paintings so much that many people would be unable to afford them. Mr. Christensen has

exhibited his work at Tobi Craft displays a number of time. He has also shown them at the Grand Falls Rotary Art and Handicraft Exhibit, at an art store in Edmundston and at Fort Fairfield. Paintings from the hand of this self-taught New Denmark artist have been shipped all over Canada and the United States. Some have gone to Europe and the mayor of Copenhagen owns one as well. Orders sometimes come in groups. Once he sold nine paintings to one person and on another occasion a lady bought six. In 1976 his records show he sold 39 paintings.



*Painting of Vinal and Margaret's farm, in New Denmark*

Lecturing to school children is very satisfying to Vinal. He loves the questions they ask him, like, "What is the largest painting you ever did?" The answer is 23 feet long and from the floor to the ceiling. This was a church mural and Mr. Christensen has done them for churches in Tilley, Andover and Plaster Rock. "I took some paintings to the New Denmark Elementary School not long ago to show the children in grades three and four. They were a nice bunch of kids, well behaved too. About three days later I received this large, brown

envelope in the mail and I couldn't imagine what it was. Inside I found 19 letters from the children thanking me for coming. I was really pleased."

Most of Vinal's paintings lean toward landscapes and earlier days when horses did the work. He does a very fine job on bouquets of flowers too. Prices for finished paintings, including a frame, vary with the size, naturally. A 12 inch by 16 inch painting costs \$22, an 18 inch by 28 inch painting cost \$50, and a larger effort like the 22 inch by 36 inch scenes are sold at \$65. Some of his themes are very popular, like the old Immigrant House, the building around which so much of the history of New Denmark rests. The picture was done from an actual snapshot of the building, "I must have sold a half dozen of them if not more," he said. Other paintings include "Digging potatoes with Engine Digger", "All is Vanity", "Canadian Geese", "Ox team with load of hay", "Lumbering in New Brunswick in the days of horses", "Crossing the Bogan", "Covered Bridge", "Lake Edward", "Yarding Logs", "The Ol' Sugar Camp", "Deer in the Woods" and many, many others.



*Painting of train station by Vinal Christensen*



*Margaret and Vinal Christensen, with some of his paintings*

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# **Knud Rasmussen – Ambassador on Dog Sled**

## **by Knud Michelsen**

**Book Review by Peter Schledermann, Calgary**

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Although this book was written on the occasion of the centennial of the Fifth Thule Expedition (1921 to 1924), the author, Knud Michelsen, invites the reader along on a fascinating exploration of the life history of the central character and organizer of the many Thule expeditions, Knud Rasmussen.

In writing this account, the author faced the daunting task of producing a comprehensive yet compact account based on a thorough study of Arctic exploration history in northern Greenland, Arctic Canada and Alaska. Although many of Knud Rasmussen's explorations and interests are well known by those with a personal interest in Arctic history, the author has added a great number of interesting and valuable story lines, not widely known and often of great importance in filling out a fuller portrayal of "the great enchanter" (p.7). These observations are a result of the author's familial relationship with the family (his grandmother being the daughter of Knud Rasmussen's sister), and the inheritance of numerous documents illuminating the life of the explorer.

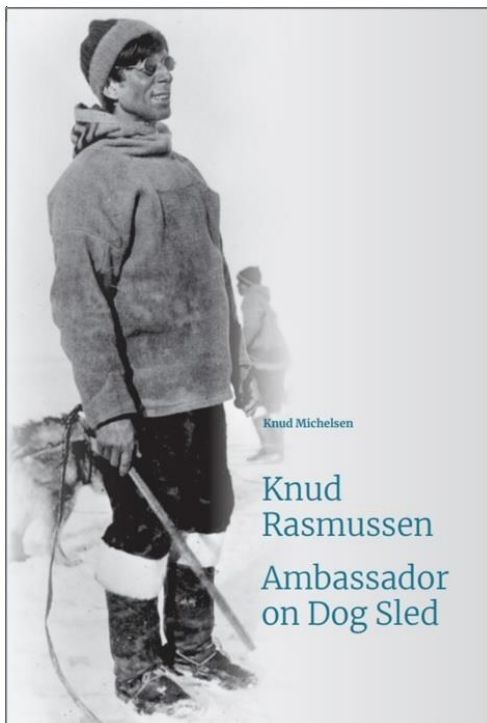
In the first part of the book the reader gets an excellent view into the early and very free life of a young boy in Greenland, whose father was a Danish Pastor in Illulisat, West Greenland, and his mother, part Greenlander. The melding of the two distinct cultures, traditions and way of life was the very foundation of Knud's life from the start; twelve early years never to be erased.

In one instance, the author remarks that Knud's father, Christian Rasmussen, was a distant figure, yet I don't entirely agree with that impression, certainly not during Knud's early life, growing up in Illulisat, where he learned how to handle dogsleds and joined his father on long travels to distant communities. Then, at age 12, Knud's world turned upside down. In order to understand the character of the explorer, researcher, storyteller and ethnographic absorber that Knud Rasmussen became, the author takes the reader through a brief, but very important description of Knud's rather abrupt transition from his relatively free life in Greenland to a far more restricted life in Denmark. After a year in Denmark, the family moved back to Greenland, but left Knud behind to complete his education. It is fair to say that the often turbulent time he spent in Denmark helped to shape the character that became the Knud Rasmussen we follow in the rest of the book. Although schooling was not a success, Rasmussen's interest and obsessions with acting, writing, adventure and exploration took hold in earnest and was encouraged through friendships. On a trip to Iceland, he met Ludvig Mylius-Erichsen, a determined and forceful character who helped carve the path that Knud decided to follow and eventually master. As the author points out, the turbulent time that Knud spent in Denmark resulted in his return to

Greenland and a lifelong pursuit of exploration and close communication with remote groups of Inuit, first in northern Greenland, later in central and western Canada and Alaska.

Along the way the reader is made aware of several geopolitical facts, concerning both northern Greenland and the Canadian Arctic Islands, situations that strongly influenced Knud's future activities. First and foremost was perhaps the fact that northern Greenland was not a part of Danish government supervision or sovereignty. Numerous British and American expeditions had made landfall of shorter or longer duration in Northwest Greenland. In the Canadian Arctic Islands, foreign "trespassing" was more a case of willful ignorance of claimed Canadian sovereignty, particularly on Ellesmere Island, the largest of the Canadian High Arctic islands separated from Greenland by only a short stretch of ocean. Ellesmere or *Umingmaq Nunat* was also a regularly used hunting area by the Polar Inuit (presently referred to as the Inughuit).

Knud Rasmussen had a long-standing interest in the Inughuit living north of Melville Bay. Most specifically, his interests centred on recording their myths, legends and folklore, a task for which he was eminently well suited and remained his research focus for the rest of his life. He had become a folklorist.



Knud's life as expedition leader is well told by the author, who has presented concise, yet encompassing descriptions of his expeditions, with special emphasis naturally on the Fifth Thule expeditions. Before organizing his own expeditions, he joined the Literary Expedition (1902 -1904) under the leadership of Mylius-Erichsen. Knud finally reached his long-time goal and met the Inughuit on this journey. The expedition was successful in the sense that Erichsen's long-standing criticism of Danish governance of Greenland was heard in Copenhagen; political reform was initiated in the years following. Knud did not participate in the next and last Mylius-Erichsen expedition, the *Danmark Expedition* (1906), which ended in the disastrous death of the leader and two other members, Jørgen Brønlund and Niels Peter Høeg-Hansen.

At this point in the book, the author briefly explores Knud's life in Denmark and his relationships with women, including his eventual marriage to Dagmar Andersen. One does get the impression that Knud is somewhat of a manipulator in his balancing of the pros

and cons of marriage. By now he had big plans for his own future, and most of them would require months and even years away from married life in Denmark. However, these future plans, including station building in Greenland and numerous expeditions, would also require social status and a good deal of initial start-up funding. Fortunately, Dagmar's father was very well off and able to assist. Perhaps, like the central character himself, the author stays on topic only long enough to see Knud married.

On page 53, the author corrects an impression some readers may have had that the Polar Inuit were and had always been a very isolated group of Greenlanders. Aside from the possible presence of Dutch whalers, the “official” Western first encounter with the Polar Inuit took place in 1818 with the arrival near Cape York of John Ross and his British expedition in search of the Northwest Passage. There followed a number of subsequent expeditions, all launched with two major objectives: To locate the Northwest Passage and to reach the North Pole. Also one must not forget the numerous John Franklin search expeditions. Knud Rasmussen did get involved in the bitter, and ongoing to this day arguments between Cook and Peary as to which one, if either, reached the North Pole. At first Knud supported Cook’s claim based on his own interviews with the two Inughuit who had accompanied Cook. Confronted later with evidence of an earlier fraudulent Cook claim of first ascending Mt. McKinley, Knud changed his mind.

The author mentions little about one of the most successful far-northern expeditions; Otto Sverdrup’s Norwegian Second FRAM expedition to the Canadian High Arctic Islands between 1898 to 1902. Not only did expedition members explore, survey, and map most of the Canadian High Arctic Islands, they had the grit to raise the Norwegian flag and claim the Islands for Norway. The case was still grinding along when Knud Rasmussen entered the discussion by suggesting the term “No Man’s Land” for what was soundly interpreted in Canada as meaning the High Arctic Islands. Nothing spurs a government into action faster than when other nations take a keen interest in questioning the sovereignty over unoccupied territory.

In many ways, Peary’s pole-seeking activities did become a catalyst for Knud’s dreams of working with and supporting the Inughuit. After many years assisting the American explorer, the Polar Inughuit, were left without the trade they had become dependent upon from their association with Peary. In 1910 Knud and his close friend Peter Freuchen established the Thule Station. The Thule station was built at the foot of a most distinctive flat-topped mountain overlooking North Star Bay.

A great number of people had lived in this area before; Inuit of the prehistoric Thule culture and probably of earlier cultural traditions, such as the Dorset people. According to the author, Knud Rasmussen had long harboured thoughts about organizing a multiyear sled journey and exploration westward into more distant Arctic regions of North America. Now in 1910, with the Thule station in operation, a number of less expansive yet no less hazardous expeditions could be initiated in Greenland. By this time, Sverdrup’s sovereignty claims following his return to Norway had reached government ears in Ottawa. There it was decided that a ship under the command of Captain Joseph Bernier should set out on a multiyear patrol (1906) into Canadian Arctic waters in order to build cairns, plant flags and secure plaques in order to substantiate Canadian sovereignty claims. The issue of Canadian High Arctic sovereignty was from then on strongly debated and in several instances involved Knud Rasmussen.

The author introduces the reader to several brief, yet well-covered descriptions of the first four Thule expeditions to set out from the Thule station. None were easy, and there were instances of tragedy and loss of lives. A recurrent problem, and one that also hovered over other Western Arctic expeditions, was the reliance on game hunting for survival of participants and their dogs. Starvation was always nearby. The Second Thule expedition turned into a nightmare with the death of all of the dogs as well as two expedition members. Knud was drawing hard lessons from these expeditions while preparing for the Fifth, the one we are celebrating with this book. Ethnographic research into the lives of the Central Arctic Inuit had been a long-standing interest

of Knud's and was shared by two of his new expedition members, Dr. Kaj Birket-Smith and Dr. Therkel Mathiassen.

At this point in the book, the reader can dive into an excellently condensed version of the four-year long field expedition that also had a central field station constructed hastily on an island named Danish Island in the central Canadian Arctic on the western shores of Hudson Bay. As an Arctic archaeologist, I would say that the ten-volume Fifth Thule Report series is known to most if not all Canadian Arctic researchers of a multitude of disciplines. Certainly for all Arctic archaeologists the impressive efforts of the expedition's archaeologist Dr. Therkel Mathiassen and his assistant Jacob Olsen have served as a major reference on prehistoric material culture.

For Knud Rasmussen, the culmination of the expedition was the amazing sled journey of discovery he undertook with the invaluable assistance of his two Inughuit companions, Arnarulunguaq and Miteq. Because of his knowledge of Inuktitut, he realized that all the various groups of Inuit along the way could understand each other fairly well from Greenland across the Canadian Arctic to Alaska. In other words, the original migration of the Inuit from Alaska eastward to Greenland had to have taken place in the not too distant past. Archaeological evidence has since confirmed an initial eastward migration of the Thule Inuit about 900 years ago.

Following Michelsen's account of the great sled journey, the reader will find, among many other observations, the meetings between Knud Rasmussen and the shamans in different communities most fascinating. Knud's ability to become a confidant and a person of trust was extraordinary, and his ability to listen and record folklore and the tales of shamanistic travels to other worlds remains unmatched.

The author is keenly aware of the importance of the multitude of observations Knud Rasmussen absorbed on the long sled journey. His experiences in Alaska, perhaps as much as any, provided Knud with new more modern visions, new methods of governing and teaching in Inuit schools. The journey received wide attention in the United States and of course in Denmark. As the author points out, the sled journey provided Rasmussen with new insights and enthusiasm about getting far more involved with broader issues involving Danish/Greenlandic governance and colonial political philosophies.

The 6th and 7th Thule expeditions took place very far from Thule, exploring stretches of the southeast Greenlandic coast from Cape Farvel to Angmagssalik. The region was strategically chosen as one way of combatting the Norwegian sovereignty claim over East Greenland. Knud later also gave evidence at the international court in The Hague, where the case was eventually settled in Denmark's favour. The final chapter in Knud Rasmussen's life involves his enthusiastic work as a film producer in the Angmagssalik region of East Greenland. During the filming, Knud became ill, was transported in his vessel *Kivioq* to Julianehaab, and then to a hospital in Denmark where he passed away suddenly a few weeks later. He was 54 years old.

I highly recommend Michelsen's book, an excellent portrait of an extraordinary man, of interest to the expert as well as the novice.

#### **About the author:**

Peter Schledermann is a senior research associate and former director of the Arctic Institute of North America and an adjunct professor in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at

the University of Calgary. Born in Denmark in 1941, he received his bachelor's degree in geography and anthropology at the University of Alaska, his master's degree at Memorial University of Newfoundland and his Doctorate in Archaeology from the University of Calgary. He has carried out Arctic archaeological field research in Alaska, High Arctic Canada and Greenland since 1965. Dr. Schledermann has published several books, numerous articles in both scientific journals and popular magazines and taught Arctic archaeology at both the universities of Calgary and Victoria. The last fifteen archaeological field seasons were spent on the central east coast of Ellesmere Island.

*Knud Rasmussen – Ambassador on Dog Sled* by Knud Michelsen was published in 2021 by the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fifth Thule Expedition.



# Mural celebrating our Nordic Heritage

Helle Wilson, Winnipeg

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*The Mural Committee. Left to right:  
Martha Helgerson, Signy Thorsteinson, June Wiebe, Helle Wilson, Barb Nault and Sonja Lundström*

Before the pandemic hit, members of the Scandinavian Centre in Winnipeg were making elaborate plans to celebrate their culture and heritage during Manitoba's 150<sup>th</sup> and the Scandinavian Centre's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation. Abruptly plans to have large indoor gatherings were forbidden. Members were forced to find different ways to celebrate their roots. A book with Nordic recipes and historical information about the Scandinavian Centre was published, and online biographies and small vignettes about prominent Manitobans with Nordic heritage were created.

Furthermore, a mural committee was formed with representatives from the five countries represented at the centre: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The committee was looking into giving the centre's exterior faded and mundane walls a more vibrant and eye-catching appearance by having a mural painted with colourful images.

The mural committee met with acclaimed mural artist Charles Johnson (Charlie) to decide on images to illustrate the Nordic countries. The committee had lots of different ideas, but had to pare them down due to space constrictions. After several attempts the committee with the guidance of Charlie decided to make a wrap-around mural covering two sides of the building.

On the front wall at the entrance of the centre, all five countries are represented by people symbolizing each country. The wall is also divided into a celebration of winter and summer solstice. At the wrap-around corner, people dressed in Nordic national costumes dance around a maypole.

On the second wall images symbolizing arrival of the Nordic immigrants to North America and collaboration between the Nordic peoples are shown.

On September 11, 2021 the mural was unveiled. Only a few people were present due to the pandemic. Though later in the year, when restrictions were lifted, the mural committee hosted a dinner at the Scandinavian Centre with Charlie and his wife as guests of honor. At this event many members had a chance to celebrate and hear about the new heritage mural. A PowerPoint presentation showed photos of the mural progressing as Charlie painted the mural images. The mural committee members spoke about the different images in more detail and afterwards Charlie recounted his experience painting the Nordic mural and other murals.

The mural became a reality, thanks to the collaboration and the financial support from many clubs and associations affiliated with the Scandinavian Centre in Winnipeg as well as private donations from the Nordic community in Manitoba and grants from Manitoban foundations.

We are proud of the new Nordic mural, which makes the Scandinavian Centre more unique and visible in the community, and we welcome people from near and far to come and see it.

### **Mural Map Description by Martha Helgerson, Winnipeg**

- 1) In Finland indigenous Sami people have their own parliament and celebrate a thriving culture through colourful textiles and the management of 200,000 domesticated reindeer. This herder wears the distinctive 'Four Winds' hat, a Gákti tunic, and fur mitts.
- 2) A girl sporting a white robe and candle-crown depicts Sankta Lucia for the annual December 13 festival, honouring a 4<sup>th</sup> century Italian martyr as well as marking the winter solstice. The Swedish Cultural Association's Lucia Fest is a treasured holiday tradition.
- 3) Everyone loves the stories by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875), such as 'The Ugly Duckling,' 'The Little Mermaid,' and 'The Emperor's New Clothes.' He opens a glowing book to represent the illumination of knowledge that comes with reading.
- 4) A 'wood panelled' sauna door, complete with a birch whisk on the wall, welcomes visitors to the Scandinavian Cultural Centre. Finland's sauna culture was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2020.



5) The Fjallkona, or Lady of the Mountains, is the personification of Iceland. A notable woman is chosen as Fjallkona annually for her leadership in supporting Icelandic culture. She wears a fur-collared cloak and symbolic crown of fire and ice.

6) A skier slices through Norway's mountain snow while nearby a young woman, in a Valdres district bunad outfit, welcomes the light. Norway embraced traditional costumes in the late 1800s, to bolster nationalism and celebrate the country's distinct regions.

7) The garlanded maypole anchors the mural as a cultural element common to the five countries: Midsummer celebrations featuring dancing and revelry. The large, mounted circles can symbolize fertility or the Norse axis of the underworld, earth, and heaven.

7A) Twelve people, dancing around the midsummer maypole, sport colourful folk dress, unique to their various regions: — (left to right) from Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland, and Sweden.

8) A Viking's solemn gaze pierces through a maypole ring, symbolizing Odin's all-knowing eye and acknowledging Nordic journeys to the New World, first in 1021 to L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Newfoundland, and later in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries to North American destinations.

9) A dragon-headed Viking ship, with ghostly shadows, foretells the arrival of settlers from the 'old' world to the 'new,' where immigrants settled on Treaty 1 and 5 territories in Manitoba. Odin's raven marks the sail. One shield holds a rune; the others hold flag colours from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland.

10) Five Flying Swans, inspired by a poem by Denmark's Hans Hartvig Seedorff Pedersen, show cooperation among the five Nordic countries at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre. The swans each sport an individual neck band to reflect unique nationalities, yet fly as one. This image is also the logo for the Scandinavian Centre in Winnipeg.

## Mural Artist Charles Johnston – C5 Artworks



**Charles Johnston** (*at right*) was commissioned to create the mural for the Scandinavian Centre. He is a Winnipeg-based muralist, sculptor, professional visual artist and mentor. Charles has created public art and private commissions across North America for the past 35 years.



W: <https://charliejohnston.ca>  
E: [charlie.vault@shaw.ca](mailto:charlie.vault@shaw.ca)



## Scandinavian Centre also known as the Nordic House of Canada

The Scandinavian Centre was first incorporated on November 2, 1961, with the subsequent purchase of a building on Young Street in March 1962. That building was sold in 1978, and many locations were considered over the next four years, culminating in the selection and purchase of our current building on Erin Street in 1982.

The Centre is a volunteer-driven organization representing all five Nordic countries: the Danish Canadian Club, Finnish Canadian Club, Icelandic Canadian Frón, Norwegian Canadian Club, and Swedish Cultural Association.

There are also a number of associated groups, including the Scandinavian Stamp Collectors, the Scandinavian Folk Group that organizes our annual Folklorama Pavilion, the Scandinavian Canadian Choir, the Scandia Fun Folk Dancers, the Scandia Young Folk Dancers, and the folk music band "Sill-i-Tones".

The Centre hosts dance groups for children and adults, language classes, craft groups, social events, Sunday brunches, Friday lunches/dinners, a school program about the Vikings, and much more.

