

2015 HERITAGE BOOK



FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA



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

34th DANISH CANADIAN CONFERENCE

Vancouver, British Columbia

May 21 - May 24, 2015

Conference Theme: Keeping Traditions Alive



KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE

Traditions are at the heart of every culture on our planet, including cultures that cannot claim to have a country of their own and can only claim a national identity shared with other ethnic groups in a nation artificially defined by borders determined by historical events, (eg. Canada).



So why is it important to preserve and keep traditions alive if an ethnic group can have traditions and yet no country to call their own and vice versa? What exactly is a “tradition”?

These are interesting questions. According to *Folklore: an encyclopedia of beliefs, customs, tales, music, and art* by Thomas A. Green, tradition is defined as “a belief or behaviour passed down within a group or society with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past”. The word tradition itself derives from the Latin word *tradere* or *traderer*, meaning to hand over to give for safekeeping.

So traditions are how past generations connect with future generations and how the peoples of today can connect with the generations of the past. The most obvious example is how aboriginal groups have an oral history passed from generation to generation rather than the written histories passed down in Western cultures. It is also the way 2nd and 3rd and subsequent generations who no longer have the gift of speaking their mother tongues can connect to their cultural backgrounds and ethnic origins. In the absence of the traditions and the lost ability to speak the mother tongue there is no longer an affinity to the ethnic background, the connection is broken.

So why should this concern us? It is important to us as members of Danish clubs and groups because the well spring of immigration is no longer there, to provide a steady stream of new members for our clubs with immediate connections to the mother country. Our new members must be sourced from second and third, or later generations. The connection needs to be maintained and restored, so we need to appeal to the nascent desire inherent in the potential new succeeding generations, a desire that all of us possess, to know where we came from.



Danish braided paper heart baskets.

Nina York

KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE

The Danish House Society faces the same perplexing problem that all ethnic clubs and organizations face, maintaining membership by attracting subsequent generations as our older members sadly leave us. But what is encouraging is the attendance of younger generations at some of our events such as our KroAften or Pub Night where the fare consists of traditional smørrebrød or Danish open-faced sandwiches. These second and third generation young people often comment about how they remember going to grandmas and grandpas and enjoying the wonderfully decorated food. Every April at the Scandinavian Centre we have a “Cultural Weekend” where various crafts are offered and the Danish open-faced sandwich making classes are always filled up with eager participants wanting to know how to prepare these delicious offerings, eager and proud of their heritage. It is almost a guarantee that if they come to one of the Kroaftens they will be back for another, and eventually will sign up for membership.



At a recent “Christmas by the Fireside”, our annual children’s Christmas Party a young under 25 volunteer, and recipient of one of the Danish House Scholarships commented on the kids dancing around the Christmas tree, and mentioned that she fondly remembers doing the same as a toddler at kids Christmas parties put on by the Danish Canadian Community Centre. She mentioned that when she has kids she will do the same with them – a connection maintained. If the connection is maintained then at some point when the stress of getting ahead in today’s world, of raising and feeding a young family is behind them, when they are in their early forties or even fifties, they will remember that connection and look to revive it, even consider taking language classes, and will become a member or participant in some club’s events and programs.

KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE

So that is why it is important preserve and even advertise traditions, in order to maintain the connection.



Everyone knows of course that the Danes are the happiest people in the world according to numerous surveys. What is the reason for this? Could it be because they have a rich reservoir of traditions to help them get through the trials and tribulations of life and the cold winter nights. What exactly is “hygge”? Is it a tradition of sharing with friends and family a cozy atmosphere in a spirit of togetherness?

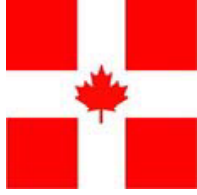
So many traditions, such as singing and dancing at anniversary parties or birthday parties, confirmations or weddings, making a triumphal arch of spruce with lights and flowers to help a couple celebrate a 25th wedding anniversary and then enjoying breakfast with them, or on May 5th spontaneously lighting and placing candles in the window to commemorate the May 5th liberation, or celebrating Grundlovsfest or Constitution day with friends and family at a picnic, or dancing around the Christmas tree with the little ones, or looking for the almond in the rice pudding, and what about æbelskiver and gløgg, and a rich heritage of national costumes, and what about *Dannebrog*, when the flag fell from heaven, and what about Sankt Hans Aften, or Fastlavn .

So Danes have an abundance of traditions that they can call their own, but also traditions taken from other countries and added to their own cultural eccentricities.

Help preserve those traditions by sharing them with the upcoming generations whenever possible, for traditions serve the purpose of maintaining the connection, it gives the subsequent generations a connection to the past and helps to answer that question: where did I and my ancestors come from, and what was interesting or unusual about them, and what is special about having a last name that ends in ‘sen’.

In today's busy world, it seems to me a young 60 year old, that people have less time to read about the past, or learn about different cultures, philosophies and religions, and so much time is spent worrying about what peers might be saying on Facebook or other social media, and the danger of losing the connection to their past heritage, culture and ethnic uniqueness is greater than ever, and when the connection is lost we are all the poorer for it.