Come join us and explore the Nordic culture and heritage.

### THANK YOU to our sponsors for making this mural a reality:

The Winnipeg Foundation  
Thomas Sill Foundation  
Province of Manitoba  
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Take Pride Winnipeg  
Danish Canadian Club  
Dawn Hjalmarsson  
Heikki Sairanen  
Helle & Frank Wilson  
Icelandic Canadian Frón  
Lodge Strindberg #259  
Neil Bardal Funeral Centre -  
Funeral Director Eirik Bardal  
Neil & Lynn Carlson and family  
Norwegian Canadian Club  
Scandia Fun Folk Dancers  
Sharon Wickman  
Signy Thorsteinson (via  
Centennial River Trail Contest)  
Sonja Lundström  
Sylvia Recreation Inc.  
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### Mural Committee



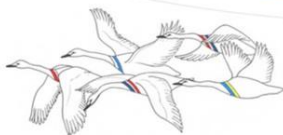
*L to R:* Martha Helgerson, Signy Thorsteinson, June Wiebe, Helle Wilson, Barb Nault & Sonja Lundstrom

### Celebrating Milestones

Winnipeg is well known for its urban murals. The Scandinavian Centre is now joining this civic movement that transforms mundane bricks and mortar into vibrant art pieces and, in our case, to celebrate our Nordic roots, the Centre's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation and Manitoba's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.



## Scandinavian Centre Mural



Scandinavian Centre of Winnipeg  
764 Erin Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3G 2W4

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# Hans Hendrik og Hans Ø

Bog af Jan Løve, Det Grønlandske Selskab

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Mange i Canada og Grønland/Danmark har hørt om Hans Ø og ved, at det er en lille og ubeboet ø i strædet mellem Canada og Grønland. De færreste ved ret meget mere om øen bortset fra, at der er politiske tovtrækkerier mellem Canada og Danmark om øens nationale tilhørsforhold. Dét var udgangspunktet, da Jan Løve på en turistrejse i 2011 besøgte Hans Ø i Nares Strædet. Hvem var Hans? Og hvorfor har han lagt navn til Hans Ø? Efterfølgende har Jan Løve været på en langt større "sejlads" gennem arkiverne for at finde al relevant dokumentation om Hans Ø. En af de overraskende opdagelser er, at der faktisk er to øer, der er opkaldt efter Hans.



Jan Løve har stor faglig erfaring i at arbejde med historiske kilder, idet han tidligere tog initiativ til og fik etableret databasen: Østgrønlandske Stednavne, som kan findes på Arktisk Instituts hjemmeside ([www.arktiskinstitut.dk](http://www.arktiskinstitut.dk)). Og historiske kilder og arkivsøgning er den eneste farbare vej til at få indsigt i, hvem Hans var og hvorfor Hans har lagt navn til to geografiske steder. Det er meget sjældent, man fra 1800-tallets ekspeditioner finder lokaliteter med navne opkaldt efter grønlandere; men arkiverne viser, at der endda er to øer, der er opkaldt efter Hans. Hans var med på fem forskellige ekspeditioner i og omkring Grønland, og han er præsenteret under flere forskellige navne: Hans, Hendrik, Christian, selvom hans rigtige, grønlandske navn var Suersaq.

Jan Løve har inddelt bogen i tre overordnede kapitler:

Kapitel 1. Hans Hendriks liv. Dette er hoved-kapitlet, som giver et samlet overblik over Hans' liv fra fødslen i Akunnaat (Lichtenfels) i 1834 til hans død i 1889. Kapitlet præsenterer også hver enkelt af de fem ekspeditioner, Hans deltog i, foruden hans kontakt med inughuit (befolkningen i Thule-området) sidst i 1850-erne og hans besøg i USA i 1873.



*Forfatteren, Jan Løve, på en rejse i Grønland*

Kapitel 2. Hans Ø – Geografien.

Her bliver der gjort grundigt rede for den ø og det klippeskær, der begge har fået navnet: Hans Ø.

Kapitel 3. Hans Hendrik/Suersaq – til minde og i respekt. I dette kapitel opsummerer forfatteren, hvad der gjorde Hans til noget særligt, og hvorfor han bør mindes. Bogen er på 95 sider og skrevet i et sprog, der henvender sig til læsere i almindelighed. Hvert kapitel er suppleret med fotografier, stik og tegninger fra Hans' egen tid samt nutidige fotografier og special tegnede kort, som i en enkel streg hjælper læseren rundt i den omfattende og usædvanlig geografi, som Hans berejste. For læsere, som måtte være interesserede i at dykke dybere ned i de historiske kilder, er bogen forsynet med personregister, omfattende litteraturliste og en oversigt over relevante hjemmesider, der præsenterer historiske kort og stednavne, som danner baggrund for bogens analyser.

Bogen *Hans Hendrik og Hans Ø. Beretningen om Hans Hendrik og de to Hans Øer* koster 185 DKK + forsendelse (for kunder udenfor European Union). Hans Ø, kan købes ved henvendelse til Det Grønlandske Selskab på: [dgls@dgls.dk](mailto:dgls@dgls.dk) eller telefon +45 6160 5331 eller benyt webshop på [www.dgls.dk](http://www.dgls.dk), hvor der også kan læses nærmere om bogen

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# Reports from the Member Organizations

**Submitted in Lieu of Presentations at the Annual General Meeting held Via Zoom Video Conferencing on Saturday, October 2, 2021**

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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:

#### **4. The Danish Club of Ottawa**

Thinking about the past year, my second as the Danish Club of Ottawa's President, it is disappointing to realize all the things we were unable to do in these past 18 months. No in-person events meant for 2020 and until September 2021: No Seniors Luncheon; No Thanksgiving Service; No Bingo; No Bazaar; No Christmas Party; No Christmas Service; No Fastelavn; No Easter Service; No Queen's Birthday Celebration; No Spring Potluck; No Kuub in the Park; and No Mid-Summer Gathering! Phew, what a year! Such a long list!



However, going forward, the Club is happy to announce: Our first face-to-face event will be the Seniors Lunch scheduled for September 11 at the Keg Manor. Event coordinator Ernst Jacobsen tells me we are sold-out!

As announced in the previous Club Newsletter, I will be stepping aside as President at our AGM on September 30, 2021. It has been an interesting two years as your President. As an organization The Danish Club of Ottawa is in very good shape. The club is fortunate to have a number of very capable people step forward to take over a few of the open positions on our Board of Directors. Lene Kelly, currently Vice President, will step forward as President; Robert Kelly, current member is likely to assume the position of Secretary; Maxine Evans, Treasurer, will continue in that position, and Ernst Jacobsen and Jeff Jessen will continue as Directors. Marianne Bournes will be stepping aside as Director, as will Rosann Kristensen and Svend Kristensen. Director Lena Devlen will be stepping down as Secretary. That is the total changes to the current Board of Directors. There are positions open and we encourage members in good standing to put their name(s) forward. Available positions are Vice-President, and up to four possible Directors positions. We are pleased to announce the continuing healthy financial position of the Club. Having had great success with our Bazaars over past years, we were able to sustain a great banking portfolio, although this past year with only membership dues coming in and fixed expenses continuing, we are slightly lower than in the past year. Finally, we have been able to gather much of the missing financial information for 2019/2020 and thus we will have two financial statements at the September AGM.

## FEDERATION – CLUB REPORTS

I have enjoyed my time as Club President. In closing, best wishes to the new Board of Directors as they slowly open up our social calendar as the Covid-19 pandemic protocols permit, and continued good health to all members.

*Med de bedste ønsker! David Bournes, President.*

### 5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto

The Covid monster is still causing havoc among us, but as long as we are careful and patient, and get our vaccinations – I'm sure we will come on top sooner than later. But until then, we must continue to endure. Clearly the main issue of 2020 and now 2021 was Covid.

We had to stop all church services and activities in Mid-March of 2020 and could not resume Sunday services until mid-September. And then we had to stop again in mid-November. This sort of catastrophic event was unprecedented – it has never happened before to any of our members - young or old - or churches here or elsewhere.



As a church, the best we could do was to maintain contact with our members via on-line services and virtual (zoom) meetings. It goes without saying that we are grateful to our Pastor Simon's ability to keep our church "alive" and in touch with our ever-expanding audience and membership. If in 2019 someone said that they would be watching our on-line church services within a year from Barrie or Niagara Falls or Ottawa or Richmond BC, or even DK – I don't think many of us would have thought that possible. Along with Simon, there have also been many people "behind the scenes" helping to make this happen by recording the Sunday videos, providing the music, preparing the on-line bazaar orders, preparing the Zoom Coffee meetings or bazaar sandwiches, etc. Even your board members have continued to meet virtually and do their best to maintain the church and its operations.

Our 2021 AGM was held on Zoom on Saturday, April 24. The meeting went well with reports from all the usual contributors to bring you up to date on all church aspects including finance, maintenance, activities, etc. The only other major event for 2021 was the plan for the sanctuary upgrade. The planning committee and church board have worked very hard to come up with a plan that would give the sanctuary the facelift it not only needs, but also deserves after 57 years of service. This plan respects the unique design features that distinguishes our church from any other church – Danish or otherwise – and at the same time brings us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with style and substance that will carry us well into the future. Change may be difficult for some, but we now have the opportunity to make it happen, and it would be a shame to not do that. Perhaps not all the suggested upgrades and changes are specifically what please you individually, but clearly from the replies we have received, most of you feel that it is a worthy cause for the future of our church. The proposal to approve the sanctuary upgrade was overwhelmingly approved. It was good to see strong support for a large and important church project.

We were lucky to be able to have a special Covid restricted 2021 Easter service – actually two services that beautiful Sunday – and even though we were not many, it was nice to see happy and smiling faces enjoying the music and hymns as well as the readings and sermon. Since then, we have had to rely on our "old faithful" format of occasional Sunday Service videos and Zoom

## FEDERATION – CLUB REPORTS

Meetings to keep us in contact with each other. Despite the frustration and difficulty that causes, we certainly are grateful to have that ability. As most people are aware, we had to postpone our May 8 Bazaar pick-up-day for a month until June. Our on-line shopping link has been very successful for us. We are glad that we can reach out this way, and appreciate the support you have shown with both participation and donations. This type of support is important and needed especially during Covid restrictions.

It is clear that the church's economy has been affected by this pandemic. Without in-person services and other activities, our collections and donations and other fundraising results have clearly suffered. We still have heat and hydro and other utilities to pay, as well as services fees for a pastor and cleaner and musicians. Happily, and gratefully, many of you did send in payments and donations via mail or e-transfers. Still, more money went out than what was received from our usual operations. However, special mention and thanks need to be said regarding the significant donation received from the Board and members of the Danish church in Grimsby which came from the proceeds of the sale of their property when they sadly had to close its doors. Happily, many of them have joined our congregation, and we are truly grateful for their participation and support. Likewise – special mention and thanks also need to be said to the Verner Norgaard Estate for their request to set up a special trust fund, managed by the church, to help Ontario Danes in need of financial, or cultural, or educational support.

Looking ahead, our first hope is that you and your families and friends, manage to stay healthy and safe from the Covid 19 virus. At some point we will be getting back to as much of normal as possible. We want to continue to provide the service and activities that people not only need but also expect from us. We have to realize that our reach is now much wider than before, and we need to look for new ideas and ways to spiritually and culturally gather and serve this new and larger family. I think the break has also provided an opportunity for us to look at some of our activities and how they are planned and attended so as not to waste any precious volunteer efforts. It takes more than just a pastor or president or any other single person to achieve what we do and have to do. Without the untiring efforts of board members and group leaders and many others – it could not be done. We are mostly volunteers who spend our time and energy for the benefit of all who wish to participate in our wonderful church.

Contact with the church can be made via email at: [mail@danchurch.ca](mailto:mail@danchurch.ca) or website at: [www.danishchurchtoronto.ca](http://www.danishchurchtoronto.ca), or Facebook at: [facebook.com/danishchurchtoronto](https://facebook.com/danishchurchtoronto).

*Respectfully submitted by Sune Overgaard, President*

### **6. Danish Women's Cultural Association, Toronto**

The Danish Women's Association is still going strong in spite of the difficulties inflicted by Covid-19. We had to find more creative ways to keep in touch, since our usual get togethers in private homes, restaurants and other venues were restricted. So, we decided to call all our members occasionally to make sure they were keeping well. For the first time we sent Christmas cards to everybody and we brought flowers to our sick members and we had several zoom meetings. Finally, in August 2021 we decided to try to meet outside and the patio at the Grenadier restaurant in High Park and felt secure enough for 12 members to show up. We were so glad to be able to meet in person again. In September, 12 members



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met at Sunset Villa and in October we met at the Breakwall BBQ and Smokehouse restaurant in the Beaches. Again, 12 members showed up, and it felt like old times. Sadly, we have lost three long-time, dedicated members, Birte Mania, Margit Bennett and Eva Pickett, and they are sorely missed.

*Respectfully submitted by Kirsten Fogh, President*

### **8. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch, Ontario**

The Danish Place at Sunset Villa in Puslinch has reopened and we are thrilled. We are lucky that chef Mark Mogensen of Black Birch Restaurant has stepped forward to take this on during Covid. The restaurant is now licensed and we hope that everyone will start coming back to enjoy and support the business. We know he is working on adding more Danish meals to the dinner menu. Like all restaurants, finding staff is especially challenging at present, and the Danish Place is no exception. They are looking for help, if you happen to know anyone looking for work in the service industry.



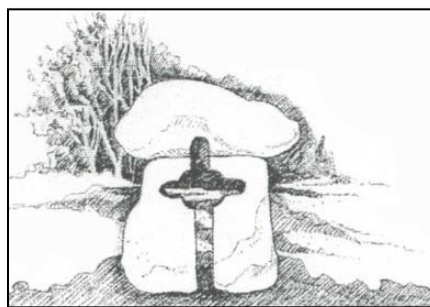
I also have some bad news: the septic system for apartments 1 to 6 has failed and will need to be replaced. Engineers are currently working with Rick Rowan to establish what we need to replace it. This is going to be expensive and we may need to do some fundraising. Thank you to Rick Rowan for your expertise as an engineer and for pumping out the apartments twice a week since this problem arose, which has almost been a year now. We are so lucky to have your help.

We received a generous donation from Anne Lise Miller and family to improve the tired playground. You are thoughtful and wonderful! We repainted the playground and removed or fixed anything broken, got some new bikes and made a bike shed. Thank you to the volunteers who made the improvements! The kids love it! Thank you to all the volunteers that came to the work parties! At present we are busy planning the Nordic Market. It's a great event and we really want to keep it going! We need help selling memberships, parking, crowd control and general help on both Saturday, December 4 and Sunday December 5! Please come forward so that we can pull off this fun Dansk Jul event! We need you! Keep safe and stay healthy!

*Respectfully submitted by Monica Jensen, President*

### **9. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch, Ontario**

Sunset Mindepark was incorporated in December 1990 and is situated on a lovely country hectare in Puslinch, Ontario (between Guelph and Hamilton, west of Milton). In our 30<sup>th</sup> year we are serving not only the local Danish communities in southern Ontario (in particular the GTHA), but also from across Canada and even into the US. We have about 1,100 urns interred in our cemetery. We are a registered Not-for-Profit organization which relies heavily on volunteer support to keep the cemetery manicured and welcoming. Covid affected us by allowing



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only small groups for interment services. Even so, this past year we sold 19 niches and 5 plots, with 24 interments. These numbers are about average although niche purchases seem to be on an upswing. Due to this new demand, Sunset Mindepark is planning to increase this capacity by constructing a new niche wall with about 100 niches. Although we are a very small cemetery with limited space, we should have capacity for another 10 to 15 years – hopefully more with the new wall. Our cemetery is closely partnered with the Danish church in Toronto where memorial services are often held, and with the interment to follow (often at a later date) in Sunset Mindepark. Our goal is to maintain the cemetery to the high standards we currently have, and keep it as a fitting final resting place for Danish emigrants and their families.

For more information, please check our website [www.mindepark.ca](http://www.mindepark.ca)

*Respectfully submitted by Sune Overgaard, President*

### **12. Danish Canadian Club, Calgary**

Another unusual year has come and almost gone. The Club opened for business in early September 2021 and there was a lot of support from new and existing customers. Several groups had parties and everything was going along very well until the new Omicron virus put a stop to many gatherings. The Club's much anticipated New Years Eve party has now had to be cancelled as a result of the new government restrictions. Dancing is not allowed and the liquor sales must stop at eleven pm, which is not conducive to a traditional New Year party. At this time the new restrictions do not affect the day-to-day operation of the Mermaid Inn, so please continue to support that part of the Club. We will also be holding our AGM on January 19, 2022.



*Respectfully submitted by Per Andersen, President*

### **13. Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary**

The COVID-19 Pandemic has created numerous disruptions in our daily lives and in what activities the Church could offer. Government restrictions forced us to cancel or limit many of our regular activities. Moreover, the fear of catching the virus made many of our members limit their participation. Like other organizations we depend on the support of our members so we can stay healthy financially. When the Pandemic hit in early 2020, we were looking forward to an increase in our membership as we had seen more people taking part in our activities. We had to stop all services and activities, yet we still had a service to provide to our members. We just could not have in-person gatherings of any kind. We began to record the services with Pastor Charlotte Berg and organist with one member, Karen, singing and then uploading it to Facebook. It was very well received by not just our own congregation but also by people from far and wide. We later switched to having music recorded by our organist at his home. He transferred the recorded music to Karen who recorded the singing onto the recorded music track. Our Pastor's readings and sermon was recorded separately, and all recordings were then edited together on a computer



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before being uploaded to Facebook. We also began posting daily Devotions with a recorded hymn every day with no regular Church Service. The postings were well received and watching them became a regular morning activity for many.

Our Annual Dinner and Auction in April 2020 and the Christmas Bazaar in November 2020 also had to be cancelled. These functions have been major fundraisers for the Church and cancelling them would have a big impact on our financial picture. As part of the Christmas Bazaar, we have run a Christmas Lottery and decided we could still run it separately. We started an “Online Christmas Market” where we offered various homemade baking, Christmas decorations and calendar candles. The lottery together with the Online Market returned a better result than the previous year’s Bazaar and Lottery. We were able to offer food and candy items imported from Denmark for sale through our Fall Online Market. We received the products in November in time for orders being distributed before Christmas. This also was another way of keeping contact with our members. The restrictions had changed so much that we were able to have our Christmas Bazaar, although with some changes. It was well attended and together with the Online Market gave us a result that again was an improvement over the previous year.

In 2019 we had decided to build a new parsonage on the empty lot beside the Church on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. We did not feel the onset of the pandemic was reason to delay the project and in March 2021 Pastor Charlotte Berg and her husband Peter were able to move into the new parsonage. We put the old parsonage up for sale and were fortunate to quickly find a buyer.

The last couple of years have been trying, yet we have seen the support for our Church stay strong and we feel we that the worst is behind us and that will come out of this stronger. On behalf of the Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary,

*Respectfully submitted by Karsten Dalberg, President*

### **15. The Naver Club, Calgary**

The Calgary Naver Club finally managed to get together for a meeting after some of the Covid restrictions were lifted. Our first meeting was November 4, 2021, and the last meeting prior to that was March 5, 2020. So needless to say the members were very happy to be able to get together. Our Christmas lunch in December was great with 31 people attending. The Naver Club still has 45 members to date. Even with the Covid restrictions in 2021, a few members still managed to get together for some camping and a few outdoor social visits which were great for people’s spirits and well being. We are looking forward to this summer for some more camping and a few Barbeques. Med Kno På Bordet: (with knuckles on the table).



*Respectfully submitted by Jens Laursen, President*

### **17. Dickson Store Museum Society, Dickson, Alberta**

Well, one thing we learned about getting back to normal is that now we have a new normal. One significant change is that we now have all our board meetings through Google Meets. This even allows members to join meetings from Kentucky or the beaches in Arizona and Mexico.

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We were determined to open the museum in some form or another in the summer of 2021. We even investigated the possibility of a takeout window at the back. We went ahead and hired summer staff and got permission to just open the back room for ice cream sales. We had one-way traffic... in the front and out the back. By July 1 the province had lifted all restrictions and we could open as normal with precautions such as extra cleaning still in place. The season was over before we again went into restrictions. The number of visitors was almost normal with only a slight decrease in ice cream customers. Ice cream sales continue to be a significant fundraiser. We did not do any other fundraisers in 2021 except the Red Deer Bingos and in March we finished the Chase the Ace game that we had started in 2019. We had to cancel our plans for a fall supper, and we did not do the Julestue. The federal and provincial governments have helped again in 2021 so our financial position at yearend is still healthy. We have set aside funds to train new staff when they are hired.

I am satisfied that we are achieving our objectives. We are planning for succession. We need to be ready for staff as Sharon nears retirement and for board changes. We have an Administrative Specialist in place, and she is familiar with all aspects of museum operations now and has created a social media image for us. I continue to work with staff to apply for grants with many future projects in mind. If we are successful, we may change this position to take on even more digital responsibilities. A lot of museum programs are using online platforms, especially in education and exhibits. We have completed projects that needed to be done so that upkeep will be easier. We have maintained links with the community through our social media and with our winter weekend exhibits.

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 keep our museum operating and contribute so generously to the success of our fundraisers. We look forward to 2022 as we finish with our renovations and continue to offer the museum as the interpretation of our history and a meeting place for community members and visitors. We hope we can start to connect with the community again with suppers and events at the Spruce View Hall. We have support from local, municipal, provincial, and federal levels. We continue to be a place to showcase our pioneer background and provide the hospitality that the Christiansen General Store represented for over 100 years now. It has been a privilege to serve on this Board in the last years and I would like to thank the other board members, volunteers, and the staff for their enthusiastic support for all of our projects.

*Respectfully submitted by Antonia Nissen, President*

Manager's Report: Where did 2021 go? I am still back in pre-pandemic times. Thank you to Alberta Museums Association for the Operational Staffing Grant which keeps a manager employed at the museum year-round. This helps to take some pressure off of the board. We had another successful year at the museum despite not being able to hold any special events. I began the year by updating the membership and the volunteer lists. If I did not reach you, please give the museum a call and we can get that taken care of. We opened the museum just as retail, selling ice cream and gift shop items. Once the Covid restrictions lifted we



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were able to open up the entire museum following the Covid protocols that kept changing. The Alberta Museums Conference was all on-line this year and they did it in three series. I attended all three series and I acquired some knowledge. I took a few other courses that were offered over the winter such as Pest Control from Alberta Museums Association and a Covid Course through the Red Deer College. I also took the Food Safety Course, WHIMIS, Food Sanitation and Hygiene.

Due to the support from Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs we were able to hire three students over the summer. The university students started to work in May and finished up in August. The high school student began in July and finished up the first part of September. They worked on several different projects and we were able to get some of the Dickson Drainage Records accessioned. They completed some other records that we had received from different sources. The Interpretive Development Committee and I met several times and planned the exhibit entitled “Back In Time For Dinner. The rest of the summer was spent doing office duties such as snail mail, e-mails, answering the phone, writing letters, making staff schedules etc. I did staff training which continued through the summer months. I also began writing grants for the fall run and spent many hours delivering customer service which included tours, answering questions, giving directions and scooping ice cream.

In October we decided to do a mini exhibit once a month in the off season so that we were accessible to the community year-round. The exhibits that we have had were Remembrance Day, Christmas Time and Beautiful Creations. They have all been successful and it has been so nice connecting with the community in the off season. It is a good way of showing off our collection as we have been displaying artefacts that don't often come out of storage. It reminds me of what a rich collection we have at the museum, how well it is stored, cared for and documented. We also borrowed some artefacts from individuals in the community and The Red Deer Museum. These added to our exhibit. Already some of these items have been donated to the museum and they will fill a gap in our collection. It was great that we were able to open for the season and I am looking forward to 2022.

*Respectfully submitted by Sharon Lightbown, Manager*

Administrative Specialist Report: 2021 has come to a close and I'm excited for the coming year at the museum. Last year had so much packed into it that it went by in what felt like no time at all. This year I have completed a brand new Operational Health and Safety Manual that is up to date and expanded from our previous version. I completed two courses on Alberta OH&S Legislation, through Alberta Association for Safety Partnerships, which was extremely helpful in creating this new manual. I have also been focusing on updating our policies to be current and better organized. I am digitizing the policies so that Board Members will have easy access to our policy manual for where ever they are. I also completed Food Safety, WHMIS, and Allergen and Covid-19 Awareness courses.

This summer was my first year at the museum for an open summer season, and it was wonderful. I loved seeing all the visitors and despite the changing restrictions, it was an extremely successful season. This year I updated much of the signage, with the help of our summer staff, to give the museum more information as they do self-guided tours and to upgrade parts of the museum. One major thing I implemented was QR codes that visitors can scan with their phones to take them to our website that has dedicated pages for areas in the museum, such as the pioneer

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cabin and the Back In Time For Dinner exhibit, these pages give our museum more interactive displays and provide people with the information we can't display on signage due to space. You can see these pages on our website under the "Walk Through The Past" tab. I am going to continue to expand these pages this year to include other areas in the museum. One very exciting thing that happened this year was our brand new logo! We held a contest for submissions and once a winner had been selected by the Board I adjusted the logo, with board suggestions, into what you see on our marketing now. I love the logo and I'm excited to see how many different ways we can brand the museum with it.

I have been working on our social media to expand our reach on those platforms. Our pages are continuing to steadily grow and become more engaging with our community. I worked on a few interesting posts this year that I am going to develop into a series. One of which is the recoloring of some of our archive photographs, I coloured two photos that were very well received and they give a new life to a picture. I'm also going to continue to show some of the artefacts that we don't have on display normally or items that are on display but have an interesting history that isn't necessarily known. I have also been doing our newsletters, which has been great and I'm excited to keep working on them throughout the year. I have continued to update our website and expand the content on it. I am excited to continue working on our digital footprint and social media presence this year. I am hoping that we can have some in-person special events this year and that I can meet you all in person. I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support through these difficult times; we have an amazing group of volunteers and supporters that I am so grateful for. I hope to see you all this summer at the museum for a tour or an ice cream (or both). If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to email me at: [admin@dicksonstoremuseum.com](mailto:admin@dicksonstoremuseum.com).

*Submitted by Kayli Christner, Administrative Specialist*

### **19. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club**

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

- Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- 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. Our 2021 Executive Board: Joanne Nielsen, President; Hanna Giles, Vice President; Birgitte Jensen, Secretary; Larry Kjeersgaard, Treasurer; Other board members: Dorothy Stone and Ester Ouderkirk. Once again this term we cancelled events for the year because of the epidemic. The board has corresponded through emails and Zoom Meetings and updating our members through our Teledane and Facebook. We had no bursaries awarded this year as there were no applications received. The board introduced a "covid pause" where some of the elected board from 2020 stayed on for an additional term. We are having our AGM in person March 6, 2022, with Zoom options also available. We as a board are again volunteering to do another "covid pause" and if

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members agree we will remain for another year. Hopefully we can start planning events for 2022. We are all eager to get back to planning our scheduled activities again. All our events and activities are described in detail on our website at: [www.rddcc.com](http://www.rddcc.com). You can also follow us on Facebook.

*Respectfully Submitted by Joanne Nielsen, President*

### **20. Danish Canadian Society DANIA, Edmonton**

On February 22, 2020 we held a Fastelavn Ball which turned out to be a real hoot! We tried out a new DJ company that included a digital photo booth with unlimited free photos. We had the traditional *slå katten af tønden* (“hit the cat out of the barrel”), and a new fun activity which involved bobbing for fastelavn boller (buns) filled with cream. It was hilarious and a lot of fun. Attendance was way down at only 63, but it was cozy and was the best time we had in a long time! The last event that Dania held before the Covid shutdown was a movie night that was held in the Nordic Room at the Centre on March 10, 2020. A Danish movie called *The Northwest Expedition* was shown. The movie chronicled the Jens Munk Expedition to the Canadian Arctic from 1619 to 1620. We had a lovely evening watching the movie with popcorn, candy and refreshments while keeping our social distance.



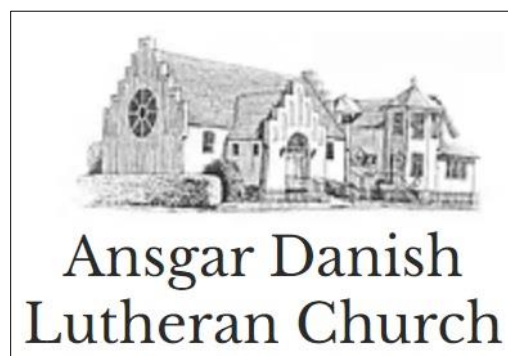
Unfortunately, just two days later beginning on March 12, 2020, almost daily new health restrictions were being issued, limiting gatherings and Dania was forced to cancel further events. The saddest part is that 2021 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Dania and we had hoped to be able to have a dance in October 2021 to celebrate the centennial, but of course the fourth Covid-19 wave was upon us and we had to cancel.

As part of the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration, the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada wanted to feature Dania on the cover of the 2021 Heritage Book and also to include the history of the club as the main article in the book. With the collaboration of Claus Jacobsen, Lili Nielsen, Helge and Bitten Christensen, Rolf Buschardt Christensen and myself; a detailed history was put together and is featured in the Heritage Book. There is an amazing amount of history in the article and I encourage you to purchase a copy of the book. You may purchase a copy for \$15 by calling Svend B. Nielsen in Edmonton at 780-435-5655. We will keep looking to the future when we can hold a big celebration to mark the Dania centennial, which hopefully will be in 2022! Keep your fingers crossed!

*Respectfully submitted by Lis Walker, President*

### **21. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church of Edmonton**

The last almost two years have been very different and at times a difficult time for everyone. The church has been closed for months for in-person church services, and the rest of the time (quite recently), with only a restricted number of participants. As well, the Church has not been available for meetings, fundraising events and other get-togethers. Despite the obstacles, we are



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still here! Pastor Lasse Hultberg has been connecting by way of transmitted services, phone calls or when possible, visits-as-needed. We have had to learn to accept "virtual reality", whether we have liked it or not. We are so looking forward to the day when we can meet freely again, having ordinary services and holding gatherings in the basement. The different church groups are eager to resume their programs as well. In addition, several special events are just waiting for the right time. Especially during this COVID time, your ongoing support has been greatly appreciated and has made it possible for Ansgar to continue to be available to all of us. On behalf of the Board of Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church thank you for your contributions and caring for Ansgar.

*Kirsten Olsen, President of the Church Council.*

### **24. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver**

2020 was a very strange year; I don't think there are many that can remember a year like that. But in some ways, it was a good year, because it forced the board to think outside the box.

It got us going with Pastor Susanne's video sermon; that is one of the best things we have done in a long time, as it reached Danes throughout the entire Province. The response and support we are getting is tremendous, the words of appreciation from people that live far away from the Church makes it all worth it. We cannot thank Pastor Susanne Ivalo Rasmussen and her husband Søren Søndergaard enough for the hours of tedious work they put into sending videos out. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



We have also expanded our email list, and are now reaching over 500 households; the majority of these are also receiving the newsletter via e-mail. That is a great saving for the church. Because the church was closed most of the year we lost out on a lot of fundraising. But the congregation stepped up to the plate, and the donations kept coming in throughout the year. Our expenses were also down somewhat because of the closure, so the year end looks good. Our fall bazaar was converted into a mini bazaar. We had some tables in the hall with items for sale, and we sold sandwiches on a pre-order and take-out basis. It was a good day, but far from a regular bazaar. We still had the fall lottery that sold very well. We also had a Saturday where we sold sandwiches takeout only. We made 750 sandwiches that day, a very successful day. We were not able to have our spring tea and bake sale, but we did have the spring lottery with some new and interesting prizes, that were received very well by the membership and the sales were better than any other year. The church stayed closed until mid-summer, at which point we started slowly with some services outdoors, we were lucky with the weather, and had a lot of members come to services. A month later we moved inside and have slowly moved forward with regular operations as far as Covid will allow us. In September 2021 we had visitors from DSUK in Denmark. Bishop Marianne Gaarden and Udlandsprovst Selma Ravn were to visit the Danish Churches in Canada. Unfortunately, Selma Ravn got sick the day before departure and had to stay home. But we had a good visit with the Bishop. It gave us an opportunity to show her what we are all about

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in Canada. We have instigated vaccine passports for all functions in the Church and are now planning the fall bazar and all the other celebrations for the Christmas season.

*Respectfully submitted by Knud Nielsen, President*

### **25. Dania Home, Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby**

Dania is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we have not been able to celebrate with any fanfare. We are hopeful we will all be able to meet and celebrate together this fall. To commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Director Torben Hansen submitted an article about Dania that was published in the 2021 Danish Heritage Book.



This past year, we have continued the additional cleaning and monitoring of visitors to keep the residents at Dania safe and to keep COVID19 at bay. We are very grateful to our team for their continued dedication and commitment. They have worked tirelessly to ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of our residents during these difficult times. All staff and residents were fully vaccinated several months ago and are now getting ready for their 3<sup>rd</sup> shots as recently announced by Bonnie Henry.

Dania Manor has 10 Private Pay Suites owned by Dania. We are renovating these suites with new flooring, new lighting and more. These suites are now available for rent so if you know anyone in the Burnaby or lower mainland area looking at moving into an Assisted Living home, please consider Dania Manor.

Dania was awarded \$14.2 million in capital subsidy under the BC Community Housing Fund program in November, 2018, and later increased to \$ 15.5 million as we increased the project to include 155 apartments. 20% of the apartments are for households with low incomes, 50% for a range of low-to-moderate income and 30% for households with middle incomes. Our building team has recently submitted the Building Permit Application. Should the Building Permit be granted reasonably close to our timeline of April, 2022, we are still hoping for Substantial Completion around April, 2024. Plans are also being finalized for a lovely garden on Dania Home and Dania Manor property connecting to the garden associated with the Project. Dania is always looking to increase its membership and we welcome donations to better serve our residents and to maintain the buildings. For more information on Dania please visit: [www.dania.bc.ca](http://www.dania.bc.ca).

*Respectfully Submitted by Vena Chopra, President*

### **26. Danish House Society, Burnaby**

It has been a hot dry summer and we are finally on the road to things getting back to normal. So much has happened and also not happened since the last newsletter. Covid has not gone away and there was no Midsummer this year. But AGM's and Board Meetings were held. At the Danish House AGM the Board again chose me to continue as President and elected four new Directors including a brand new Secretary, Tina Taylor. The other new Directors are Elisabeth Carstensen, Lars Lyngsoe, and Ulla Larsen. I



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welcome them to our Board and I am excited about the skills and dedication they bring, and about working with them. The March DHS AGM was followed by the Scandinavian Centre AGM in April and I received the privilege of being elected as the new Centre President as it was Denmark's turn to fill that position. So now I get to wear another hat. Hopefully my head will not swell and I will be up to the task of filling the big shoes of the last Centre President. I am excited about what is going to happen and that is the Centre will reopen on a limited capacity basis on August 3rd and things like language classes can start again. For Danish House the first scheduled Event will be the Annual Family BBQ on August 22nd. Because this is an outdoor event we are not limited in terms of the attendance but existing Covid rules will continue to be followed. There will be a limited capacity Kroaften in September and if the province continues with its current reopening plan all restrictions should be lifted on September 7<sup>th</sup> and a full house Kroaften is a serious possibility for October.

It is with the greatest sadness that I have to report the sudden passing of long-time DHS Director and past President of the Centre, Dave Buchmann. Dave passed away in his sleep during the recent heat wave in the last week of June. Dave was an energetic Director and member of the "Tuesday Gang" and played a major role on the DHS Scholarship Committee and in the planning and organization of events like the Midsummer Festival, DHS Family BBQ, and so many more. He will be sorely missed. A celebration of his life will be held at the Centre on September 17th. Lastly, I want to mention that 2021 is the 25th Anniversary of the Scandinavian Centre and also of the founding of Danish House. The Centre will host an Anniversary celebration on September 25<sup>th</sup> and all members of all the Houses are encouraged to drop by and help celebrate.

*Respectfully submitted by Ed Kuhlman, President*

### **28. Danish Sisterhood of America, Dogwood Lodge #179 - Vancouver, BC.**

#### **Annual Report: Sept. 2020 - Oct. 2021**

The Dogwood Lodge #179 in Vancouver is always busy pursuing its goals – to motivate our older members and attract new members to join our Lodge. We hold 6 business meetings a year. We start each meeting with first enjoying open-faced Danish sandwiches and socializing before we conduct the business ritual. We hold 4 Social meetings a year with our Social Committee in charge of various festivities, in order to retain the interest of our existing members by creating various *Theme* nights and other fun activities. We also have pot-luck dinners and give presentations about our cultural interests, so our members learn to understand and enjoy our Danish heritage and traditions.....and much more.... Further 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 local 'Dogwood'** newsletter is sent out 4 times a year - updating us about coming events and other interesting news. We now email it to (98%) of all members and send it regular mail to just 2%, to those few members without computers, which has 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 many complimentary feed-backs. We have also included a Photo Gallery of all of our events.

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**Our ‘Pet Club’** established 9 years ago as the very first in the Danish Sisterhood, now has 26 members from Canada & the United States. It is a great little fundraiser and a different way to connect members through their pets - showing that Danes are a Pet-friendly Nation.

**Our Dogwood Manual**, created in 2005, 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, and the Manual is sent electronically to all members.



**Monthly Highlights: since the last Conference in Winnipeg. May 2019 to Oct. 2021**

**MAY: ‘Flag Day’** - We celebrated ‘Flag Day’ in the Danish church in Burnaby together with many other Danish organizations in honor of Denmark’s liberation, (Cancelled in 2020 & 2021 due to the Covid pandemic.)

**Alexander Multicultural Festival** - For 8 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, (Cancelled in 2020 & 2021).



**JUNE: ‘Grundlovsdag’** - The 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, (Cancelled in 2020 & 2021.)

**Anniversary** - We held a special dinner honouring our members’ membership anniversaries and their special round birthdays, with flowers and tributes, (Cancelled in 2020 & 2021).

**Midsummer Festival** - We again took part in the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival at the Scandinavian Centre in the Danish tent, where we displayed our Lodge banner, various Danish paraphernalia, and use this opportunity as our yearly membership drive, (Cancelled in 2020 & 2021).

**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.

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And we did manage to hold 2 social picnics in 2020 and again in 2021 in 2 of the sisters' backyards while keeping to the rules of social distancing.

**SEPTEMBER:** After the summer holidays, we started our meetings again, and after the business meeting, we started preparing for our upcoming events and worked on Arts & Crafts for our Fall Bazaar. The evening usually ends with fun games being played, (Cancelled in 2020 & 2021).



**OCTOBER: Halloween** - A Halloween party was held and all showed up in festive costume. Voting is held for best costume and pictures taken and prizes handed out. Then a special pot-luck dinner is served followed by Halloween desserts in abundance, (Cancelled in 2020), but managed to be held in 2021.

**'Kroaften'** - The Sisterhood attended the well attended 'Kroaften' as a group and contributed a wine basket donation, (Cancelled in 2020), but managed to participate in 2021.

**NOVEMBER: Our Yearly Bingo** - Or in Danish "Andespil" was held with the Danish Brotherhood Lodge #328, with ducks, salami and flæskesteg as prizes for the lucky winners. About 120 people attended and the Sisters made about 400 open-faced sandwiches; a great opportunity to show new sisters how to make them. The night ended with dancing, (Cancelled in 2020), but will attend if hopefully it will be able to be held in 2021.

**Our Fall & Christmas Bazaar** - Was again held at the Scandinavian Center. 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 2 hours, (Cancelled in 2020), but is scheduled to go ahead in 2021 and we are again participating.

**DECEMBER: 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, and held raffle and door prize draws, so nobody goes home empty-handed. From the proceeds we donated \$416 to our favourite charity. During this lovely evening we also held the 'Installation' of new elected Officers, (Cancelled in 2020), but we are planning to hopefully be able to again hold it in 2021.

*Respectfully submitted by Delegate, Jannet Tricarico - Lodge #179*

### 29. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo,

Our Board has had a couple of electronic meetings via ZOOM this year. At both meetings, it was decided to cancel future social events until the pandemic eases and the social distancing rules are



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relaxed. Since we are not offering any social events, we are still not collecting any membership dues. We have however published one issue of our Newsletter to help members keep in touch and we will be publishing one more in early December. We have not held any social events since the pandemic started.

We held our 2021 Annual General Meeting via ZOOM and got through the basic business required at an AGM including the election of officers. Our slate of officers for 2021 is as follows:

*President:* Tom Hedekær  
*Vice President:* Carsten Krogh  
*Secretary:* Lena Tsuji  
*Treasurer:* Rebecca Taylor  
*Director:* John Jensen  
*Director:* Darlene O’Neill  
*Director:* Louise Krogh  
*Director:* John Strandt.

Back in the Spring of 2019, our Club agreed to host the Federation Conference and AGM in Nanaimo in May of 2020 but that soon got cancelled as did our plans for the 2021 event. Most recently, the Federation, at its AGM via ZOOM, has officially cancelled plans for the 2022 AGM and Conference that was to be held in Nanaimo so we are now offering to host the 2023 event in Nanaimo on May 26 – 29, 2023. Keep your fingers crossed, make a note under your calendar and we’ll see how that goes.