Ed Kuhlman
President of the Danish House Society



2015 Heritage Book

34rd Danish Canadian Conference

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. May 21-24, 2015

Publisher: Federation of Danish
Associations in Canada 679
Eastvale Court
Gloucester, Ontario
Canada, K1J 6Z7

Editor: Ed Kuhlman, Danish House Society, Burnaby, B.C.

Copyright © 2015 by: The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. All rights reserved.

Cover photograph by: Internet Free Images

Book Design/Layout: Ed Kuhlman

Acknowledgements:

The editor wishes to thank everyone that contributed to this book. Without your articles, biographies, photographs and ads, it would not have been possible to produce this book.

A special thank you to: Rolf Buschardt Christensen for being the major contributor of articles, pictures and ads. Also a thank you to: Ebba Grey for providing help assembling, compiling, and proof-reading articles.

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.

This Conference Book is made possible through the support of members and sponsors of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, whose advertisements are displayed throughout its pages. When looking for a particular product or service, please allow the advertisers an opportunity to serve you.

Printed in Canada, May 2015 by: Westwood Printing & Signs,
102 – 1030 Westwood St.
Coquitlam, B.C. V3C 4E4

ISBN978-0-9780372-9-1

Editors of the Annual Heritage Book 1982 – 2015

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Keeping Traditions Alive	1
2015 Heritage Book, Editorial page	4
Editors of the Annual Heritage Book: 1982 - 2015	5

Greetings

Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada	10
Niels Boel Abrahamsen, Danish Ambassador to Canada	13
Christie Clark, Premier of British Columbia	14
Jonathan Coté, Mayor of New Westminster	15
Jens Petersen, Danish Honorary Consul	16
Danish House Society	17
O Canada	18
Der er et yndig land	18
Danish Federation Song	19
Song: “Et lille land og lige midt i verden”	20
Song: “Godmorgen, lille land”	21

Federation

Board of Directors 2014 - 2015	22
Members of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada 2015	23
Purpose of the Federation	24
Annual Report, 2013 - 2014	25

Conferences and Seminars

Conference in Ottawa	28
Reports from Member Organizations	35
2. Danish Canadian Society Inc., Montreal	35
4. The Danish Club of Ottawa	36
5. Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto	36
9. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch	37
10. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch	38
11. Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula, Grimsby, Ontario	38
12. Danish Lutheran Congregation at St. John’s Church, Waterloo, Ontario	39
16. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary	39
18. Sharon Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary	41
20. The Naver Club, Calgary	42
21. The Royal Danish Guards’ Association, Western Canada	42
23. Danish Canadian National Museum Society, Dickson	43
24. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club	44
25. Danish Canadian Society “Dania”, Edmonton	44
26. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton	45
27. The Danish Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia	45

28. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328, Vancouver, Canada	46
29. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest	46
30. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver	46
31. Dania Home, Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby	46
32. Danish House Society, Burnaby, British Columbia	47
33. Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey, British Columbia	47
34. Danish Sisterhood of America, Lodge 179, Vancouver, Canada	47
36. Danish Social Club of Victoria	49
41. Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa	49
Calabogie Peaks Heritage Seminar <i>by Rolf Buschardt Christensen</i>	52

Focus on: The Danish House Society

The Danish House Society – The first 8 years	57
--	----

Organizations

Dania Home Senior Citizens Residence, Burnaby: History of Dania Home <i>by Kjeld Christensen</i>	75
Ansgar Villa Foundation: dissolved <i>by Kai Lyng</i>	81
Danish Canadian National Museum: A Naust for “ <i>Freydis Joanna</i> ” the Little Viking Ship <i>by Steve Morck</i>	83

Biographies

Ben Sorensen <i>by R. Ben Sorensen QC</i>	86
Viggo and Karen Andersen <i>compiled by Fred and Bernice Andersen and Rolf Buschardt Christensen</i>	90
Spruce View Co-Op, Viggo Andersen, the first manager	94
Robert Helms, 1916-2014, an autobiography <i>condensed by Ebba Grey</i>	98
Dr. Erik Sporon Fiedler's Stay in Canada 1909-1915 <i>by Erik Sporon Fiedler, Sindal, Denmark</i>	106
Pastor Skanderup, a founder of the Tilley settlement, <i>by Ellen (Skanderup) Wagner, Calgary</i>	113
Oak Trees and Acorns: The Edward and Margaret Christensen Family <i>by Jens Christensen</i>	134
Karen and John Nielsen <i>by Jette Storms, Kingston and Rolf Buschardt Christensen</i>	146
Margrethe Gjørup 1927-2004 <i>by Knud Eyvin Bugge, Vedbæk, Denmark</i>	149
C.P. Marker and Markerville <i>by Rolf Buschardt Christensen</i>	155
Eggert Boie Rasmussen Sold Furniture in Vancouver <i>by Eggert Boie Rasmussen and Rolf Buschardt Christensen</i>	156
Folmer Hansen 1930-2014 <i>by Ilse and K.E. Bugge</i>	163