Lena Rasmussen continues to maintain our Club web page at: [www.danishclubnanaimo.com](http://www.danishclubnanaimo.com) and Lynn Hedekar continues to post interesting items on our Facebook page that you can find by searching FB for *Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club*. I believe that both our web page and our Facebook page are instrumental in attracting interest and new members to our club. Lena Tsuji continues to publish occasional issues of our Newsletter. We seem to lose more members to the great beyond than we gain so our current membership sits at around 154. We look forward to getting back together for fun times, good food and some sort of “normal”.

*Respectfully submitted by Tom Hedekær, President*

### **31. Scandinavian Cultural Society, Vancouver**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Scandinavian Cultural Society in February of 2020 I was honoured to be elected 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 in 2020 and 2021, though we hope our activities can return to normal in the near future. Luckily, thanks to Zoom we have been able to continue our Board meetings. After a lively discussion about the Jens Munk Expedition and the active role played by the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada in promoting a re-publication of the Jens Munk Journal, I proposed that the Cultural Society, endowed with a Danish component inherent in our mission to promote Nordic Cultures, become a member of the Federation. The SCS Board of Directors unanimously agreed and our membership was approved by the Federation. Our Board is excited about our



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membership in 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 who came 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 getting their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation offspring involved. That is the mission of the Nordic Spirit Exhibits - to tell of the trials, tribulations, hardships, joys and successes of those adventurers.

This mission is 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 in the Danish Federation. Please stay safe and continue to support the Scandinavian Cultural Society. The SCS Board of Directors is making plans for first-class Scandinavian events and exhibits in 2022.

*Respectfully submitted by Ed Kuhlman, President*

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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](mailto:terpeva@bell.net)

# Obituaries

## Emil Sorensen, Nanaimo

### The first to be awarded the provincial *Extraordinary Senior Award*

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Emil Sorensen, beloved husband and adored father, mentor, teacher and friend passed away on January 9, 2021, with his family by his side. He was predeceased by his parents, brother Vagn, sister Karen and daughter Sigrid. He leaves his wife Rita, daughter Sophia (Simon), two step-grandchildren, two sister-in laws, nieces and a nephew. Special long-time family friends include the Hansens, Carters and the Glens, and his other ‘families’: those at VIU Trades, especially Neil and Jack, who made every day meaningful, productive and enjoyable, friends of Bill W. who demonstrated years of support, and the ‘Wednesday Night Dinner Group’.

Emil began his life in Denmark. He was born on December 23, 1927 and grew up working on the Skaføgård estate near Randers in Jutland, a castle built between 1580 and 1582. In Denmark he learned a trade going through the Danish apprenticeship system. In 1950, Emil and his brother Vagn immigrated to Canada, where they faced many challenges with steadfast resilience. They also experienced many amusing adventures, and Emil loved to share those stories. Then at a dance on a Saturday night in the small town of Lytton, Emil met Rita, the love of his life, and they were an inseparable couple for 65 years. They were always in motion and together, they raised a family, built a house, built a boat and traveled.

Emil’s inquisitive nature and quick mind was well-suited to his chosen field and passion of heavy mechanical trades. He worked in Vancouver at the technical college (now BC Institute of Technology) and in 1964 moved to the Trades Division at Vancouver Island University (previously Malaspina College). He retired in 1992, but was enticed back as a full-time volunteer/mentor and occasional instructor five years later, a position he held until the Spring of 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic arrived. Emil found tremendous joy and pleasure from sharing his knowledge and experience with new generations of trades students and was grateful for every day he spent in the shop.

Emil’s unselfish nature was evident throughout his life, from donating his garden produce to the Salvation Army to acting as Commodore of the Nanaimo Yacht Club and President of the Newcastle Historical Society. In 2018, Emil won the first Extraordinary Senior Award, a province-wide award that honours a person each year who is 65-years or older who goes “above and beyond to help their community.”

After he completed building his second boat (at age 83), he discovered a new passion which was renovating a heritage tractor. He spent many hours with his good friend Pat M. ‘talking tractors’ and taking part in events with the Mid-Island Vintage Tractor and Equipment Club.

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In his final days, Emil said, “I’ve had a great life”. It is that fact, which is so reflective of his personality and spirit. A Celebration of Life will be held when possible and safe to do so. All will be welcome. The family intends to create a scholarship to honour Emil at Vancouver Island University. To express condolences, share stories or learn about the scholarship, please contact me, Sophia Sorensen at [sorensenpro@gmail.com](mailto:sorensenpro@gmail.com).

On November 22, 2018, the *Vancouver Island University News* reported that, “Every morning, the 90-year-old gets up and rides his bike – an electric-assisted bike now, he jokes, because his heart isn’t as strong as it once was – from his Departure Bay home to Vancouver Island University (VIU) to volunteer in the Heavy Mechanical Trades program. When Sorensen started at VIU in 1964, the apprenticeship program in BC was just getting started. Sorensen, an instructor in the program for 28 years until he retired in 1992, helps faculty repair and modify equipment, and shares with students his unique skill-set.”

“I’ve got the best of both worlds. I don’t have the responsibility to the students in the sense of their outcome – whether they pass an exam or not – but I have the fun of showing them things,” he says. “I absolutely love this trade. It’s so satisfying to show somebody something you’ve done. If I can give them a little bit of my knowledge, then maybe they don’t have to go digging for it later. What I get paid in is thank you’s and you can’t buy that – it’s so precious.”

For all his volunteer efforts, Sorensen was nominated for and won the Extraordinary Senior Award this year, a provincewide award started by Retirement Concepts in conjunction with the Pacific National Exhibition and the BC Alzheimer’s Society. The award goes to one senior per year who goes above and beyond to help their community. On top of his volunteer work at VIU, Sorensen also organizes a dinner group for single seniors to break the social isolation and foster new friendships; volunteers for the Mid-Island Vintage Tractor and Equipment Club; and donates fresh produce grown in his backyard garden to the Salvation Army.



“The award came out of nowhere and I was completely blown away,” says Sorensen, who is grateful for his daughter for nominating him, and Glynis Steen and Paul Mottershead, Dean and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Trades and Applied Technology, for supporting the nomination, but is also a little embarrassed about the recognition.

“A lot of people tell me I’m an inspiration. If I can serve as an example of how following your passions doesn’t have an age limit, then I’m happy to share my story,” he says. “I know too many seniors who didn’t make it long past retirement because there was nothing for their bodies and their brains to do. There’s this fundamental belief that when you’re 65, you’re finished, you get stuck in front of the TV and all you do is sit there and become mummified. I wanted to keep on going.”

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Paul Mottershead, Associate Dean of Trades and Applied Technology, says Sorensen’s passion for the trades inspires students, as well as his ability to think up new, innovative ways of doing things. “Emil helps our current students become critical thinkers – after spending some time with him and watching him come up with outside-the-box solutions to problems, they aspire to attain the same level of knowledge he has,” says Mottershead. “He demonstrates for students that learning never stops, and that this trade is more than just a job – it’s a career.”



Last December, when Sorensen turned 90, students and faculty showed their appreciation for his work by throwing him a birthday party after class ended. More than 100 students and faculty attended. “They sent me out for something and when I came back, they had strung a banner across two cranes and all the students had stayed behind to celebrate with me,” he remembers. “I’m amazed by young people today. I drop a tool on the floor and there are two students there picking it up. They are so appreciative of what I do,” he told VIU News.

# Short Obituaries

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## **Bendix Andersen, Victoria and Tsawwassen 1930 – 2021**

I, Jørgen Hartsen, as the eldest son of Ben Andersen, want to pass on to you and members of the Danish Federation that last Friday, April 30, 2021, Ben passed away peacefully in a long term care home in Tsawwassen, British Columbia, at the age of 91. He was with all his Canadian family in the past few weeks and was appreciative of that fact. I know that he was very proud of his Danish heritage as well as being a Canadian. He mentioned many times to me how much he enjoyed the members of the Danish Federation and was pleased to be involved. He was also involved with the Viking ship replica that is now at the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson, Alberta. P.S. Bendix was treasurer of the Danish Federation in 2011-2012. As president of the Danish Social Club, Victoria, he hosted the Danish Federation's conference in 2013, and made a sizable donation to the Museum in Dickson. He also served on the board of the Museum.

## **Hans Peter B. Andersen, Leduc 1947 – 2008**

Hans Peter B. Andersen passed away on February 26, 2008 at age 61. Peter was born in Denmark. He is survived by his mother Lilly of Denmark, son Leif and Becky of Grande Prairie, daughter Kari and Benny of Leduc, daughter Marie-Theres and Olaf of Germany, brother Niels and Bente of Denmark, sister Eva and Claes of Denmark, brother Benny and Gitte of Denmark, sister Susanne and Olaf of Denmark, and grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Peter was predeceased by his father, Helge. A celebration of life was held at Leduc Alliance Church.

## **Inger Andersen, Surrey 1924 – 2021**

Inger Andersen was born on a farm in Gandrup, between Skanderborg and Horsens in Jutland on March 26, 1924. She passed away on September 8, 2021 in Surrey, British Columbia. Inger and her husband, Jens, and son John, left Denmark for Canada on the Polish immigrant ship *MS Stefan Batory* on March 6, 1950. Along with Frode Jensen and Dora Larsen, Inger Andersen was one of the three founders of the Granly Church. She has two sisters, Helga and Ditta, in Denmark. In Canada she is survived by her daughter, Irene, and grandson Garet.

## **Stig Andersen, Surrey 1940 – 2016**

Stig Andersen passed away at home on December 15, 2016, after a long battle with cancer. He was born on October 14, 1940. He leaves his beloved wife Hanne, as well as five children. They met when Hanne's four children were aged between 4 and 15. Hanne and Stig also had a son

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Rory. Stig became a wonderful father to these children. They married in 1970. He leaves 5 children, 3 grandchildren and 6 great grandsons. Stig and Hanne met, as many others did, in the Danish folk dancing group in the 60s and they continued dancing till the 90s - and in between square danced when son Rory took it up. Stig and Hanne were enthusiastic gardeners on their acreage in Surrey. Many of their plants now grow on the berm at the Scandinavian Centre. Stig was a Life Member of the Danish House Society.

### **Margit Bennett, née Wognesbeck, Oakville 1924 – 2021**

Margit Bennett, née Wognesbeck, passed away at Belleville General Hospital on May 29, 2021. She leaves her daughter Kristina and husband Alan; stepson David and wife Kathy; family members Robbie and Ian; three great-grandchildren; two nieces, nephew Hap and wife Lorna Bennett. Margit was predeceased by husband Bruce Bennett and her sister Alice. She was born in Denmark on February 15, 1924. In 1948, after gaining a B.A. in Art & Design from the University of Copenhagen and while working for Swedish furniture manufacturer, Nordiska, she was recruited by the Robert Simpson Company to facilitate the introduction of the "Triva" line of Danish furniture to the Canadian market. Margit subsequently settled in Toronto where she met and married Bruce Bennett in 1952. During her time with Simpsons, Margit travelled extensively in Canada and the U.S. planning interior design for their stores and also lecturing on interior design. In 1957, Margit joined McLean Hunter as interior design editor of their homes and furnishing magazines, this led to extensive travels in Canada, U.S., Europe and Japan. Margit wrote and edited many articles on furniture and furniture design during her tenure. In 1965, while still with Mclean Hunter, Margit also took on the role of Director of The Design Centre, a branch of Design Canada. Here, she supervised the daily operation of the Centre, the employees, arranging seminars, exhibitions, speaking engagements and promotional activities which included industry visits to promote product design programs. In 1971, Margit took on the role of Senior Regional Officer, Department of Industry and Trade, with special interest in International Marketing, and became Senior Incentives Officer with the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion. In this role, Margit was responsible for delivering the department's innovation programs specializing in consumer products, assistance in developing markets abroad and delivery of export market promotional programs. Margit also participated in Ontario Government meetings to liaise with provincial development programs, and other Canadian designers and fashion promotional groups until her retirement in 1988. In her spare time, Margit was a long-time member of The Toronto Heliconian Club, serving as President of the club 1987/88. The Toronto Heliconian Club, a non-profit organization, gives women in the arts and letters an opportunity to meet socially and intellectually. In 2010 Margit received an award for 25 years of service as a volunteer with the V.O.N. She was an active member of her condominium board of directors for many years with special interest in the garden and atrium interior design. Margit always enjoyed gardening and well into her retirement years, she maintained a vegetable plot near her home in Oakville. She was a member of the Danish Women's Association in Toronto.

**Knud Nielsen Bom, Calgary  
1937 – 2015**

Knud Nielsen Bom was born on January 10, 1937 in Roum (between Viborg and Hobro). He passed away on November 22, 2015 surrounded by his family after a courageous battle with cancer. Knud is survived by his wife, Dorthe, his children Michael (Rebecca), Isabel and Carl (Brandee), five grandchildren; brother, Poul (Maria) in England; and sister, Else (Henning) in Denmark. Knud was predeceased by his parents Kristian and Anna; and siblings: Ellen, Svend, Bent, Clara, Karen. Knud immigrated to Canada in 1977 with his wife and two oldest children and started working for Ib Jensen Masonry and remained there until he retired. Knud loved to be surrounded by family and friends, and welcomed everyone who came to his home. He was a member of the Calgary Naver Club and was committed to maintaining his Danish roots. On November 28, 2015 a celebration of his life was held at the Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary.

**Aase Brøndum, Burnaby  
1934 – 2019**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce that Aase Brøndum passed away on November 12, 2019. She had been born on July 31, 1934. She is survived by her husband, Jens Brøndum, daughters Eva (James), Mette (Ken), grandchildren Andrew (Stephanie), Trevor and Jeremy, and great grandchild, Jacob. A service was held at the Danish Lutheran Church, Burnaby.

**Anni Christensen, Montreal  
1939 – 2021**

It is with sadness that I, Anne Marie Jorgensen, write this to let you know that Anni Christensen (born 1939), passed away on January 27, 2021. Anni grew up in Copenhagen and arrived in Canada in 1957 where she met her late husband, Carl Christensen. They married in 1960. Anni leaves her two sons, Robert and Richard and their families including a posse of grand-daughters (Sarah, Amanda, Stephanie, Jessica and Melina), whom all adored their very special "Bedste". Anni was active on the board of the Danish Canadian Society in the '60s, '70s and '80s. Her son Robert (Bob) Christensen and grand-daughter, Sarah Christensen, are following in her footsteps. Bob is our treasurer and Sarah is one of our directors. Anni is leaving many treasured memories and will be missed by family and friends in both Canada and Denmark. On behalf of the Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, I extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family. May she Rest in Peace. Anni's wishes were not to do anything special, but simply to be laid to rest next to her husband. Æret være hendes minde.

**Esther Christensen, née Hansen, Gravenhurst  
1915 – 2018**

Esther Christensen, née Hansen, was born on December 12, 1915. She passed away peacefully on October 4, 2018, at Gravenhurst, Ontario, in her 102<sup>nd</sup> year; Beloved wife of the late Magnus Christensen; Loving mother of Len and his wife Mary of Calgary; Predeceased by her son Brian.

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She will be fondly remembered by her daughter-in-law Linda and Brad. Esther will be sadly missed by her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

### **Frode Maagaard Christensen, Ottawa 1918 – 2015**

Frode Maagaard Christensen died peacefully in Ottawa on November 11, 2015 in his 98<sup>th</sup> year. He was the son of the late Gregers Christensen and Kristine Mogensen of Denmark and husband of the late Ester, née Rosenvold; Father of Peter (Franca Palermo) of Ottawa. Frode is survived by many nephews and nieces in Denmark. Frode was an avid traveler, especially in his later years, and was an accomplished artist and painter.

### **Henry Marinus Christensen, Dawson Creek 1927 – 2008**

Henry Marinus Christensen passed away suddenly and quickly on October 15, 2008 at his home. Henry was born on December 29, 1927 in Ikast, Denmark. He was the second child of five children born to Axel and Marie Christensen. He grew up and went to school in Denmark and even as a child he loved to tease and play pranks. As a result he was in trouble quite often. However his love of laughter out shone any of these problems. At the age of fourteen Henry went to work for a farmer. This farmer had cows, pigs, horses, etc. Work was very hard and wages were low. However Henry enjoyed working there as he was treated very well. When the war broke out and the German Army marched into Denmark life became quite different and people were very fearful. It was at this time that Henry's father decided to take his family to Canada after the war. So in 1948 they left Denmark, sailed on the MS *Gripsholm* from Sweden to New York City, then by train to Edmonton, Alberta, where Henry's dad had an uncle who sponsored them to come to Canada. Henry worked at odd jobs for a time until he decided to go to Calgary and get his plastering papers. This proved to be a challenge as Henry neither spoke nor wrote English and school had never been easy for him. However he persevered and graduated second in his class. In 1950 Henry met Thea Frantzen, for him it was love at first sight. Also she was Norwegian so she could understand him and she could cook. That was it for him. She was not quite as smitten right away and he had to work at it. Henry was determined and eventually he won her over. Henry and Thea were married on June 20, 1953. She was then and remained to be the love of his life. They quickly started their family. First came their only son Floyd followed shortly by their daughter Brenda. In 1957, Henry and Thea moved their young family to Dawson Creek, B.C., where Henry embarked on his stucco business and they added three more daughters to their family; Connie, Pamela and Candace. These were hard years, Henry worked long hours, money was scarce, but love was boundless. Henry's faith in the Lord helped him get through these difficult times. He was always positive, never complaining. Often when Thea would worry Henry would say the Lord will provide and He did. In 1967, Henry and Thea purchased and moved into the house that they lived in until his death. In 1970, Henry gave up his stucco business and went to work as a custodian for School District 59. In this position Henry as per usual teased both the staff and students and as a result many friendships were formed. Henry loved a forty hour work week and a steady pay check. He remained with the School District until his retirement in 1993. He loved retirement. Throughout his life Henry enjoyed hunting, fishing,

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gardening and camping. He loved watching hockey, both the NHL and his grandchildren in minor hockey. Henry loved all animals especially dogs. His wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren meant everything to him. They could always count on him. A Funeral Service was held on October 21, 2008 at Bethel Pentecostal Church.

### **Knud Erik Christensen, Vanderhoof 1954 – 2019**

Knud Erik Christensen, beloved husband, father, papa, and brother passed away in his home in Vanderhoof on the afternoon of December 28, 2019. He will be greatly missed and remembered by his wife Karin Christensen, daughters Melissa Christensen and Kristina Reimer, grandchildren Austin, Morgan, Brianna and Julia along with his sons-in-law Jamie Reimer and Kris Gierl, as well as his sister Hanna and his three brothers, Carsten, Bent, and Kenn. Erik was born on January 16, 1954 in Horsens, Denmark. He moved to Vanderhoof with his family in 1996. He came to Canada with his family at the age of 2, after settling and going to school in Kitimat, British Columbia, he went back to Denmark at the age of 15. He sailed for some years before starting his apprenticeship as a brick layer in Denmark. After meeting Karin in 1979, he decided to go immigrate back to Canada in 1981, Karin followed and in October of 1981 they were married. Erik loved to camp and fish and spent countless hours around a fire. He was a perfectionist, always making things better. Erik's wish was that there will be no service.

### **Otto Christensen, Victoria 1918 – 2016**

Surrounded by loving family Otto Christensen died peacefully at age 97 on October 15, 2016. Survived by his beloved wife of 68 years, Ruth Marion Christensen (née Cox); Pre-deceased by siblings Johan, Aase and Svend. Loving father of: John, Judith (Gary), Douglas (Caroline), David (Barbara) and Carla (Randy). Dedicated and loving "Papa" to nine wonderful grandchildren. Chris was born in Copenhagen on October 20, 1918, the son of Carl Christensen and Agnes Jensen. He immigrated with his family in 1930 to Prince Edward Island. He later served in the Canadian Army during WWII, and as a UN Peacekeeper in Egypt. Chris retired as a Canadian Forces officer in 1973, moving from Ontario to Sidney, B.C. Throughout a richly fulfilled life, Chris loved family gatherings at home in the magical sunroom he built, as well as golfing, fishing, boating, model trains, building projects, and driving his pearl-white Cadillac. A disciplined man who loved order, Chris could also surprise us by putting on a crazy wig or mask, laughing heartily. Affectionately known as our own "Great Dane," Papa was one-of-a-kind in terms of his strength, compassion and legendary work ethic. No challenge was too difficult. He was an award-winning gardener, and, earlier in life, a farmer, lumberjack, Canadian soldier, War Veteran, chef, food-services director and teacher. Thanks to his exceptionally intelligent mind, Papa could build or fix anything, earning him constant admiration. Until age 96, he did all the family's tax returns. He loved nothing more than a lively game of "hook the bar," cribbage or hockey games on TV. He fought hard until the end. He will always be remembered as a wonderful, charming man with an uplifting spirit, and a smile that could light up a room. He was warm, generous and creative, always wanting to make things better for others. He cherished living and, above all, deeply loved his wife and family.

**Marie Christiansen, Ottawa  
1920 – 2020**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Marie Christiansen, May 22, 2020, six days short of her 100th Birthday. She was born on May 28, 1920. She was a devoted mother to Gitta Granata (Emilio), adoring grandmother to Tania (Jason) and proud great grandmother to Luca, Oban and Mackenzie. She was full of life and always ready to tell a story and have a laugh. Special thanks go to the nurses and staff of New Orchard Lodge. Private burial: on Thursday May 28, 2020, her 100th Birthday.

**Frank Engelbrecht, Hamilton  
1933 – 2021**

Frank Engelbrecht (Pedersen) passed away on October 16, 2021, after a brief stay at Brampton Civic Hospital at the age of 88. Frank was predeceased by his wife Valerie (1931-2012) and his first grandson Lucas (2000). He will be missed by his daughters Denise, Kirsten and Katrina, his sons-in-law Todd and Jamie and his many grandchildren. He was born on August 28, 1933, on a small farm in Vendsyssel, between Hjørring and Sæby. His mother had 10 children in 14 years, with no twins; Frank was the youngest. There were no luxuries. They had an outhouse and no running water. But living on a farm meant they never went hungry. He will be cherished by his surviving siblings and will be remembered as the ‘fun uncle’ by his many nieces and nephews in both Denmark and England. Frank came to Canada in 1960, working at various jobs before securing employment at Dofasco in Hamilton where he worked for 28 years. Frank loved his farm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession in Lynden, Ontario, as well as the community around it. He was a proud member of the Royal Danish Guards’ Association, Eastern Canada (serving in the regiment 1953-55), and stayed connected to his Danish roots through Sunset Villa and the Danish Federation. He was an active member of the Lynden Masonic Lodge as well as the Rockton Agricultural Society which included serving as president of the Rockton World’s Fair in 2005. Frank will be most remembered for his generous hospitality and willingness to help. Whether it was dropping in to check on a neighbour, sharing a meal or hosting a party, Frank enjoyed a good time surrounded by good people. He made an impression on all who he met, and will be remembered fondly. Cremation has occurred and Frank will be interred at Sunset Mindepark in Puslinch at a later date.

**Leo Eriksen, Red Deer and Edmonton  
1941 – 2019**

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Leo Chester Eriksen of Edmonton, formerly of Red Deer, Alberta, at the age of 78, on December 25, 2019. He was born on March 10, 1941. Leo leaves his loving wife of 55 years, Jeanne, and three children Rob (Robin) Eriksen, Leanne (Steve) Sunderland and Darrin (Melanie) Eriksen. Leo will be dearly missed by his six grandchildren: Anthony, Michael, Chris, Tom, Treyton and Tanner; two great-grandchildren Scarlett and Jaxon, as well as other extended family members. Leo took pride and joy giving back to his community. Just some of the groups he was involved with include the ELKS #85, Red Deer Danish Canadian Club, Danish Canadian National Museum, Boy Scouts of Canada,

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Associated Canadian Travelers (ACT), Masonic Lodge/Shriners and the Lions club. One of his fondest groups was the Otterbury Society – family and friends connecting in the back field for great food and fellowship and a friendly game of horseshoes or baseball. Leo was proud of his Danish heritage, so in lieu of flowers, Memorial donations may be made directly to the Danish Canadian Museum in Dickson. Cremation has taken place. Leo was the first manager of the Danish Canadian Museum and was proud to MC at the Grand Opening of the Museum in 2002.

### **Hans Fogh, Toronto 1938 – 2014**

Hans Fogh passed away peacefully from Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease on March 14, 2014 in Toronto. A fighter to the end, Hans leaves Kirsten, his beloved wife and safe harbour for 49 years, his two sons, Morten (Debbie) and Thomas (Andrea) and his darling grandchildren, Sarah, Curtis, Marcus, Kaia and Lucas with whom he spent many joyful hours as “Farfar” attending their numerous special events. Hans is also survived by his family in Denmark, his brother Jens Christian, sisters Gitte (Esben) and Annegrette (Christian). Hans leaves behind a niece in Canada, Pia (Danny) daughter of his late sister Inger (John Eastwood). Born on March 8, 1938 in Copenhagen, Hans has had one of the most exemplary competitive sailing careers ever, winning numerous Worlds, European, North American and National titles in several classes including the Soling, Finn, Flying Dutchman, Star and Etchells. Hans came to Canada with the encouragement and support of long-time friend, Paul Henderson, who managed to lever Hans’ former career as a gardener to become a sailmaker. Hans went on to build one of the most successful sail lofts in the world under the Elvstrom, Fogh and North banners. His involvement in the development of the original Laser sail and the subsequent Laser Radial sail are only the beginning of his many well-known accomplishments in the sport. Hans’ competitive sailing career was influenced by his close friend and mentor, Paul Elvstrom. His career spanned seven decades from his first in the late fifties, to his last race earlier this year with his bronze medal crew John Kerr and his godson Johnnie Kerr. Hans enjoyed sharing his sailing with his family. He was able to coach his sons as they entered the sport, then shared the 1984 Olympics with his oldest son Morten and was able to compete in two Olympic trials with his youngest son Thomas. Hans was most joyful helping his 5 grandchildren learn to sail. A six-time Olympian, he won his first Olympic Silver Medal with Ole Erik Gunnar Peterson in Rome in 1960 for his native Denmark. In 1984, 24 years later, he won a Bronze Medal in Los Angeles, representing Canada with crew John Kerr and Steve Calder. Hans was extremely proud that he won a medal for his home and adopted countries. Hans also won a Pan Am Games Silver medal in 1987. Throughout his career, Hans enjoyed giving back to the sport he loved: coaching, mentoring, training and developing sailors at every opportunity. This was definitively evidenced by the many lives he touched and the countless letters of remembrances from sailors and friends that have given the family so much strength. Recognizing Hans Fogh’s contribution to the sport of sailing, he has been inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, Canadian Amateur Sports Hall of Fame, Etobicoke Sports Hall of Fame and the National Marine Manufacturer’s Association Canada Hall of Fame, including a number of other awards he has received over the years. Donations to the Hans Fogh Endowment Fund, Ontario Sailing, would be greatly appreciated.

**Lillian Andrea Francis, New Westminster  
1944 – 2019**

Lillian Andrea Francis passed away in New Westminster on October 13, 2019. For many years she worked as a hairdresser in New Westminster. She was born in Copenhagen in 1944. She left behind her son Michael Jeffry Weber. The funeral service took place at the Danish Lutheran Church “Granly” in Surrey.

**Sonja Fredensborg, née Wogensen, Montreal  
1933 – 2019**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Sonja Fredensborg on June 18, 2019, after a courageous battle with cancer. She will be deeply missed by her husband of 62 years, Hans Christian (called Fred), her children Lone and Peter and her grandchildren Ryan, Miriam (Pardeep), Kaylee and Kyle. Sonja was born in Denmark on July 30, 1933. She leaves behind many family members and friends in both Canada and Denmark. A memorial service was held at St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, 4020 Grand Boulevard, NDG, in Montreal on July 27, 2019.

**Evald Stentoft Ganderup, Lucknow, Ontario  
1934 – 2020**

Evald Stentoft Ganderup, beloved husband of Erika Ganderup (Becker), of Lucknow and formerly of Ridgetown, passed away at the Stratford Rotary Hospice on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at the age of 85. He was born in Denmark on December 2, 1934 to the late Marie (Stentoft), born in 1903, and late Martin Ganderup. Evald and Erika farmed in Orford Township for almost twenty years. Greatly missed by his children Billy (Christine) Ganderup of Chatham, and Lisa (Darryl) Gibson of Lucknow, and six grandchildren; Predeceased by siblings Andreas, Kristian, Gunhild, Ethel and Verner. Spring interment: Greenhill Cemetery, Lucknow.

**Arthur Gorrighsen, Moose Jaw  
1926 – 2013**

Arthur Gorrighsen passed away peacefully at the Moose Jaw Union Hospital on November 4, 2013 at the age of 87. Art was born January 22, 1926 in Graasten, Denmark. He immigrated to Canada in 1949. He started working at a farm in Manitoba, later moving to Banff with his brother Blondie. He drove a truck for Art’s Transport to begin with and then worked for Sunbeam Bread as a salesman before he moved to Calgary in 1962. He was a truck driver for Alltrans Transport. During that time he also owned a small restaurant with his first wife, Sophie and worked there when he was not driving. Sophie passed away suddenly in 1974. In 1976 he married Martha Schulties and shortly thereafter, moved to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, where they resided until his passing. After his retirement, he enjoyed helping Wayne and Dorothy Hall during harvest picking up grain. Art and Martha loved camping and spent many years travelling to Arizona. One of his favorite pastimes was having coffee with his buddies and spending time with his close friend Keith Hill. He loved a good joke, was loyal to his family and friends, and was willing to help others when he could. He was deeply loved, respected and he will be

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missed. He was predeceased by his parents, Doris and Bruno Gorrigsen; brother, Blondie (Olga); sister, Edith; and his first wife, Sophie Rona Gorrigsen (nee Tschritter). Art will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 38 years, Martha; children, Sylvia Ewens, Arthur Jr. (Shirley) and Bev (Ted) Dowdy; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; as well as his brothers and sisters-in-law: Olga Gorrigsen, Ken (Sharon), Dorothy (Wayne), Jenita (Ernie), Doug (Carola), Charles (Carole), Shirley (Ed) and Donna (Kevin); and numerous nieces and nephews.

### **Gitta Granata, née Christiansen, Ottawa 1944 – 2020**

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Gitta Granata. She was born on May 2, 1944 and passed away in Ottawa on June 3, 2020; Loving wife to Emilio, wonderful mother to Tania (Jason), adoring Mormor to Luca, Nanny Gitta to Oban and Mackenzie, caring daughter to Marie, and loved by many. She is at peace now. There will be a private burial June 12, 2020, and plans are for a Celebration of Life to be shared with her recently passed mother, Marie.

### **Aksel Vagtberg Henriksen, Cranbrook 1927 – 2013**

Aksel Vagtberg Henriksen passed away on June 11, 2013 at the age of 86. Aksel was born in Ubbø, Denmark, to Kristina and Christian Henriksen. He had four sisters Kris (deceased), Margaret, Olga and Mary and one brother William (Bill). Aksel will be dearly missed by his family: his son Douglas and his wife Carol along with his children Dena, Michael and Joshua. Also his daughter Dianne Henriksen; and her daughters, Cindy Kooznetsoff and husband Darcey and their two sons Hunter and Tanner along with Krysta Robichaud and her husband Wade. Aksel was predeceased by his beloved wife Peggy in 2012. Aksel was a devoted family man and a wonderful son, brother, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He started his career in Nelson B.C. with Canadian Pacific Railways working on the steam engines and after 44 years working for the railway he retired as an Engineer in Cranbrook B.C. in 1986. Aksel had many interests that kept him busy during his lifetime, but he was especially committed to the Masons, Columbia Lodge No 38 A.F. & A.M, the Gizeh Shriners and he also volunteered his time to the CP Pensioners assisting them with their monthly newsletters. Cremation has taken place and at his request there was no formal funeral service.

### **Asta Isaksen, née Friberg, Pass Lake 1909 -2011**

On Saturday, February 12, 2011, at the age of 101, we said good-bye to our beautiful mother, grandmother, aunt, sister and treasured friend, Asta Isaksen. Born in 1909 in Silkeborg, Denmark, to Peter Rasmussen Friberg and (Marie) Sofia Friberg, where she lived until the family immigrated to Pass Lake when she was 17. Asta moved to Thunder Bay to work within the Crook's family home and later at McNulty's clothing store. She caught the heart of another Pass Lake pioneer, Niels P. Isaksen (1901-1994), and they married in 1937. Asta and Niels resided in Pass Lake where family, farming, church and community were their passions. Asta's pride was her family, son James (Marlene), her granddaughters Carrie ('72-89), Christie (Ryan) Hartley and

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Cathie (Derek DiBlasio), her great grandchildren Joshua, Kamryn, Kyle Hartley, Anthony and Kiira DiBlasio. She also shared a special bond with many of her nieces and nephews, loving them as her own. Always a hard working and bright woman, Asta always had lovely flower gardens, hosted many scrabble games, tea parties with friends and children stopping by for fun and cookies. In 2005 she moved to town and found permanent residence at Pinewood Court Long Term Care. A celebration of Asta's life was held on March 5, 2011 in Salem Lutheran Church. Due to the recent passing of her sister Olga Poulsen, the services were combined.

### **Jørgen Iversen, Hamilton** **1944 – 2021**

John Iversen passed away peacefully on January 11, 2021 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton. Loved by his wife Camille Iversen, children Debbie (Steven), Gaynor, Sarah (Alex) and Denise and proud grandfather to Chelsea, Kiara, Joshua, Bram, Arianna and Talia. John was loved by his family in Denmark the Iversens and the Smalls in Canada and Guyana. John was born in Fredericia, Denmark, on February 6, 1944, as the second child to Annalise Schjødt and Erik Iversen. He moved to Canada as a young man but also lived in Guyana and Belgium for some time. John was a skilled bricklayer who enjoyed his work. As a young man he was a member of the rowing club and played cricket for many years. He was an adventurous man with a passion for travelling, good food and conversation. But above all, John was a family man proud of his children and grandchildren. He thoroughly enjoyed all family gatherings, big and small, in Hamilton or Toronto, as well as taking his children and grandchildren to Sunset Villa to share in his Danish heritage. John was a believer in Christ and faithfully attended Victory International Church. It is his faith and fighting spirit that helped him to overcome various illnesses. Unfortunately, COVID would be his last fight.

### **Fred Grubbe Jensen, Vancouver** **1941 – 2019**

Fred Grubbe Jensen passed away on November 23, 2019 in Vancouver; Survived by his partner Becky Xie, his son Greg, his daughter Erica (Mike), his two stepdaughters Michelle (Derek) and Susannah, and his five grandchildren Gage, Ceara, Blake, Violet, & Riley and also survived by his brother Bjarne, and family in Denmark; Predeceased by his first wife Carol (née Jørgensen) in 1981, his second wife Marnie Neilson in 2001, and his son Bryce in May 2019. Fred was born on May 9, 1941 in Odense, Denmark, where he served in the Danish Air Force, worked at SAS, and met his Canadian born wife Carol. They married in 1966 and moved to Canada, settling first in North Vancouver, and then moving to Richmond to raise their children. He had a successful 35 year career in advertising. He enjoyed golfing, travelling, cooking and spending time with family and friends. His wonderful sense of humour, kindness and charm will be missed.

### **Nils Jensen, Oak Bay** **1949 – 2019**

Nils Jensen died on April 7, 2019. He is survived by his loving wife, Jean and sons, Nicholas (Helen) and Stewart. Nils died as he lived, with dignity, strength, humour and by making new

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connections with everyone around him until the end. Nils was born in Denmark on July 26, 1949. His family immigrated to Canada in 1957, living in Montreal then Ottawa. Nils received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Ottawa, and then a law degree from Osgoode Hall, Toronto. He moved to Vancouver in 1975, where he met his Scottish lass, Jean. In Vancouver and later Nelson, Nils worked as a Crown Prosecutor before he and Jean moved to London, England, where Nils received a Master of Law degree from the London School of Economics. Upon returning to Canada, Nils taught law at Carleton University in Ottawa and then worked again as a Crown Prosecutor and defence lawyer throughout the Ottawa Valley. Their two sons were born in Ottawa. In 1995, Nils, Jean, Nicholas, and Stewart moved to Oak Bay, where he would live for the rest of his life. In Victoria, Nils continued to practice as a Crown Prosecutor and to teach law part-time at the University of Victoria. In 1996, Nils was elected as a councillor to Oak Bay Municipal Council. He served 15 years as a Councillor before becoming the Mayor of Oak Bay in 2011, a position he held with great pride until 2018. Nils also served the broader community by acting as the Chair of the CRD, and as Chair of the Water Board for 12 years, during which time he helped preserve water security for the region. Nils will be remembered as a 'people person' who truly cared about those around him. He was a consummate volunteer as a coach for his children's scouting and sporting activities, and for community events throughout the region. Nils was a community leader who dedicated his time to improving the world around him.

### **Otto Gunner Jensen, Alliston 1924 – 2018**

Otto Gunner Jensen was born in Hvidbæk, Denmark, on July 18, 1924. He died peacefully at Matthews House Hospice in Alliston, Ontario, on October 21, 2018 in his 95<sup>th</sup> year. He was the beloved husband of Ulla Jensen and loved dad of Brian (Janet); Loving grandpa of Karly Jensen (Michael Graham) and great grandpa of Lyla Graham. Otto will be missed by his nephew Bjarne Svendsen (Lana) and their children Michael and Lisa.

### **Birthe Ellen Moller Jorgensen, née Pedersen, Montreal 1932 – 2020**

Birthe Jorgensen, 88, passed away peacefully on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at the Lakeshore General Hospital in Montreal; Loving and adored wife of 60 years to Ole Jorgensen. Beloved mother to Niels Christian and Peter, cherished grandmother to Amanda, adored mother-in-law to Debora, sister-in-law to Anne, Lise and John Dolkjar and sister to the late Karna, Musse, John and Inge. She leaves to mourn treasured nieces, nephews and wonderful friends who loved and supported her. Born in Aalborg on May 19, 1932 to Elly Moller Pedersen and Niels Moller Pedersen, Birthe started her adventure when she came to Canada in 1958 where she would meet the love of her life, Ole. On August 31, 1960 their adoration for each other was made official in a marriage ceremony in Quebec City and there began their love story. Family was very important to Birthe and one of her greatest joys was raising their two boys. She was passionate about cooking and loved to host dinners for friends and family, baking delicious Danish treats with her grand-daughter, taking some time to read the latest Robert Ludlum novel and best of all, sitting quietly on the back deck, sipping tea with Ole. By her unselfish love, her tenacity and sheer

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determination, she showed us how to survive what life threw at you, no matter the circumstances. Birthe loved life; she had a caring heart and always welcomed you with a big smile and open arms. She was an active and greatly appreciated member of the Danish community in Montreal.

### **Lau Niels Jorgensen, Winnipeg 1953 -2005**

Lau Niels Jorgensen died on June 13, 2005. Lau leaves his loving wife Agnes, and his two sons Thomas and Patrick. Lau was born in Denmark on July 5, 1953. He was predeceased by his parents Aage Jorgensen and Grethe Christensen. In addition to his wife and sons, Lau leaves his sister Connie (Fleming) Lorup, his brother Ib (Lis) Jorgensen, as well as family and friends in Denmark and Winnipeg. Lau lived, as he loved, with a true heart and a gentle spirit. He was a generous, kind man and was always there to lend a helping hand. His true joys in his life were his family and friends. As a master craftsman Lau built a beautiful home which was his pride and joy, where family and friends were always welcomed. Lau worked for many years in the masonry field perfecting his skills. He was a dedicated, hard working man and a mentor to many. He will always be remembered as a man, both strong and good, who gave his best for others and who did the best he could. He will be remembered for all the joy he brought. As a man who made a difference and a man who meant a lot.

### **Leif Klarskov Jorgensen, Bracebridge 1943 – 2020**

Surrounded by his family Leif Klarskov Jorgensen passed away at Bracebridge, Ontario, on June 13, 2020. He was born in Copenhagen on January 2, 1943 and came to Canada in the late 1950s with his parents, where they settled in Yellowknife. He was the loving partner of Fay Green, cherished father of Laura Kitchen and Jay Jorgensen, dear grandfather of Joshua, Samantha and Matthew. He is survived by his sister Anita (Ron) Quick of Williams Lake, B.C., his brother Ernst Sorensen and Sister Tammy Sorensen of Port Hardy, B.C. It was his brother Ernst Sorensen who translated Carl Brinck Christensen's *The Cape Scott Song* into English for the Port Hardy Museum. Many people knew Leif from the dog clubs he belonged to. He was a stout supporter and member of the Muskoka District Kennel Club, where he made acquaintances with many of the students and exhibitors from Canada and the United States. Leif enjoyed his Labrador Retrievers. He trained them for obedience and field work in which he accomplished many achievements. Leif enjoyed being outdoors and camping was pure enjoyment for him.