FYI

The DHS and DCCC Scholarship Winners <i>by Johan Madsen, Chairman of the DHS Scholarship Committee</i>	167
How the DHS Scholarship Program Evolved <i>by Johan Vedel Madsen, Vice-President of the Danish House Society</i>	171
Danish Ship First Bulk Carrier through the Northwest Passage <i>by Rolf Buschardt Christensen with files from CP & Globe and Mail</i>	177
The Quebec Bridge <i>by Frants Lichtenberg</i>	179
The Iron Ring a Danish initiative for Canadian Engineers <i>by Frants Lichtenberg</i>	188
The Advantage of a ‘Dyne’ <i>by Bendix Andersen</i>	190
Prof. Natalie van Duesen, <i>Scandinavian Studies at the University of Alberta</i>	191
Some Lingering Memories <i>by Larry Jacobsen</i>	192

[Type text]

Danmark's Best, In Furniture Design <i>by Raija Leskinen</i>	196
Scandinavian Business Club of B.C., A Piece of Western Canadian History <i>by Henrik Laursen</i>	204
Obituaries	
Poul Berg Sundgaard 1942 - 2014	207
Pastor Oscar Filtenborg 1934 - 2014.....	211
Pastor Holger Madsen 1930 - 2015.....	213
Yrsa Jorgensen Thure 1924 - 2013.....	214
Fred Ejvind Jensen Pagh 1924 - 2014.....	215
Niels Skaarup Andersen 1937 - 2014.....	217
Kirsten Friesen 1919 - 2014.....	218
Edgar Ziegler 1920 - 2015	219
Henny Berg Nielsen 1924 - 2015.....	220
Erik Spicer 1926 - 2014	221
Kurt Tage Olsen 1932 - 2014.....	222
Aage Gade Jensen 1926 - 2015.....	224
Tove Bording 1935 - 2014.....	225
Aase Jensen 1931 - 2014.....	226
Harry Evald Vestergaard 1935 - 2014.....	227
Invitation	228
Advertiser's Index	229
Index	231



OFFICE OF
THE PRIME MINISTER



CABINET DU
PREMIER MINISTRE



PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA

Stephen Harper





PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the national Danish Canadian Conference, being held in New Westminster, British Columbia.

This meeting offers an ideal opportunity to reunite with Danish Canadians from across the country to share in the year's achievements and to set goals for the future. The theme of this event — Keeping Tradition Alive— sets the stage for lively discussions about the preservation and promotion of your rich history.

I would like to commend the members of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada for their dedication to upholding your language and culture in Canada. Danish Canadians have contributed to our prosperity in all fields of endeavour, while strengthening our ties of friendship with Denmark.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer you my best wishes for a very enjoyable and successful conference.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2015



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à tous ceux et celles qui participent à la Conférence dano-canadienne nationale, qui se tient à New Westminster, en Colombie-Britannique.

Cette rencontre offre une occasion idéale aux citoyens canadiens d'origine danoise de l'ensemble du pays de se réunir pour parler des réalisations de la dernière année et se fixer des objectifs pour l'avenir. Le thème de cet événement — Perpétuer la tradition — devrait susciter des discussions animées sur la préservation et la promotion de votre riche histoire.

Je tiens à féliciter les membres de la Fédération des associations danoises du Canada de leur engagement envers la mise en valeur de leur langue et de leur culture au Canada. Les citoyens canadiens d'origine danoise ont contribué à notre prospérité dans tous les domaines tout en renforçant nos liens d'amitié avec le Danemark.

Au nom du gouvernement du Canada, je vous souhaite une conférence des plus fructueuses et agréables.

Le très honorable Stephen Harper, c.p., député

OTTAWA
2015



THE AMBASSADOR

Ottawa, March 2015

Please accept my warmest greetings on the occasion of the annual conference of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada taking place in New Westminster, B.C. in May 2015. It was a pleasure to meet the participants of last year's conference and welcoming you to the Danish residence.

2015 will be an interesting year in many ways. It has been 100 years since universal suffrage was introduced in Denmark with the amendment of the 1849 Danish Constitution. The amendment gave both women and people who did not own their own homes eligibility and the right to vote, and essentially paved the way for the election of Denmark's first female Prime Minister in 2011. Both Canadians and Danes will have the opportunity to vote in parliamentary elections in 2015.

The amendment of the Danish Constitution was not the only legislation amended in the 20th century that had a great impact on Danish society. In 1953, the Act of Succession was modified, making it possible for then Princess Margrethe to inherit the throne from her father – H.M. King Frederik IX of Denmark. This year is the 43rd year of H.M. the Queen's reign and Her Majesty will be celebrating her 75th birthday on April 16th.

These two fundamental amendments resulted in both the Head of State and the Head of Government in Denmark being women. They also remind us to cherish equal rights and democracy for all and to continuously strengthen and develop our democratic system.

I wish you all a great conference this year and hope it will be as excellent as last year.

Niels Boel Abrahamsen
Ambassador



A Message from Premier Christy Clark

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the Danish House Society's 34th Annual Federation of Danish Associations in Canada Conference, here at the Inn at the Quay in New Westminster.