### **Karen Kaufmann, Winnipeg 1924 – 2013**

With her children at her side Karen Kaufmann passed away peacefully after a brief illness on February 4, 2013, at the St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Ivan, in 2006, and son-in-law Clark McCrae in 2004. Karen was born in Denmark on November 23, 1924, and was raised by her grandparents. Although she was an excellent student, things were tough in Denmark in the 1930s and she had to leave school at age 14, to go work to help the family. In 1942, at age 18, Karen and her sister Carla moved to Kolding to work at the

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Missions Hotel as a chambermaid and waitress. They worked in the hotel through the war years, and Karen met Ivan when the Danish Brigade was stationed there in 1945. The story goes that Karen offered to mend Ivan's uniform, which was full of holes. They subsequently fell in love and were married in 1946. They lived on the islands of Fejø and Bogø during the first eight years of their marriage, where three children Per (Peter), Hanne (Hanna) and Soren (John) were born. In 1954 Karen and Ivan decided to immigrate to Canada to pursue a better life for themselves and their children. Ivan was 33 years old, and Karen 29. Ivan and his friend Egon Pedersen sailed first, and Karen, the 3 children and Gerda Pedersen sailed three months later. Neither Karen nor Gerda spoke English. The two young women and three children sailed to New York, and then on to Winnipeg by rail. Karen and Ivan shared sixty wonderful years together living in Winkler, Souris, Thompson and Winnipeg. The family of five has grown and spread to three continents; there are 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, all of whom had visits with their grandmother in the last few weeks of her life. Karen and Ivan moved to the Kiwanis Chateau in early 2000, and loved their life there. Karen moved to Villa Cabrini in 2010, where she enjoyed making new friends. She loved to bake and cook, knit and sew. Her Danish rye bread was famous and loved by so many people! Above all else, Karen was the most unselfish, generous and giving person, always thinking of others before herself. Karen was the most wonderful mother the three kids could have, and they will miss her enormously. The whole family mourns her passing, Peter (Sandra), two sons Christopher (Alyssia) and Mark (Eunhye) and their daughter Serene; Hanna (Gary), Hanna's five children Jason, three sons Chase, William and Scott; Jeffrey (Denise), children Johnathan and Hannah; James, son Andrew; Jonathan (Andrea) daughter Jayden; Jody (Andrew) children Harry & Molly; John & daughter-in-law Donna, three children Jennifer (Nebojsa) daughter Selina; Sarah (Scott) and Daniel. The family is thankful to Lissen Lockwood, a lifelong friend of the family, who stayed with Karen during her last few days. Donations in Karen's memory may be made to the Danish-Canadian Club, Winnipeg.

### **Niels Peter Klein, Bancroft, Ontario**

#### **1925 – 2020**

Niels Peter Klein passed away on February 2, 2020. He was born in Toronto on December 28, 1925 to Ditlev Vilhelm Klein (Copenhagen 1885 – Toronto 1952) and Agnes Mathilde Weidemann (Trondheim 1891 – Toronto 1968). Niels' father, Ditlev Klein, was a University of Copenhagen graduate in Architecture. He married Mathilde on January 9, 1914, immigrating to Canada the same year and settling in Burks Falls, near Parry Sound, where he worked at the Knight Brothers lumber mill. He later set up a Toronto sales office for the Knight Brothers. In 1935 he took over the Knight Brothers woodworking business and created the D.V. Klein lumber company with offices in the prestigious Harbour Commission Building on Toronto's waterfront. D.V. Klein served as Honorary Danish Consul in Toronto from 1925 to 1951.

Peter Klein was born and raised in Toronto and had many fond memories of summers spent at his family cottage in Burks Falls. He married Joyce, his wife of 68 years, in 1951, and they eventually settled in Bancroft, about halfway between Peterborough and Ottawa, where they raised their five children. Pete was dedicated to his family and community. He was a member of the Bancroft Lions Club for 65 years and received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award which is

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the “highest form of recognition to acknowledge an individual’s dedication to humanitarian service”. One of his main contributions was coordinating the annual Santa Claus Parade for many years. Peter managed Bancroft Lumber which turned into Peterborough Lumber, Cashway, and finally RONA. He met numerous community members through his work and built relationships near and far. He retired in 1990. He loved to spend time outdoors swimming, canoeing, cross country skiing, golfing, and hiking. He enjoyed these activities well into his 80s when he continued to be active by walking daily. He was an avid reader and always had a book on hand. Peter spent time with friends on fishing trips, annual hunting trips, and regular poker games. He was a member of the Bancroft Curling Club and the Bancroft Golf Club. A quick witted man with a quiet intelligence, Peter was a true gentleman who loved his wife and family dearly. Peter was a beloved husband, brother, father and grandfather. Interment was at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto.

### **Herdis Klostergaard, née Kristensen, Edmonton 1932 – 2021**

Herdis Klostergaard, née Kristensen, of Edmonton, passed away on February 10, 2021 at the age of 89. She was born on January 29, 1932. She will be lovingly remembered by her children and grandchildren, as well as friends in Canada and Denmark. She was predeceased by her husband Ove Klostergaard, and brother Egon Kristensen. She will be fondly remembered for her delicious Danish butter cookies and Sunday roasts, cozy crocheted blankets and beautiful gardens. In honour of her wishes, no service will take place.

### **Ove Johannes Klostergaard, Edmonton 1925 – 2013**

Ove Klostergaard of Edmonton passed away on February 18, 2013 at the age of 87. Ove Klostergaard was born in Ringkøbing in 1925. He is lovingly remembered by his wife of 45 years, Herdis; daughters Karen (Gerry) and Susanna (Steve), and son Arnold (Cindy); grandchildren, great-grandchildren; sister Ella in Denmark; family and friends in Canada and Denmark. A Memorial Service was held at Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

### **Knud Kofoed, Port Hardy 1924 – 2005**

Knud Kofoed was born on June 3, 1924 on the island of Bornholm, Denmark. He passed away peacefully on December 27, 2005 at Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, B.C. Predeceased by Elsie, his loving wife of 48 years. Knud is survived by family in Denmark and his many friends who became his “family” in Port Hardy. Knud, who had lived in Port Alberni, where he was a member of the Danish Brotherhood Lodge 335, owned and operated Port Hardy Building Supply Ltd. from 1960 until his retirement in January 1993. A memorial service was held at St. Columba’s United Anglican Church in Port Hardy on January 21, 2006.

**Egon Kruse Kristensen, Edmonton**  
**1931 – 2012**

Egon Kruse Kristensen passed away at home on June 15, 2012 at the age of 81. He leaves behind Solvejg his beloved wife of 53 years; his five children, ten grandchildren, three great-granddaughters; his sister Herdis (Ove) Klostergaard; and his brother Leif (Rosa). A Memorial Service for Egon was held on June 23, 2012 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

**Annelise Jenny Wedelholm Kronquist, Barrie**  
**1934 – 2019**

Annelise Jenny Wedelholm Kronquist passed away at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, Barrie, on July 16, 2019 at age 85. She was born on March 31, 1934. She was the beloved wife of Vilfred, loving Mor of the late Vibeke (late Mario) Cutrone, Susanne (Gary) Ryan and Kim Kronquist, as well as proud Mormor and Oldemor. She was the dear sister of Rinda (late Kell), Ruth (late Eval), Hans (Margit) and the late Robert.

**Birthe Lasse Kulich, Vancouver**  
**1928 – 2020**

Birthe Kulich, born in Copenhagen on June 1, 1928, died peacefully in Vancouver on April 11, 2020. Birthe was predeceased by her sister and brother as well as her devoted husband. In the early 1950s she worked as a kindergarten teacher in the Nørrebro district of Copenhagen. In 1954 she married Jindra Kulich, who was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on April 7, 1929. Jindra had come to Denmark to study at the International College in Helsingør, an experience which would change his life and determine his future career in adult education. Jindra passed away suddenly in Vancouver on December 4, 2009. In 1954 Birthe and Jindra immigrated to Canada, settling in Vancouver. Birthe is survived by her two loving sons Peter (Vera) and Martin, and grandson Johannes, all of whom she inspired in countless ways. She was full of magic and sparkle and filled their lives with joy. Birthe loved good food and socializing as well as going to concerts, dance events, plays and movies. She also cherished music-making with friends, whether on recorder or piano, and enjoyed folk dancing and hiking with her husband. She had a wonderful smile that could light up a room. Birthe and Jindra travelled extensively in Europe, where they patronized open-air museums, folk art and music exhibitions and simple cuisine. She had a profound sense of family and maintained strong and active connections throughout her life with her many Danish relatives. Birthe lived a full and happy life, first and foremost as a caring mother and proud grandmother and second as a pioneer of the Carl Orff approach to children's music education in Canada. She was a teacher, educator, author and champion of Orff Schulwerk, and she found joy every day in the musical expression and imaginative play of children. Birthe's career was focused on pre-school children, and she had a passionate and lifelong commitment to their development. She was a lifelong avid recorder player, and an early member of the British Columbia Recorder Society (BCRS). In its June 2020 newsletter the BCRS featured a tribute to Birthe, subtitled, "Remembering one of the early members of BCRS and an Orff pioneer in Canada." An excerpt from the newsletter states, "The B.C. Recorder Society lost one of its dearest friends when Birthe Lasse Kulich died on April 11,

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2020. A lifelong musician, teacher and a great champion of Carl Orff's approach to children's music education, Birthe Kulich had joined BCRS in 1964 at the instigation of her friend and BCRS founder, Dr. Frank Gamble. She was a stalwart of our community for many years, playing in a number of ensembles, as well as organizing and performing at countless musicals and showcases." As a writer she co-authored, with Joe Berarducci, the "Windsong Recorder Series," and subsequently wrote "Growing With Music: Friendly Bear's Song Book", a treasure chest of songs and music activities for young children.

### **Gerda Bentzen 'Lizzy' Larsen, née Nielsen, Meaford, Ontario 1925 – 2020**

Gerda Bentzen Larsen, called Lizzy, passed away at Errinrunc Long Term Care Home in Thornbury, Ontario, on September 28, 2020 at the age of 95. Lizzy's passion for life and those she loved will be dearly missed by her family and friends. Born in Aalborg on January 14, 1925, Lizzy was one of ten children of Carl Oluf Rosenius Nielsen and Ane Cecilie Marie Bentzen. After the war Lizzy moved to Sweden in search of work. While there, a chance encounter led her to meet the love of her life, Arvid Valdemar Larsen, who was born in Denmark on June 7, 1925. Theirs was a love story that spanned more than half a century and two continents. Lizzy and Arvid crossed the ocean to begin their new life together in Canada in 1951, first to Toronto, then Oxenden, and then Meaford. Lizzy lit up every room she walked into, and never slowed down. Her passions were too many to list: Lizzy made stained glass, pottery, and furniture; she carved birds that friends and family treasured; and she was a captivating storyteller, always with a twinkle in her eye that made you know that an enormous smile was just around the corner. Lizzy was the best kind of sister, aunt, great aunt, and friend: when she spoke with you, you knew she was truly listening to your every word, and she always responded with insight and caring. Anyone meeting Lizzy couldn't help but feel happier when they left than when they arrived. After Arvid passed away in Meaford on September 30, 2010, Lizzy's last years were not always easy. But her light shone through until the end, and the memories of her laughs, hugs, and love will comfort those who miss her dearly. She was interred at Lakeview Cemetery in Meaford.

### **Karin Love, née Brogaard, Burnaby 1943 – 2012**

After a brave and courageous battle with acute myeloid leukemia Karin Love, née Brogaard, passed away on April 22, 2012. She is survived by her husband, Gary, of 41 years; sons Derek (Anita) and Carsten (Kacie); daughter Michelle (Maciek); grandchildren Tiana, Landon, Chelsea, Logan, Carter; brothers Eric (Vancouver) and Hans (Denmark); and many loving cousins, nieces and nephews. Karin was a unique woman with a vibrant and youthful soul, a quirky sense of humor and a zest for life. She was gifted at cultivating and maintaining friendships, enthusiastically continuing Danish traditions, and was a master at throwing fancy dinner parties. Born in Copenhagen on November 6, 1943, Karin came to Vancouver in 1967 where she co-owned and operated My Fair Lady hair salon on West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Gary and Karin married in 1971, living in Kitsilano until they bought their new home in Burnaby in 1973 where they raised their three children. Karin will be remembered for her devotion to family, pride in raising three wonderful kids, and ability to create a beautiful home. She was an extremely classy lady that

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Gary was always proud to be with: "Jeg elsker dig. Farvel, min dejlige danske pige." A memorial service for Karin's family and friends was held May 12 at Burnaby's Danish Lutheran Church.

### **Ole Magnussen, Burlington** **1921 – 2020**

Ole Magnussen passed away peacefully of natural causes at the Welland Hospital on September 2, 2020 at the age of 99. Ole was a lifetime member of Sunset Villa Association. As an early member and dedicated, skilled worker he helped to set up the organization, campground and Mindepark. He was an active member of the Geritol Gang. Going to his trailer every summer was something the whole family looked forward to each year. Many of the Danish traditions learned there continue in the family. Ole was strong and independent and had a quick wit. He was proud of his family. He loved his motorcycle, ham radio and camping. Ole was born in Humlebæk, Denmark, on January 10, 1921. He acquired the trade of a wheelmaker, graduating with honours. When he met Dorothy from England, he bribed the border guard with a bottle of booze so he could bring her to Denmark. He married Dorothy, had twin daughters, and immigrated to Canada in 1957. He created his own business in Burlington, Ontario, as a cabinet maker, furniture finisher and carpenter. Ole's loving family were wife Dorothy (Richardson) Magnussen (deceased); Daughters Linda Magnussen Olsson (Christer), and Jennifer Qusen (late Mike), as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He leaves his sister Bente Helshøj (late Bent) and her family in Denmark. A family celebration of life was held at Sunset Mindepark. Ole joined Dorothy at the Sunset Mindepark. She passed away on July 20, 2000.

### **Hans Mathiesen, Red Deer** **1932 – 2019**

Hans Mathiesen passed away on July 8, 2019 at the age of 86 years. Hans was born in Tinglev, Denmark, on December 29, 1932, and immigrated to Canada in 1956 to take up residence in Red Deer, the only other place he would ever call home. He loved his life as a husband and father, as a friend and mentor, and as a bricklayer. He was an active participant in his community and in particular the Red Deer Danish Canadian Club. An outdoor enthusiast, he especially loved camping, fishing, and gardening. Hans is survived by Inge, his wife of 62 years, his daughter Lynn, and his son Tony. Hans wished for there to be no service or internment.

### **Inge Mathiesen, Red Deer** **1936 – 2021**

Inge Mathiesen passed away peacefully at the Red Deer Hospice on April 24, 2021 at age 85. She led a courageous life, surviving war-torn Europe as a child, and immigrating to Canada in 1956 to marry Hans Mathiesen, her husband of 62 years. Inge's life was filled with celebrations together with friends, and she took great pride in the tables she set and the dinners she served. She loved dancing, back country explorations and camping, and quiet moments absorbing fine literature. A seamstress in her work life, privately she donated hundreds of quilts to charities. She spent many years contributing to the establishment of the Red Deer Danish Canadian Club and the Red Deer Folk Festival. When life dealt Inge a hard blow with a diagnosis of breast cancer in

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1992, she and Hans responded by finding a cruise or bus trip that would take them, over the remaining years, to every world destination health would allow them to enjoy. After Hans passed away in 2019, enjoyment of her back patio, a beer with her son, and playing cards with friends were the simple pleasures of Inge's life. She said a few days before she passed that she wanted people to know that she got almost 30 more years than she thought she would before the cancer returned, and she was grateful for every one of them. Inge is survived by her two children, Lynn and Tony. The Red Deer Danish Canadian Club noted in its *TeleDane* newsletter that Inge was a founding member and with her passing the Club lost one of its most dedicated members.

### **Annie Ina Melsby, Fergus** **1919 – 2019**

Annie Ina Melsby was born in Bergen, Norway, on January 12, 1919. She moved to Denmark with her parents in 1923. She then moved to Canada in 1969. She was married to Borge Melsby in the Danish Church in Toronto in 1969. She died in Fergus, Ontario, on May 28, 2019. She is survived by son Eric (Inga) Melsby in Denmark and daughter Lene (Gene) Wasylciw and six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

### **Birthe Miller, née Mogensen, Surrey** **1930 – 2019**

Birthe Miller passed away on August 22, 2019, surrounded by her loving family. Birthe was born on May 3, 1930 and grew up in Copenhagen with her twin brother Flemming and parents Charles and Rosa Mogensen. She met her true love, Charles Miller in 1958 and they moved with their children to Vancouver in 1973. In 1984 Birthe and Charles retired to the Shuswap Lake region, sharing some of their most memorable years. They later moved back to the lower mainland to be closer to family. Birthe loved gardening, cooking, quilting and caring for family and friends. Charles passed away in 2016. Birthe will be dearly missed by her children Vivian (Paul), Olaf (Pia), Michael (Lene), Diana, her grandchildren and all who knew her. The family would like to thank the staff at Surrey Memorial hospital and Elim care facility for their compassion and dedication. A celebration of her life was held at the Granly Church in Surrey.

### **Borge Nielsen, New Dundee** **1921 – 2010**

Borge Nielsen passed away on May 3, 2010, at his daughter's home in Mississauga. He was born in Denmark in 1921. Cherished father of Anne and her husband Orié Jantzi, and Bente and her husband Tom, step-father of Bill and his wife Linda Jacob; Loved grandfather of Shane (Susan) Jantzi, Cheryl (Colin) Turnbull, Meghyn (Laurent) Bienvenu, Leigh, Hanna, and Christian Garner; and step-grandfather of Cathy (Ron) Berlett, Michael (Kate) Friedmann, Donald (Jacquie) Friedmann, Lisa Paranyi, Michael (Marina) Jacob, and many great-grandchildren. Borge will be sadly missed by his sister Oda Kruse, Denmark, and brother-in-law Ross (Iona) Rickert. He was predeceased by his wives Johanne (1960) and Doris (2000), and by brothers Holger and Albert. Borge was a member of St. James Lutheran Church, New Dundee, the Danish Lutheran Church, Waterloo, and Sunset Villa; Interment at Union Cemetery, New Dundee.

**Borge Nielsen, Prince George  
1930 – 2020**

Borge Nielsen passed away in Prince George, B.C., on September 20, 2020. Borge was born on November 12, 1930. He was predeceased by his wife, Else. He is survived by his son, Bjarne; daughter, Britta (Philip); grandson, Sean (Cassandra) and numerous relatives in Denmark. No service by request.

**Dennis Nielsen, Red Deer  
1939 – 2010**

Dennis Axel Lohmann Nielsen, beloved husband of Becky Nielsen, passed away at the age of 71 on Sunday, September 19, 2010 at the Red Deer Regional Hospital. He fought a long and hard four year battle with Multiple Myeloma Cancer. Dennis was born in Edmonton on February 10, 1939 to Thorvald and Vera Nielsen. He graduated from Strathcona High School in 1955 and attended the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in 1960. He was an Electrician for Commercial Electric in Alberta and B.C. and in 1961 he started Commercial Electric in Red Deer. During his career, he founded and operated many companies: Astron Industries Ltd. in 1969, Red-Cal Industries Ltd. in 1973, Burnt Lake Management Ltd. in 1974, Red-Cal Electric in 1974, Pam-Am Developments in 1976, Duraco Industries Ltd. in 1978, The Property Shop Inc. in Dallas, Texas and Denver, Colorado in 1978, Calgary Properties in Missouri in 1980 and in 1994 he began The Property Shop Inc. Brokerage in Red Deer. First Red Deer Place, Wedgewood Gardens Apartments, Imperial Place and Bristol and Bradford Apartments were among some of his many development projects. Dennis served in the Canadian Army Militia in Edmonton and Red Deer where he was the commanding officer of the #24 Squadron Air Cadets for five years. Dennis was also Chairman of the Red Deer and Alberta Construction Association, The Red Deer Christmas Bureau, The Red Deer Elks Lodge, The Red Deer Air Show Association, the Red Deer Airport Authority and President of the Sylvan Lake Curling Club. He was a member of the Lions Club, Ducks Unlimited, Royal Canadian Legion, The Red Deer Homebuilders Association, Alberta Electrical Contractors, Alberta Aviation Council, Canadian Owners and Pilots Association, The Red Deer Economic Development Board and the Red Deer Chamber of Commerce. Over the years he won many trade and service organizations awards for Dedicated and Outstanding service as well as an award for the Most Outstanding Economic Development Contribution to the Downtown Revitalization Program in Red Deer. Dennis was a man of great strength and character who had a zest for life and a passion for travel. He loved music, old movies, the company of family and good friends and a good laugh. Dennis was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. His family was his greatest joy. On June 7, 1958, he married Audrey Donna Mills and together they had four children: Lori (Gerry) Petryga, Mark (Cindy) Nielsen, Terry (Wanda) Nielsen and Judy (Reeve) Martin. On November 25, 1988, he married Becky Jean Robbins and together they had Christopher Nielsen and Julie Nielsen. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Becky, his six children and his eleven grandchildren: Gregg Petryga (Chrissy), Shelly (Greg) Petryga, Starr (Brooke) Turpel, Kayla Bainbridge, Chelsea Nielsen, Jennie (Lawrence) Nielsen, Jodie (Miguel) Nielsen, Brooke Martin, Aidan Martin, Tiffany Amber Summitt and Erin Esligar and his 4 great grandchildren, Cayden Petryga, Greyson and Violette Lobb and Jisanda Bermudez. Dennis is also survived by his sisters, Betty (Andy) Kjearsgaard and Helen Stetson, his brother, John (Sharon) Nielsen, his

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mother-in-law, Eunice Robbins and many brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his father, Thorvald Nielsen, his mother, Vera (Lohmann) Nielsen, his sister, Elsie Duport, his brothers-in-law, Henry Duport and Bruce Stetson and his father-in-law, Francis Robbins. A celebration of Dennis' life was held at the Deer Park Alliance Church in Red Deer.

### **Else Kristina Nielsen, Magnetawan, Ontario 1921 – 2017**

Else Kristina Nielsen passed away in Magnetawan, Ontario, at the age of 96 on December 17, 2017. She was born on January 14, 1921. Dearly loved mother of Bjorn (Vibeke), Kim (Carol) and Finn (Debbie), cherished memories are left with her eight grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren. The Nielsen Family received friends at the Westmount Memorial Celebration Centre on January 14. A Celebration of Else's life was held in the Chapel. Cremation has taken place. Internment at Sunset Mindepark Urn Cemetery in Crieff took place on April 6, 2018.

### **Henry Constantin Nielsen, Chilliwack 1923 – 2011**

Henry Constantin Nielsen passed away on November 23, 2011, at Chilliwack Hospital at the age of 88. He was born in Denmark on October 8, 1923. He immigrated to Canada in 1955 and worked as a bricklayer for which he was trained. He is survived by Anne Marie, his wife of 64 years; his children Ib, Lene, Karsten, Elin, Michael and their families and also by eight brothers and sisters in Denmark. He was predeceased by his parents, two younger brothers, stepmother, young son, and son-in-law. All Henry's family remember him with love.

### **John Robert Nielsen, Grande Prairie 1931 – 2012**

John Robert Nielsen passed away at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital on December 23, 2012 at the age of 81 years. John was born in Edmonton on July 29, 1931 and raised in the Ardrossan area, the third child of Thorvald and Vera Nielsen. John joined the army in 1950 until 1952 and volunteered for the Special Forces in Korea where he received the presidential citation for the battle of Kapyong from the President of the United States. After returning from Korea, John took a carpentry apprentice course at NAIT and worked in Edmonton and then in various heavy construction jobs with Mannix Construction prior to moving to Powell River to build houses. In 1963, John moved to DeBolt and ran the Esso Bulk Station and store. John was very involved in the community with the curling club, skating rink, Legion and 4H club. John supported the 4H and Legion until his passing. In 1965 John started driving a truck for Gangster Transport and this was the time that his interest in chuck wagon racing began and he went on to drive chucks for a few years. John then went on to construction, building several homes in Grande Prairie and became a founding member of the Grande Prairie Stampede. He was instrumental in the building of Evergreen Park. John could be found in the stands every year watching the chuck wagon races and was asked to be the Honorary Wagon Master in 2002. John then started Peace Agri Supplies, building and moving grain bins and farm buildings. In 1999 John purchased Derrick Husky which he managed and ran seven days a week until early 2012 when his health started to fail. John could be found most weekdays at the Prairie Haven having lunch and playing crib with the

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guys. John's love for 4H gave him the love for cattle which he bought and sold over the last few years just for fun and to keep busy. John will be sorely missed by his wife Sharon, and his little angels Goldie and Baby. John is survived by his son Gregg of Edmonton; sisters, Betty Kjearsgaard of Edmonton and Helen Stetson of Henderson, Nevada; stepchildren Gordon (Angie) Isaac and children, Theresa (Matt) Harder and children, Darryl (Cynthia) Martin and children, David (Becky) Johnson; also numerous nieces and nephews. John was predeceased by his parents Thorvald and Vera Nielsen; sister Elsie Duport; brother Dennis Nielsen; brothers in-law Bruce Stetson, Andy Kjearsgaard and Henry Duport. He was cremated. A celebration of life was held at the Grande Prairie Alliance Church on January 4, 2013.

### **Kaj Villy Nielsen, Victoria 1939 – 2017**

Kaj Villy Nielsen was born in Copenhagen on January 10, 1939 and passed away surrounded by his family at The Priory on March 12, 2017. Kaj immigrated to Canada at the age of 21, after serving in the Danish Navy. He met Liesa in Prince George square dancing and they were married in December 1962. Kaj and Liesa settled soon after in Colwood where he built what is still their family home. Trained as a finishing carpenter in Denmark, Kaj was a proud member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Union Local 1598 for over 55 years. Although carpentry was a huge passion of his, he loved fishing, hunting and camping with his family. Kaj is survived by his loving wife Liesa, daughter Linda (Bob Bennett), daughter Karin (Paul Gronow) and son Peter (Kim), grandchildren Stephanie, Chrissy, Kayla, Dayne, Julie, Taya and Cayden and his first great-grandson Ashton Robert, and surviving siblings. Thank you to the staff at The Priory for caring for him for the last three years of his life. No service by request. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kaj's honour to the Parkinson Society. Jeg elsker dig.

### **Niels J. Nielsen, Nanaimo 1940 – 2017**

Niels J. Nielsen was born near Hareskov, Sjælland, on August 21, 1940. He passed away on November 16, 2017. He immigrated to Canada at the age of 18 in February 1958. He sailed on the SS *Stockholm* along with his parents and his younger brothers, George, Ole, Johan and his sister Gundhild, landing at Pier 21 in Halifax. After a journey across Canada and several short stops along the way, they settled just east of Red Deer, Alberta, in the farming community of Alix where they met a number of fellow Danes and his first wife. They moved to Edmonton where his children Suzan, Connie and twins Robbie and Marnie were born. The young family then moved to acreage in Stony Plain, Alberta, where Niels lived until his retirement. In 2007 he moved with Johanna to Nanaimo. Niels had numerous ventures in his life. His first job of note was at Palm Dairies in Red Deer. When he moved to Edmonton he started as a courier driver, and then owned a warehouse business for a number of years which he sold with thoughts of retiring. Always looking for another challenge, he began raising chinchillas, operating a greenhouse and owning a charter bus business. In the meantime, he raised chickens, turkeys, pigs, cows, sheep and horses at various times on his hobby farm. Niels was a man of many talents. He had a pilot's licence and owned his own aircraft. He was also involved with an accordion group. His love of the outdoors could be seen in his vacations in his fifth wheel trailer

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as well as his ventures in fishing, gardening and travels on his scooter. Niels was very proud of his Danish heritage, and we were very lucky to have him as President of our Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club for seven years. We will all miss the hard work he put into making the Club events successful. We miss him! He was predeceased by his father, Peter Gunnar, twelve years ago and his mother Anna Mette Nielsen on September 17, 2017 in Kamloops, B.C. Ære være hans minde. *Respectfully prepared by Lena Tsuji, Nanaimo*

### **Niels Laurits Nielsen, Nanaimo 1929 – 2014**

Niels Laurits Nielsen passed away on March 24, 2014 from complications related to pulmonary fibrosis. He was born in Denmark on May 23, 1929. Niels came to Canada in 1952, joining his brother Gustav Nielsen who had arrived two years earlier, and leaving his younger sister Elna, half-brother Hans Peter, older sister Karla and Mom in Denmark. In 1956, Niels met the love of his life, Tove Maureen Moller. They were wed on July 5, 1958. Together, Niels and Tove raised 4 girls: Debbie Lynne (Tim) Dixon; Wendy Kirsten Nielsen; Janet Eileen (Glenn) Irvine; and Joan Elaine (Fernando) Costa. Niels was an avid outdoors man who loved to hike, hunt, camp, fish, and swim. Niels also loved painting, gardening, spelunking, beekeeping, playing bridge, flying, dancing and walking with his friends in a walking group. A devoted husband and loving father, he included his family in all of his adventures and travels across North America. The diversity in his life was reflected in his work as well. He worked as a longshoreman and as a labourer in lumber mills, and worked on the Vancouver Island Railway. Through his work in construction, he helped build substantial contributions to Nanaimo's infrastructure, such as the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, "The Highrise", and the Nanaimo Waterworks.

### **Ragna Katrine Nielsen, Saanich 1932 – 2021**

Ragna Katrine Nielsen passed away at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital on November 10, 2021, after suffering from a stroke. Her husband, Rasmus, predeceased her by four months. She is survived by daughter Pia (George), granddaughters Carina (Nathan) and Brianna, and two great grandchildren. Ragna was born premature in Vust, Vendsyssel, Denmark, on April 6, 1932, at just 3 lbs on the family farm in the middle of a potato field. She was promptly placed in a lined drawer next to the wood stove to keep warm. She fought for life and continued to live with stubborn strength every day. To her surprise, having been the middle child, Ragna outlasted all 16 of her siblings. Who knows if her stint next to the wood stove increased her heat tolerance, but she hated the cold and could outlast anyone in a heat wave! Ragna immigrated to Nanaimo with her husband and daughter in 1967. She lived a simple life working as a chambermaid and taking care of her husband, home and garden. Ragna took every chance to be outside soaking up the sun or cleaning up a garden bed wherever it was. Ragna rarely missed watching "her" shows *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy*. Ragna hated to cook; however she made her Danish food with love and in such quantities that everyone waddled home after every visit.

**Rasmus Lind Nielsen, Saanich  
1933 – 2021**

Rasmus Lind Nielsen passed away peacefully in the palliative care unit at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital on July 2, 2021. He is survived by his wife Ragna of almost 66 years, daughter Pia (George), granddaughters Carina (Nathan) and Brianna, and two great grandchildren. Ras is also survived by brothers Willy (Jenny)(Nanaimo), Frievald (Grand Prairie), Henning (Grethe), Eric (Herdis) and sister Åse (Denmark), and many nieces, nephews, and their families. Rasmus, one of 9 siblings, was born in Odder, Denmark, on August 18, 1933. A mason by trade, he immigrated to Canada in 1967, where in Nanaimo he later became a ship repair labourer and retired in 1996. Once retired he enjoyed traveling, including a road trip across Canada, the Alaska Highway, Reno, Disneyland, Hawaii, Denmark, and countless family camping trips.

**Inge K. Page, Ottawa  
1933 – 2020**

Inge K. Page died peacefully at the Ottawa General Hospital on January 8, 2020. A native of Odense, Denmark, Inge immigrated to Toronto as a graduate interior designer in 1959. She met and married Richard (Dick) Page in 1961. They moved to Ottawa in 1969. Inge loved cooking and enjoyed chamber music concerts. Inge will be sorely missed by her husband of 58 years. Cremation has taken place; Interment at Beechwood Cemetery.

**Eigil Dalsgaard Pedersen, Ph.D., Montreal and Ottawa  
1929 – 2019**

Eigil Dalsgaard Pedersen, known by many friends as 'Pete,' died in his sleep early Sunday morning November 24, 2019 in Ottawa. He is survived by his childhood sweetheart, Marge, with whom he had a seventy-eight year relationship, including sixty-seven years of marriage. While pursuing demanding careers, Marge and Eigil raised six children John, Philip (Bessie), David (Glenda), Gordon, Susan (Matthew) and Thomas (Neena). Also, Eigil was the proud grandfather of Jennifer Ann, Vibeke, Abraham, Kyle, Natasha, Henry and Margaret. Eigil was the son of Gudrun and Arne, Danish immigrants who struggled to make ends meet during the Great Depression and throughout the war and post-war years in Little Burgundy, Montreal. A high school drop-out, Eigil initially pursued the trade of silversmith in Montreal. During his five-year apprenticeship completed in 1951, he attended night classes at Sir George Williams Evening High School. Once matriculated, he attended the School for Teachers at Macdonald College of McGill University. His first teaching job was at Royal Arthur School in Montreal, the same elementary school he attended as a boy. While teaching full-time, Eigil continued to pursue night and summer-school classes. In four years, he earned a B. Arts (1956) at Sir George Williams University (a founding part of what was to become Concordia University), then a master's degree (1961) at McGill University, followed by a doctorate (Ed.D.) in the Sociology of Education (1966) at Harvard University. Concordia University also recognized Eigil with an Honorary Doctorate (LL.D. Honouris Causa) in 1992. In addition to his career, Eigil was an accomplished choral singer and cabinet maker. Eigil accomplished much during his ninety years. He ended his thirty-two year career at McGill University as Professor Emeritus in 1990 after

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having served in many positions including as a full professor, Dean of Students, Provost and Vice-Principal Academic (1972-1981). As Vice-Principal, he was instrumental in helping to ensure McGill's successful survival during a time of sweeping political change in Quebec and reductions in the provincial funding of English-speaking universities. Though busy as an administrator, Eigil found the time to undertake research and publish. Perhaps his most important research (A New Perspective on the Effects of First-Grade Teachers on Children's Subsequent Adult Status) challenged the prevailing educational paradigm in North America that suggested that teachers didn't have as much influence on the ultimate success of students as did other factors such as students' socio-economic and parental background. While the foregoing factors are undoubtedly important, Eigil and his colleagues demonstrated that the long-term adult success of students was strongly linked to the quality of the teaching they received as children. A speech given by Daniel Fallon in 2003 discussing the importance of this research may be found in the McGill Journal of Education. At his request, Eigil received a green burial.

### **Ernest Niels Pedersen, Saanich 1931 – 2017**

Ernest (Ernie) Niels Pedersen passed away peacefully on the Saanich Peninsula on February 12, 2017. Born in Vancouver to Aage and Dagmar Pedersen on August 29, 1931, he was the older brother to three sisters, Shirley, Marilyn, and Lynda. After graduating from UBC he started a long career as an industrial arts teacher which took him to schools in Salmo, Kelowna, Tanzania, Grenada, Australia, and finishing with Claremont Secondary in Saanich. He was an avid traveller, an adventurous sailor, a generous gardener, and a host who opened his home to many. Ernie will be sadly missed by Elizabeth (Betty), his wife of 61 years; their three children Harold, Katherine, and Martin; six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life was held at First Memorial, Victoria, on March 4, 2017.

### **Inger Marie Pedersen, née Hallgreen, North Vancouver 1924 – 2019**

Surrounded by her loving family, Mor left us on August 21, 2019, after a brief hospital stay. Inger Marie Pedersen, née Hallgreen, was born in Esbjerg, Denmark, on April 17, 1924. She was a fiercely independent and accomplished woman. Mor was a strong and beautiful Dane, transplanted to Canada in 1954 where she took root and flourished. She was an adoring wife to Erik, loving mother to Bjorn (Virginia), Iben and Elizabeth (Neil), and doting Grandmother to Nicolai, Olivia, Dane, Quinn and Liam. Mor was a businessperson, seamstress, artist, cook, card shark, loyal friend and globe-trotting bon-vivant, to name just a few of the roles she fulfilled in her long and influential life. Her body may have let her down a little over the last few years, but her intellect and wit remained steady until the very end. Mor fought hard to stay with us just as long as she could but in the end chose to join her parents, Otto Wilhelm and Oda Marie Hallgreen, her husband Erik and her daughter Iben. A Funeral Service was held at Granly Church. Thanks to the staff at Sunrise of Lynn Valley who provided for Mor over 18 months.

**Leo Pedersen, Etobicoke  
1924 – 2021**

Leo Pedersen passed away peacefully on May 18, 2021 at Humber River Hospital following a brief illness. He is survived by his daughter-in-law Sherry Pedersen (Lobsinger) and by his two grandchildren Tor and Avry Pedersen. Leo is predeceased by his wife Aino Pedersen (Madinen) (2007), and by his son Eric Pedersen (2012). He is also predeceased by his parents Lura (Neilson) and Johannes Pedersen, and by his fourteen siblings. Leo was born in Sjaelland, Denmark, on July 13, 1924. He emigrated from Denmark to Canada in 1949 but remained proudly Danish his entire life. He made his career for 43 years as a landscape gardener in Etobicoke, employing many other young Danes looking to make a new start in Canada. For decades, Leo was a trusted and beloved member of the Danish Lutheran Church. He sat on the Board of Directors, was a member of the folk dancers, was president of the Golden Age Club, and was an enthusiastic member of the Church Cafe where he loved to play cards and cook for the ladies. For the past ten years Leo made his home at Richview Residence in Etobicoke. He will be remembered by all of his friends for his outgoing personality, his skill for storytelling, and his infectious sense of humour. Cremation has taken place. An interment service at Sunset Mindepark is planned. His biography was in the Danish Federation's 2012 Heritage Book.

**Svend Pedersen, North Vancouver  
1928 – 2020**

Svend Pedersen of North Vancouver passed away on April 16, 2020. Svend was born in Manna, Tise in Jutland on April 10, 1928. He leaves to mourn a daughter, Kirsten Pedersen, and a son, Mike Willesen, in Australia.

**Svend Arne Pedersen, Lantzville  
1921 – 2014**

Svend Arne Pedersen passed away peacefully at his home in Lantzville, north of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, on August 2, 2014. Just weeks short of his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, Svend would be the first to say that he had a life well lived, filled with enough adventures, experiences, and memories to fill volumes - but most importantly a life overflowing with love for his family and friends. To his last breath Svend was proud of the fact that he lived his life "his way". Whether personally or professionally, he saw every obstacle and burden as nothing more than a unique opportunity to "solve a problem" or as another adventure to experience and grow from. Through his strong "Viking heart and heritage" of which he was forever proud, he spent his lifetime teaching his children and grandchildren the true definition of perseverance. Svend is survived by his four children, many grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by Ursula, his wife of 61 years and two daughters. By Svend's request there was no service.

**Karl Majvin Petersen, Aurora  
1929 – 2020**

Karl Majvin Petersen was born on March 23, 1929 and passed away on September 2, 2020, 91 years old. He was under the care of the Thompson Funeral Home.

**Gisela Rosa Poulsen, née Gottschall, Cambridge  
1928 – 2019**

Gisela Rosa Poulsen, née Gottschall, was born on May 21, 1928, in Jena, Germany. She died on May 27, 2019 at the Cambridge Hospital in Cambridge, Ontario, having just celebrated her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. She moved from Germany to Canada in 1959 where she shortly thereafter met and married Karl Poulsen (who later became President of Sunset Villa). Karl passed away in 1999, at which time Karl and Gisela had been married for 39 years. She was laid to rest at Sunset Mindepark on June 29, 2019. She was predeceased by her parents Willy and Martha and sisters Irmgard and Waltraud. Honouring her wish, there was no funeral service and immediate cremation. A graveside service was held on June 29 at the Sunset Mindepark.

**Olga Freda Poulsen, née Friberg, Pass Lake  
1911 – 2011**

Olga Freda Poulsen, née Friberg, 99 years of age, passed away peacefully at Dawson Court on Wednesday, February 9, 2011. Born in Silkeborg, Denmark, on March 2, 1911, she came to Canada with her family in 1927, settling in Fort William where she worked for the Mathews family in Thunder Bay and Silver Islet, prior to marrying John Poulsen in the late 1930's. Olga and John lived at Johnson Landing, Pass Lake, where she was a devout Lutheran and a faithful member of Salem Church, teaching Sunday school for over 30 years. Olga was survived by three sisters, Asta Isaksen, Margret Knudsen, and Ruth Holliday; and nieces and nephews and other family in the Thunder Bay area, North Bay and B.B. She was predeceased by her husband John; her only child, Eric, who was tragically killed in 1954; her parents Peter Rasmussen Friberg and Marie Friberg; her brothers Eric and Ernie Friberg; and cousin and close friend Anna Grann. Olga will be remembered as a loving aunt and neighbour to so many young folk for her love and baking. Cremation has taken place. Interment was held in the family plot, Salem Cemetery.

**Erik Erwin Siewertsen, Victoria  
1942 - 2016**

Erik Erwin Siewertsen passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Victoria General Hospital on August 28, 2016. Erik was born on April 25, 1942 in Copenhagen, Denmark. He immigrated to Canada with his wife Birthe in 1965. If not on the golf course he and Birthe enjoyed travelling during their retirement together. He is survived by his wife Birthe, daughters Annette (Glenn), Nancy (Andrew), five grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, sister Inge-Lise (Jeff), his brother Bent (Sheila) and family in Denmark. By request there was no service.