British Columbia is fortunate to have organizations like the Danish House Society that bring together communities in celebration and recognition of their shared heritage. Our province, since its inception, has been influenced by Danish culture and I think it is wonderful to see the stories of Danish immigrants being shared in this special Heritage Book. Events like these are an excellent way to forge new community relationships and help recently arrived immigrants feel more comfortable in their new home.

I'd like to give a special thanks to the organizers and volunteers for all their hard work in bringing together this conference, ensuring each delegate receives the special Heritage Book.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christy Clark".

Christy Clark
Premier



Jonathan X. Coté
Mayor



On behalf of City Council, I'm pleased to offer warm greetings to those attending the 34th Annual Danish Canadian Conference in New Westminster from May 21st to 24th.

New Westminster is the oldest city in western Canada, and the first capital of British Columbia. It is a city that is steeped in tradition. Over 150 years ago, Danish families established roots in our community, bringing with them their culture and traditions. We recognize that by honoring our traditions and heritage we continue to build stronger communities.

I'd like to extend our gratitude to the organizers and volunteers involved in organizing this year's annual conference at Inn at the Quay. We recognize and value the contribution of your members for the time, effort and resources dedicated to our community and to society at large.

Best wishes for a most enjoyable and enlightening conference!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Coté
MAYOR

Office of the Mayor
Corporation of the City of New Westminster
511 Royal Avenue, New Westminster, BC • Canada V3L 1H9 T (604) 527 4522 F (604) 527 4594
www.newwestcity.ca

ROYAL DANISH CONSULATE

101-245 Fell Ave.
North Vancouver, BC V7P 2K1
Tel: 604-982-8892
Fax: 604-985-2855
Email: dkconsul@telus.net



May 2015

TO ALL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

As Honorary Consul of Denmark for British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 34th Annual Convention of The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

The Danish culture continues to be strong in North America due to the hard work and dedication extended by the many volunteer groups and organizations such as your members. The Federation's devotion to this purpose helps to maintain the very high reputation and image that Denmark enjoys throughout the world which in turn helps Danish business to thrive in world markets.

The success of the Federation is unique in North America and probably the world due to its ability in organizing itself to become the national spokes group representing so many members which in turn increases the ability for all members of the Federation to be seen and heard. As well, communicating any important issue to member organizations also adds exceptional value in belonging to the Federation.

Congratulations on your success and on organizing the 2015 Conference here in our beautiful Province.

Yours sincerely,
ROYAL DANISH CONSULATE



Jens (John) Petersen
Honorary Consul



Danish House Society



Dear Conference delegates, participants and guests:

As the President of the Danish House Society, I extend the warmest of welcomes to all the organizations, delegates, and guests that are honouring us with their presence at this year's Danish Conference.

The Danish House Society is one of the five "Houses" that collectively own, operate, and share the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby, B.C. Sharing a community centre with four other Scandinavian countries has provided us with the opportunity to learn about each others cultures and traditions and to develop a "Nordic Spirit" and to consider the importance of preserving traditions as part of our individual cultural identities.

It is my sincere hope that everyone attending this year's Conference feels that Nordic Spirit, and that everyone has an opportunity to meet some of our 430 Danish House members.

Hopefully your visit will be fun, relaxing, and educational, and hopefully as well, you will experience some good old fashioned Danish "hygge" while sitting around a table discussing the big and small things in life with your fellow delegates.

Welcome to Vancouver, may you have a wonderful stay, meet old friends and make new ones!

Sincerely,

Ed Kuhlman
President,
Danish House Society

Scandinavian Community Centre
6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5B 4P9 Canada
Telephone: (604) 294-2777 Fax: (604) 294-5932
www.scandinaviancentre.org

O Canada

O Canada!

Our home and native land!

True patriot love

in all thy sons command.

With glowing hearts

we see thee rise,

The True North

strong and free!

From far and wide,

O Canada,

We stand on guard

for thee.

God keep our land

glorious and free!

O Canada,

we stand on guard for thee,

O Canada,

We stand on guard for thee.

Canadä

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



DENMARK
DANMARK

DANISH NATIONAL ANTHEM

DER ER ET YNDIGT LAND

Der er et yndigt land

(There is a lovely land)

D et står med brede bøge

(Where stand the shady beeches)

Nær salten øster strand

(Near salty eastern strand)

Nær salten øster strand

(Near salty eastern strand)

Det bugter sig i bakke, dal

(With hills that gently rise and fall)

Det hedder gamle Danmark

(Its name is dear old Denmark)

Og det er Freia’s sal

(And it is Freya’s hall)

Og det er Freia’s sal

(And it is Freya’s hall)

Og gamle Danmark skal bestå

Så længe bøgen spejler sin top

i bølgen blå

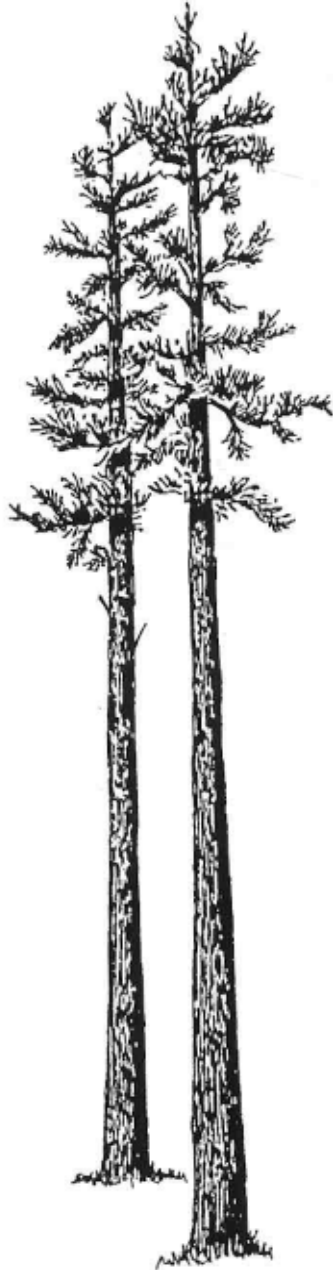
Sin top I bølgen blå





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

Et lille land

Årets Sang 2007 af Steen Krarup Jensen

1. Et lille land og lige midt i verden.
En lille plet til leg og liv og lyst.
Et lille land med bløde grønne bakker, folk, der snakker,
og med mange kilometer skumklædt kyst.
2. Et åbent landskab, rum til fantasier,
og mer' man må, end man skal passe på.
Her gror, i ly for verdens stride strømme, lette drømme.
Katastroferne har været få og små.
3. Det blæser tit, men oftest milde vinde,
kun sjældent går en storm til marv og ben
Vi har ej gamle, tunge ting at hævne, blot en evne
til at brokke os, hvis våren er lidt sen.
4. Et morsomt land på ganske mange måder.
Ja, vi har altid nok at grine af.
Selv svære, dybe spørgsmål og debatter tåler latter,
blot man husker, man skal både gi' og ta'.
5. Et frodigt land, som mange folk besøgte,
og nogle blev, mens andre rejste ud,
hvor alle ved, at de, du ikke kender, kan bli' venner,
når du bare ikke stiller dem for skud.
6. Et land, hvor ingen magt står helt alene,
for ingen klarer alting, altid, selv.
Et land, med højt til loftet, plads for alle. Man kan falde,
men må gerne være med alligevel.
7. Et lille land med bittesmå problemer,
hvor livet er så let, når det er lyst.
Et lille land med sommerlune nætter, som besætter,
så man knap kan sove, selv når der er tyst.

Godmorgen, lille land

1998: Niels Brunse - Melodi: Carsten Johannes Mørch

1. Godmorgen, lille land!
Et land med sol, et land med dis,
med kyst af sten og sand,
som havets bølger slikker,
med bakker skabt af is,
koldt eller venligt skiftevis.
2. Godmorgen, ø ved ø!
Nu ser vi Danmarks buetegn
med blink af hav og sø,
de slanke, lyse broer.
I sol, i blæst, i regn
bærer de os fra egn til egn.
3. Godmorgen, hver og en,
som sidder ved et morgenbord
fra Skagens hvide gren
til Gedsers lange odde,
på vores prik mod nord
her på den kuglerunde jord.
4. Godmorgen, stå nu op!
Stå ud af drøm og tankespind
og stræk din tunge krop,
for ingen er alene;
når verden lukkes ind,
bygger vi bro fra sind til sind.

Den 12. juni 1986 besluttede regeringen, at man skulle have en ny bro. 12 år og 2 dage, 66.000 mandår, 259.000 kubikmeter beton og 5,4 mia. kroner senere, den 14. juni 1998, indviede Dronning Margrethe Storebæltsbroen. En så storslået begivenhed måtte have sin egen sang og 'Godmorgen, lille land' blev Vindersangen i konkurrencen om en åbningsang. Poul Dissing fremførte sangen for Dronningen og hele Danmark på åbningsdagen.



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

Board of Directors 2014-2015

National President	Mr. Rolf Buschardt Christensen, R, Gloucester, Ontario
National Vice-President	Mr. Gert M. Andersen, Waterloo, Ontario
National Secretary	Mrs. Aase Christensen, Guelph, Ontario
National Treasurer	Mr. Sune Overgaard, Mississauga, Ontario
President, Atlantic Region	Mr. Gunnar Pedersen, New Denmark, New Brunswick
President, Quebec Region	Mr. Ole D. Larsen, Montreal, Quebec
President, Ontario Region	Mrs. Eva Terp, Willowdale, Ontario
President, Man-Sask Region	Mr. Karl Sorensen, Winnipeg, Manitoba
President, Alberta Region	Mr. Larry Kjearsgaard, Markerville, Alberta
President, Pacific Region	Mrs. Solvejg Nielsen, New Westminster, British Columbia
Director, Atlantic Region	Mrs. Glenna Hitchcock, Saint John, New Brunswick
Director, Quebec Region	Mr. Svend Berg, Beaconsfield, Quebec
Director, Ontario Region	Mrs. Lis Søndergaard, Guelph, Ontario
Director, Man-Sask Region	Mrs. Emma Godfredsen, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Director, Alberta Region	Mr. Jens Woller, Edmonton, Alberta
Director, Pacific Region	Mrs. Henny Andersen, Crofton, British Columbia
Secretary, Ontario Region	Ms. Liselotte Ostergaard, Newmarket, Ontario
Secretary, Alberta Region	Ms. Pernille Nielsen, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta
Secretary, Pacific Region	Mrs. Margaret Chester, West Vancouver, British Columbia