**Aksel Silberbauer, Abbotsford  
1954 – 2004**

Aksel Silberbauer was born in Denmark on April 27, 1954. He passed away peacefully on April 4, 2004 at Abbotsford Hospital after a short illness. He is survived by his parents, Einer and Gudrun Silberbauer, twin brother Henning, sisters Bente Wallace (John) and Karen Johnstone (John) and their families, and family in Denmark. A Memorial Service was held on April 27, 2004 at the Granly Church in Surrey. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to H.O.M.E. Society, Bradner House on Bradner Road, Abbotsford, where Aksel lived for the last eight years.

**Gudrun Silberbauer, née Skov, Sechelt  
1927 – 2015**

Gudrun Silberbauer, née Skov, died at St. Mary's Hospital in Sechelt on January 22, 2015. She was predeceased by husband Einer Silberbauer in 2005, and son Aksel Silberbauer in 2004. Gudrun is survived by daughters Bente (John) and Karen (John), son Henning, and four grandchildren, Derek, Andrea, Shana (Darren) and Jay. She will missed by many friends and relatives in Canada and in Denmark. Born in Copenhagen on August 11, 1927, Gudrun was a kind and gentle lady, an avid reader of historical novels, and an enthusiastic world traveller. Gudrun and Einer immigrated to Canada in 1956 with four small children, and lived in Vancouver and Port Coquitlam. In 2002 they moved to Sechelt, drawn by their love of living by the sea. A memorial service was held on February 14, 2015 at the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, the Danish Lutheran Church of Vancouver, or the Sechelt Public Library Foundation.

**Ildrid Vibeke Sjolander, née Jensen, Ottawa  
1924 – 2019**

Vibeke Sjolander passed away in Ottawa on April 20, 2019. She was born in Randers on October 12, 1924, the daughter of Hans Anton Jensen and Marie Jensen, née Jensen. Hans Anton Jensen worked for Vognfabrikken Scandia, a factory which made trains. Vibeke was baptised Ildrid Vibeke Jensen, but dropped Ildrid in school, as she was teased, whereafter she only used her middle name, Vibeke. She was married to the late Viggo Sjolander for 62 years. A service in her memory was held at the Kelly Funeral Home on Walkley Road, Ottawa, on April 30, 2019. Viggo Sjolander was born Viggo Sjolander Andersen in Assens on March 22, 1918, the son of Thorvald Andersen, a baker who worked for the local co-op in Randers, where Viggo grew up with his two brothers and a sister. When Viggo finished school, he worked for the Randers Municipality. Here he met Vibeke Jensen. They married in Randers on November 5, 1946. They had problems putting together a Wedding Dinner, as many items were still rationed. Before getting married Viggo dropped Andersen and became Viggo Sjolander. After their marriage they moved to Copenhagen, where they lived for ten years. Viggo became a bookkeeper and by the mid-1950s he was selling adding machines, being interested in machines which could compute. In Canada he became a computer programmer. He retired as a Systems Analyst from the Canadian federal government. He passed away in Ottawa at the age of 90 on January 4, 2009. In 1957 Viggo and Vibeke decided to immigrate to Canada. That is, Viggo decided, as Vibeke

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would have preferred to return to Randers, where she had family and friends. In the meantime, they had gotten two boys, Jørn and Steen. To make the move smoother, they decided to fly to Canada. They flew from Copenhagen to New York, and then from New York to Toronto. Viggo already had a job when they arrived, and they lived in Toronto for the next ten years. They also lived in Kingston and Vancouver, and finally settled in Ottawa. Both sons married and settled in Ottawa. Jørn, or John, married Claire Turenne. Unfortunately, John passed away in March 2008. Steen married Ivana Veliky. Steen, who obtained a Ph.D. from Cambridge, is a professor at the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Carleton University in Ottawa.

### **Bent Elmer Skovsgaard, Kitchener 1937 – 2011**

Bent Elmer Skovsgaard was born in Tørring, west of Horsens, Jutland, on May 12, 1937. Ben, as he was known, came to Canada with his parents Kai and Esther Skovsgaard as well as his brother Earl in 1957, and settled in Kitchener, Ontario. His brother, who changed his last name to Skovsgard, had been born in Tørring on November 5, 1939. Earl left for the United States and joined the Fort Pierce Police Department in Florida in 1975. Earl was a graduate of the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville and retired as a lieutenant after 23 years of service. Earl passed away at the VNA Hospice House in Vero Beach, Florida, on May 6, 2016. Earl was predeceased by his wife Doreen Marcial-Skovsgard and son Mark Jorgen Skovsgaard. In 1959 Ben married Kirsten Sommer Kristensen, who passed away in 2005. Ben was the cherished father of John and his wife LuAnn, Eric and his wife Angela, all of Kitchener and Cindy and her husband Darren Rene of Stratford. Ben was the founder of B.E. Skovsgaard Real Estate Ltd., President of the K-W Real Estate Board in 1974, and founder of Re/Max Twin City Realty Inc. in 1981. Ben was a leader in the local real estate industry for over 35 years. He was also a dedicated volunteer with the Sunset Villa Association serving in many positions on the Board of Directors. Ben passed away on October 15, 2011 at the K-W Health Centre of the Grand River Hospital, at the age of 74. A memorial service took place at Hope Lutheran Church, Shaftsbury Drive, Kitchener on October 19, 2011; Internment at Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch.

### **Kirsten Sommer Skovsgaard, née Kristensen, Kitchener 1940 – 2005**

Kirsten Sommer Kristensen was born in Denmark on July 22, 1940. In 1959 she married Ben Skovsgaard. Kirsten, also known as Kris, was continually active at Sunset Villa in Puslinch, serving as President of the Association from 1990 to 1994 and again from 1998 to 2000. She passed away on November 29, 2005. She leaves her sisters in Denmark, Lis Thomsen, Oda Johansen and Mona Jensen, her three children and her grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents Kresten and Else (née Jensen) Kristensen, and brothers Leif Kristensen and Ove Sommer; Internment at Sunset Mindepark, followed by a reception at Sunset Villa.

**Hans Futtrup Sorensen, Port Alberni  
1942 – 2020**

Hans Futtrup Sorensen died on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, age 78. He was born on March 16, 1942. He leaves behind his loving wife of 34 years, Cristina; daughter, Myla Sorensen (Kevin O'Hara) of Fort St. John; siblings, Christian Futtrup (Ester) Sorensen, Kirsten Futtrup (Verner, deceased) of Denmark; nieces, Lone Futtrup Sorensen and Hanne Nielsen; nephews, Soren Sorensen, Erick Sorensen, Kurt Sorensen, and Poul Sorensen; as well as many extended family members and friends. Hans was predeceased by his parents, Soren and Johanna Sorensen of Gudum, Denmark. Hans was a saw-mill lumber grader, millwright, mechanic, electrician and carpenter. He was the Secretary Treasurer for the Port Alberni Chapter of the International Order of Odd Fellows. After his retirement, he kept his life busy tinkering in a variety of things, but woodworking remained his passion and he spent many leisurely hours in his workshop crafting dining room and coffee tables, doors and windows. He built a garage, a car port, gazebo and a chapel in the backyard.

**Hans Henrik Sorensen, Newmarket  
1926 – 2016**

Hans Henrik Sorensen passed away peacefully at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket, on September 24, 2016. He was born in Denmark on May 13, 1926. He leaves behind his wife of 65 years, Tove, and his son Soren (Betsy). He will be missed by family and friends in Denmark and Canada. The funeral arrangements will be private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Danish Church of Toronto or the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

**Knud Helge Sorensen, Niagara Falls  
1920 – 2019**

Knud Helge Sorensen was born at Magletving Holme on the island of Lolland on December 24, 1920. He had seventeen siblings, some of which died incredibly young. At a young age he worked at Strandgården, looking after the livestock and the fields. Together with his brother Kaj he went to Sweden to work in the forests. In Canada he worked in mines and in large public parks. He visited Denmark frequently, visiting his family on Lolland. He never married. He died on December 27, 2019, shortly after his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. He lived in Niagara Falls, was a member of Sunset Villa and was buried at Sunset Mindepark by Pastor Simon K. Larsen of Toronto.

**Paul Alan Sorensen, Surrey  
1956 – 2021**

Paul Alan Sorensen of Surrey was born on September 7, 1956, and passed away suddenly on February 26, 2021 after complications following an epileptic seizure. He was predeceased by his parents Ernest and Ruth Sorensen and is survived by his two children, a granddaughter and a sister. Paul was active as a scout, a top pick in baseball leagues due to his size and wicked arm, an accomplished piano player and an excellent trombonist. He participated in the school band as well as the Killarney Jr. Band, where winter concerts and marching in numerous parades in the summer were a big part of his life. Paul was a voracious reader; he always seemed to have a

## OBITUARIES

book under his nose. He was told he had a very high IQ and seemed to know a little something about everything which made him a wonderful conversationalist and interesting to talk to. Corporal P.A. Sorensen, 409 Sqn, CFB Comox, served from 1979 to 1986. An active member of the Legion, he claimed the highlight of his military career was flying a fighter jet.

### **Peter G. Sorensen, Burlington** **1934 – 2020**

Peter G. Sorensen passed away on April 13, 2020 at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital in his 86th year. He was born on September 3, 1934. Peter will be missed by his wife Edith, his sons Glenn and Lars and his grandchildren Seif and Salar. Cremation has taken place.

### **Tove Sorensen, Nanaimo** **1943 – 2018**

Tove Sorensen passed away peacefully at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital with her family at her side on May 24, 2018. She was born on March 27, 1943 in Lacombe, Alberta, to Soren and Elin Sorensen. Survived by three daughters, the legacy of Tove Sorensen will live on in the lives of her three grandchildren. Tove will be lovingly remembered by her brother Peter (Joyce) Sorensen and sister Sonia Galbraith, as well as by many nieces and nephews. Tove loved all animals. She was a true artist, came to live on Vancouver Island in 1974 and started Tove Ceramics and taught many classes. Tove also was a nurse LPN, went to the Vermillion School of Agriculture in Alberta in 1962, and then again at Malaspina in 1982 where she obtained her License as a practical Nurse. While she did her schooling here, she also worked at Harmac cafeteria, and at the Cassidy Inn Cafe as a Cook/Baker. She worked as a nurse on call for a few years at the NRGH, Ladysmith, Duncan, and Chemainus hospitals. Chemainus is where she worked full time for 12 years then she took an early retirement on LTD in 1997. She enjoyed knitting, beading, quilting, making needed items for others in shelters and hospitals.

### **Tove Sorensen, Taber** **1944 – 2009**

Tove Sorensen, beloved wife of Arne Sorensen, passed away on August 5, 2009 at the age of 65. Tove is survived by her husband, her three children, as well as numerous family members in Denmark. A family service was held at the Southland Funeral Chapel; Burial at the Taber Memorial Garden.

### **Tove Sommer Sorensen, née Pedersen, Tees, Alberta** **1937 – 2017**

Tove Sommer Sorensen, née Pedersen, passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 16, 2017, still independent, living her life on her own terms. She was born on May 12, 1937 in Harridslev, near Randers. Her birth was quite the surprise at the Pedersen farm, her mother being only 16 years old. In all of this, her tender toddlerhood was sweet as she had her hero in a gentle loving

## OBITUARIES

grandfather, Marius Pedersen, so even after the very young couple, Karen and Kristen eventually married, she would toddle down the road to have breakfast with her grandparents every day. Marius's eyes would twinkle in welcome to the little mite. She left home at 14 as school was finished at that age. She worked as a housemaid for many interesting families. Eventually she attended a Girls school for a year, a *folkehøjskole*, learning specialty cooking, sewing and other life skills. She moved to Norway in the early 50's, working for a minister and his large family. The Pedersen family, including her siblings Knud, Egon, Olga and Vera, came to Canada with many other immigrants in 1957. She met and married another Dane, Mads Sorensen, in Ponoka in 1958. They raised 6 children in the Tees farming community. One of the highlights of her life was to move to the North in 1995, adventuring through the Yukon, British Columbia, finally settling in Grande Cache. She worked several years as a camp cook and says she earned her graduation papers one day when the men on the rig gave "MA" a large and beautiful flower arrangement! She was well loved by the boys!! Here she began to find true self worth. Her life was never easy but one of the highlights was finding her sister Kirsten and her family in Denmark. She came to know this sister well and formed a special bond with that family, particularly with cousin Bodil Asperud (Sveistrup). She had many dear friends, perhaps one most significant, another Dane, Tony Jensen. He was an old family friend who came back into her life and they had a special and uplifting bond that helped heal many of life's hurts for the both of them. There will be no funeral at Mom's request. We will bring her to the river and send her spirit to the sea as she asked of us. One of the strongest memories we had as a family was, as mom put it, the inclusive and homesteading mentality of the Tees farming community. She was heartened by this always. Many of the closest neighbours became lifelong friends.

### **Tove Toft Sorensen, Ottawa 1924 – 2021**

Tove Toft Sorensen of Ottawa passed away on October 9, 2021, at the age of 97. She was born in Denmark on February 3, 1924. Tove was predeceased by her loving husband Hans in 2016, and leaves behind her son Soren (Betsy). Tove will be missed by family and friends in Denmark and Canada. Special thanks to the Glebe Centre staff and volunteers for the care and companionship that she received there. In lieu of flowers, in memoriam donations may be made to either the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto or to the Glebe Centre in Ottawa.

### **Verner Høj Sorensen, Thunder Bay and Burlington 1938 – 2020**

Verner Høj Sorensen was born in Grinsted, Denmark, on May 14, 1938. He died on Saturday, July 11, 2020 at the age of 82; Beloved husband of Joan and stepfather to Doug and Rome and grandfather to Morea and Lucien; Previous wife and good friend Aase; Amazing father to son Blake (Valerie) and daughter Conni (Steve). Like many Danes, Vern sought a new life in Canada in the 1950s and settled in Thunder Bay, Ontario, where he worked his way up in Loblaws, ending as manager. An entrepreneur by nature, he soon purchased and successfully ran Bay Quality Meats. He later moved to the Toronto area to become one of the founders of indoor tanning in North America, which became an amazing success. He opened many salons, Midnight

## OBITUARIES

Sun being one which today is run by his daughter. Vern was a genuinely nice and generous soul and lived life to the fullest, his way.

### **Mona Hansine Elisabeth Svendsen, Surrey** **1925 – 2017**

Mona Hansine Elisabeth Svendsen passed away on March 28, 2017. She was born on September 28, 1925. She leaves behind her daughter, Judy, her grandchildren Susan and Lars, grandson-in-law Brad, and her great grandchildren Kendra, Riley, Carson and Kristen. In lieu of flowers, donations in Mona's name were made to the Granly Danish Lutheran Church in Surrey.

### **Tove Thalmann, née Nielsen, Vineland** **1942 – 2020**

Tove Thalmann, née Nielsen, later Smith, passed away on May 16, 2020 at McNally House Hospice in Grimsby after a five-year battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her three daughters Sue (Jeff), Tammy (Kevin), and Cheryl (Dan). Tove was Oma to her 8 grandchildren Chevy, Samantha, Chantel, Michael, Michelle (John-Luke), Clare, Regan and Kelsey (Rob). She never missed any of their dance recitals, theatrical performances, sporting events and milestone ceremonies. Her brothers in Denmark Chris Nielsen (Yvonne) and Hans Nielsen (Lajla) and their families are saddened by her passing. Tove was predeceased by her husband Edwin of 23 years (January 27, 2013) and her brother John Nielsen (March 27, 2015). She was born in Lyngby, north of Copenhagen, on December 4, 1942. Her parents, Jens and Grethe Nielsen immigrated to Canada with Tove and her two brothers in April 1957. They sailed from Denmark to New York, and then flew to Montreal, settling in Vineland, Ontario, where Jens opened a bakery. In 1963 Tove became Mrs. Smith and in 1990 Mrs. Thalmann. Tove was an active senior participating in golf, exercise, line dancing and countless social gatherings. Her zest for life will be missed by family friends Donna and Ron, her amazing group of friends from Vineland, NOTL, the Grimsby Danish Church and the residents of Heritage Village. Despite her cancer she remained positive and was a true inspiration.

### **Anne Merete Valentin Vestergaard, née Nielsen, Calgary** **1942 – 2020**

Anne Merete Valentin Vestergaard of Calgary passed away on August 15, 2020 at the age of 77. She was born on September 10, 1942 in Copenhagen, where she later met and married Flemming Vestergaard on December 2, 1958. They immigrated to Calgary in 1965. Anne Merete enjoyed skiing in her earlier years, golfing in the later years, and socializing with friends and family. She loved spending summers in Penticton, British Columbia, and enjoyed her most memorable vacation in Maui, with her family in 2014. Anne Merete accomplished much through her life and was particularly proud of running the family business "Flemming Hair Styles". She will be most remembered for her beautiful smile and her wonderful personality, which made everyone feel special. Anne Merete is survived by her two daughters and sons-in-law, Helle and Peter Christensen, and Louise and Darren Kladnik of Calgary; her three granddaughters and her

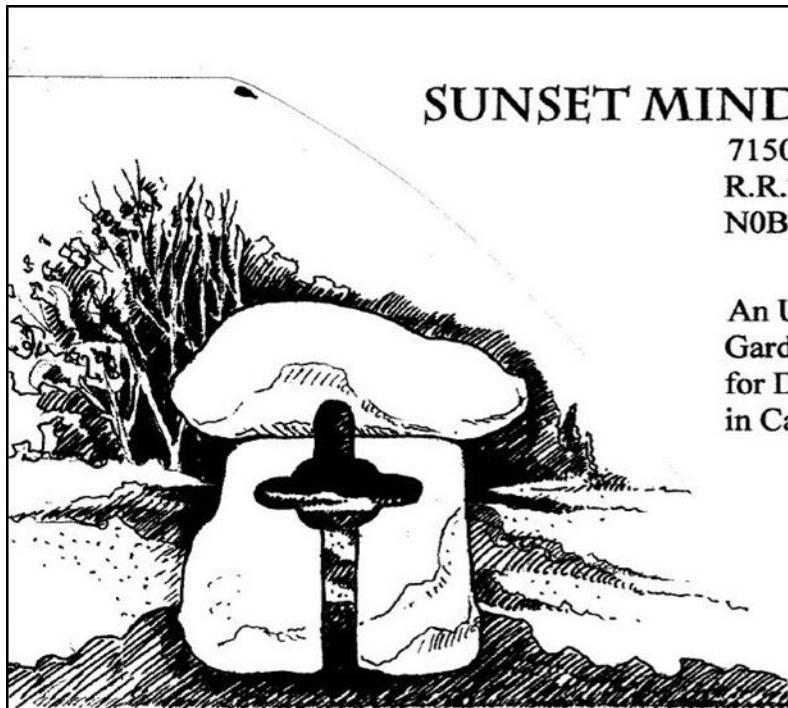
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extended family in Denmark. She was predeceased by her husband Flemming Vestergaard, her parents, Marie Aabo Hansen and Frederik Valentin, and brother Ole Valentin.

### **Arne Jensen Zabell, Brantford 1929 – 2009**

Arne Jensen Zabell was President of the Sunset Villa Association in Puslinch, Ontario, from 1976 to 1978 and again in 1987-88. Arne was born in Denmark to Wilhelm Aksel Harry Zabell and Dagmar on March 9, 1929. In the early 1960s he immigrated to Canada and settled in Brantford, Ontario. In Brantford he founded and operated Brantford Rental Centre until 1979. He then went on to found Zabell Hearing Centres in the early 1980s. Arne was an influential member of his community and was actively involved in politics and business. As a member of the Ontario Liberal Party, Arne sought election in the 1970s to the Brantford City Council and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. Arne was also an active freemason, joining the Brantford Lodge in 1967. Arne passed away on July 17, 2009. He was predeceased by his wife Elizabeth (Betty) Zabell, née Cole, of Hamilton, Ontario, for over 25 years. He was the beloved father of Arne Jr. (Kate) Zabell and Kirsten (Bob) Maunder. Arne was the cherished grandfather of six and great-grandfather of three and dearly missed by his special friend Dorothy Alison. A private Masonic Service was held, followed by interment at Farringdon Burial Grounds. A tree was planted in memory of Arne in the Beckett-Glaves Memorial Forest, which was established in recognition of the severe depletion of the forests in the Grand River watershed.

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## INVITATION



Dear Members and Friends,

February 2022

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

I am delighted to advise that the **Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club** will be hosting the Federation of Danish Association's AGM and 39<sup>th</sup> Conference in Nanaimo, B.C. on May 25 through May 28, 2023. As you know, we tried in 2020 and then again in 2021 and with the current pandemic situation, we were 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, subject, of course, to change again if the situation has not improved.

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 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 25 – 28, 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, I 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!"***



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