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, 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. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Easter Canada
9. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch
10. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch
11. Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula, Grimsby
12. Danish Lutheran Congregation at St. John's Church, Waterloo
13. Pass Lake Historical Society
14. The Danish Canadian Club, Winnipeg
15. The Battlefords Danish Canadian Club, North Battleford
16. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary
17. Calgary Danish Businessmen's Association
18. Sharon Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary
19. Dana Village, Danish Senior Citizens Apartment Foundation, Calgary
20. The Naver Club, Calgary
21. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada
22. Dickson Store Museum, Dickson
23. Danish Canadian National Museum, Dickson
24. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club
25. The Danish Canadian Society "Dania", Edmonton
26. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton
27. The Danish Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia
28. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328, Vancouver
29. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest
30. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver
31. Dania Home, Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby
32. Danish House Society, Burnaby
33. Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey
34. Danish Sisterhood of America, Lodge 179, Vancouver
35. Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club, Nanaimo
36. Danish Social Club of Victoria
37. Canadian American Friendship Association, Middelfart
38. Danes Worldwide, Copenhagen
39. Det Danske Udvandrerarkiv, Aalborg
40. Danish American Heritage Society, Blair, Nebraska
41. Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa



The Purpose of the Danish Federation

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

Danes from across Canada, representing various Danish organizations, founded the Danish Federation at Sunset Villa in Puslinch, Ontario, on June 7, 1981. A board of directors, elected annually, manages the Federation. The Federation consists of 41 member organizations.

Danish Federation Activities

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

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

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

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

National Museum in Dickson

The Danish Federation is a strong supporter of the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson. At the Federation's 1988 Conference in Winnipeg, the Danish Federation fully endorsed the plans for the proposed Danish Canadian National Museum, of which phase one was inaugurated in May 2002.

Educational and fun-filled Danish Heritage Seminars

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



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

Annual Report
2014 - 2015

I am pleased to present the 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. I like to say that the membership still stands at 41 member organizations, but, I fear, it could drop in the coming year.

One of last year's highlights was the Conference in Ottawa, hosted by The Danish Club of Ottawa, and organized by Club President Vita Christensen, an Organizing Committee and a host of volunteers. Fifty-four delegates had registered for the Conference which was held at The Westin Hotel downtown. The theme "Getting Involved" was addressed by a couple of speakers and in a workshop entitled "Shaping our Future". Thursday evening a welcome reception was held at the residence of Danish Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen.

As has become a tradition, Friday was Museum Day which included the Annual General Meeting and an informative evening with inspiring presentations, a skit as well as live and silent auctions and a lottery, with the proceeds going to the Museum.

Saturday morning Solvejg Nielsen chaired the Danish Federation's Annual General Meeting. The member organizations each gave a report outlining their activities during the past year. Elected President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer were respectively Rolf Christensen, Gert M. Andersen, Aase Christensen and Sune Overgaard. The President thanked Erik Høgh, who had served as auditor for fourteen years. Appointed new auditor was Soren Sondergaard.

The Bylaws Committee consisting of Larry Kjeersgaard, Eva Terp, Gert Andersen and Rolf Christensen, presented the Danish Federation's new Bylaws, based on the old, but incorporating aspects required by law under the new federal Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. The new Bylaws were passed unanimously by the members. After submitting the new Bylaws to Industry Canada, the Danish Federation received a Certificate of Continuance.

Ed Kuhlman and Ebba Grey edited our 2015 Heritage Book. Thank you, Ed and Ebba, for looking after the editing, printing and mailing of the Heritage Book. As well, thank you to our National Secretary, Aase Christensen, for looking after the Directory of Danish Organizations in Canada. The latest edition has been included in the Conference Kit.

Immediately after the Ottawa Conference the Danish Federation held a one-week Danish Heritage Seminar at Calabogie Peaks Resort, outside Ottawa. The Headmaster was Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen of Grimsby. He had chosen the theme "South Slesvig". Several other speakers

Federation

spoke about other interesting topics. Twenty-one participants from across Canada, and one couple from the United States, enjoyed a week of learning, socializing and fun.

During the past year I have enjoyed meeting Danes across Canada. In the course of the year I visited Danes and Federation members in Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Grimsby, Calgary, Dickson and Vancouver. I am impressed by all their activities.

As most of you know, a complete set of Heritage Books, covering the years 1982 to 2014, has been donated to The Royal Library (Det Kongelige Bibliotek) in Copenhagen. The Royal Library, also known in English as the National Library of Denmark, was very much interested in acquiring a complete set since the Heritage Books document the history, accomplishments as well as hardships, of the Danes and their descendants in Canada. The books will provide researchers in Denmark with a valuable source of information on the Danes in Canada. The Royal Library, which is a depository library for all books and publications published in Denmark, generously paid for the shipping by air of the Heritage Books. Moreover, let me use this opportunity to thank all of you for buying and selling the Heritage Books, as well as for submitting timely articles about events, settlements, and organizations, in addition to a host of remarkable biographies. You have helped compile this remarkable treasure.

The following organizations celebrate anniversaries this year. The Danish Canadian Society, Montreal, celebrates 80 years this year. Sunset Villa was founded 65 years ago. The congregation in Waterloo was formed 50 years ago. The Danish Club of Ottawa celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The Calgary Danish Businessmen's Association was started 35 years ago. The Dickson Store Museum started as The Danish Heritage Society of Dickson in 1985. To all of you, congratulations!

On a serious note, let me just briefly mention two tragic events, which recently occurred in the otherwise peaceful capitals of Canada and Denmark, which moved and shocked all of us. On October 22, 2014 a gunman shot at point-blank range a sentry at the National War Memorial in Ottawa and then rampaged through the Parliament Buildings. Then on February 14, 2015 in Copenhagen, a gunman shot a man in front of a community centre where a panel discussion on Art, Blasphemy and Freedom of Expression was taking place. Later this same gunman shot a security guard in front of the main synagogue in Copenhagen. Tragically, this might be an omen of things to come.

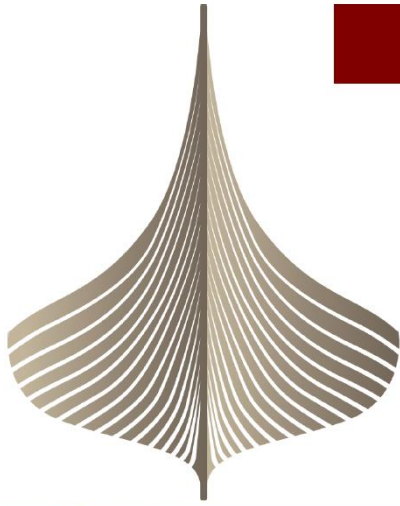
In conclusion I would like to say thank you to the Board of Directors for all your work, support and dedication. And thank you to all Member Organizations who are continually involved in organizing a host of activities across Canada. Keep up the good work! You are contributing to maintaining and promoting our rich Danish heritage.

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

President

Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

Danish Canadian National Museum



Events 2015

- May 8: Opening Day
May 10: Mother's Day Brunch (reservations recommended)
June 13: Volunteer Appreciation
June 21: Father's Day Lunch (reservations recommended)
June 28: Danish Church Service & Old Fashioned Picnic
(RSVP for Picnic)
July 1: Canada Day (coffee and cake are on us)
July 12: Æbleskiver 'n Jam
July 17: Progressive Supper (advance tickets only)
August 15: Feast with the Vikings (advance tickets only)
August 15 & 16: Viking Weekend (reservations required for
lunch in the Saga Café)
September 7: Closing Day
September 12: Community Pit Roast
November 7: Julestue



Enjoy authentic Danish cuisine and delicious
Danish desserts in the Saga Café (licensed)
Gift Shop on site
Bookings for Private Functions
Admission by Donation

Contact Us:
Box 92
Spruce View, AB
T0M 1V0
T: 403.728.0019
E: manager@danishcanadians.com



Visit Us:
35544 Range Road 31
Red Deer County, AB
www.danishcanadians.com

Open May 8 to September 7
Hours:
Thursday through Monday
10:00am to 5:30pm
Closed Tuesdays & Wednesdays



Danish Canadian Conference in Ottawa

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's 33rd annual Conference was held at The Westin Hotel in Ottawa from May 22 – 25, 2014. The Conference theme was Getting Involved and the event was organized and hosted by The Danish Club of Ottawa.

The Conference started Thursday evening with a Meet and Greet Reception at the residence of Danish Ambassador Niels Boel Abrahamsen. The delegates were bussed from The Westin to the residence in Rockcliffe Park. Ambassador Abrahamsen bid welcome as did the president of The Danish Club of Ottawa, Vita Christensen. The president of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, Rolf Christensen, said a few words, followed by Gordon Petersen, president of the Danish Canadian National Museum, who presented Ambassador Abrahamsen with a painting of the Dagmar Church at the Museum. As had been done in 1989, a group photo was taken of the delegates near the flagpole in the upper garden. The wine for the reception had been donated by Mary and Jes Petersen, the beer by Ole Larsen, and the cheese by Arla Foods.

Friday was Museum Day, where the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta, held its Annual General Meeting. Prior to the AGM, the Museum's board of directors met for a breakfast meeting, an opportunity for outside-Alberta directors to participate in a board meeting.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

At the AGM it was announced that the Museum would have to change its bylaws as required by the new federal legislation. As well, the Ontario Region presented a cheque to the Museum to pay off the Bethany Church property. The cheque was presented by Annelise Pedersen, who had received a very generous donation from Asger Pedersen. At lunch, Joe Bissett spoke about issues facing Canada's immigration policy.

After lunch Michele McNabb from the Museum of Danish America spoke about her museum in Elk Horn, Iowa. The Friday afternoon also included a workshop on the Mission and Vision of the Danish Federation, conducted by Gordon Petersen and Steve Morck.

In the evening the Museum in Dickson presented Step into the Saga, primarily updates on what had happened at the museum since the last AGM. The evening included some very successful fundraising, including a live auction, silent auction, raffle and the Donate-a-Brick program. The items for the auctions and raffle had been donated by The Danish Club of Ottawa, delegates, board members and the Museum. The evening's program also included a short skit.

Saturday morning the Board of Directors of the Danish Federation held a short board meeting. This was followed by the Danish Federation's Annual General Meeting, chaired by Solvejg Nielsen. The various member organizations then gave short reports on their activities over the past year. As required by the new federal Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, the member organizations unanimously approved a new set of Bylaws. The chair thanked the Bylaws Committee, consisting of Larry Kjeersgaard, Eva Terp, Gert M. Andersen and Rolf Christensen, for a job well done. The Board was re-elected with Rolf Christensen as president, Gert M. Andersen as vice-president, Aase Christensen as secretary and Sune Overgaard as treasurer. The financial statements were approved. Stepping down, after fourteen years as auditor, was Erik Høgh. Appointed as the new auditor was Soren Sondergaard. At lunch Jim Creskey, editor of The Hill Times, spoke about the challenges of reporting on Federal politics.

The theme of the Conference, Getting Involved, was addressed by Ottawa City Councillor Tim Tierney, who spoke about Getting Involved Locally, as well as by Barbara McInnes, former CEO of the Community Foundation, who spoke about Achieving Success by Getting Involved. In the evening the delegates enjoyed a wonderful and well-deserved three-course dinner and dance, with the band Fitzroy providing the music.

Sunday morning the delegates were treated to a cruise on the Rideau Canal, from the Convention Centre to Dow's Lake and back. It was also Race Weekend in Ottawa, so the delegates had to dodge the marathon runners when crossing Colonel By Drive. A coach then transported the delegates to St. John's Lutheran Church Hall for a traditional Danish lunch with beer and snaps. Musical entertainment was provided by four very talented children of the Ottawa Club, Ethan and Halden Kanstrup and Dana and Lee Jessen. In concluding the Conference, Ottawa Club president Vita Christensen duly handed over the Mail Box and Fane to Solvejg Nielsen, as Vancouver will host the 2015 Danish Canadian Conference.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS



Arriving at the Embassy



Embassy Reception



Reception at the Embassy



Reception at Residence



*Ambassador Abrahamsen holding painting
With Wife Karen Eva
& Gordon Petersen*



Museum Board Meeting



Museum Day

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS



Michael Kanstrup and Marianne Rapley at Banquet



Gert Andersen with fans at Banquet



Boat Cruise



Ontario Participants

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS



Goodbye Lunch with Entertainment



*Thomas Kanstrup with his boys
Ethan and Halden*



Dana Jessen entertains



Guests watch entertainment



Lee Jessen playing guitar



Solvejg Nielsen taking Fane from Vita Christensen

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS



James Bissett



Michelle McNabb



Jim Creskey



Tim Tierney



Barb MacInnes

Danish Sisterhood of America Canada
DOGWOOD LODGE 179 BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Danish Sisterhood of America
 4279 Norland Avenue
 Burnaby, BC
 V5G 3Z6

lodge179@danishsisterhood.ca
 604 294 3369
www.danishsisterhood.ca

CAN DAN
REHATEC LTD.

ALLAN NISSEN

1500 Sandhill Drive, Unit 6 Ancaster, ON L9G 4V5

Tel: (905) 648-7522
www.can-dan.com

Fax: (905) 648-7799
info@can-dan.com

THE CHRISTMAS DOCTOR
 The True Story of Dr. J. P. Weber
 by Tom Weber

"You have a wonderful father to remember. I am very moved."
 - Liv Ullmann

Available on Amazon

He ran several miles to save the life of an injured Swiss-American girl

Experience a little taste of Denmark in Oakville



 The Danish
Pastry House™



487 Cornwall Road, Unit E1 Oakville, ON L6J 7S8 — 905 844-7777
www.danishpastryhouse.ca



Reports from the Member Organizations

Given at the Annual General Meeting, Ottawa, May 24, 2014

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 2014 reports from the member organizations:

2. Danish Canadian Society Inc. of Montreal

The first event of 2013 was the Family BBQ to celebrate Grundlovsdag. About 30 members, guests, friends of DCS and children enjoyed the afternoon with steak and hotdogs on the BBQ. Sankt Hans Aften was celebrated as usual at the Nissen's Dutch Greenhouses in Napierville. About 60 people came to participate. Everybody enjoyed an amazing bring-your-own-food



picnic. Most brought plenty so there was a virtual taste test going on. Victoria Sørensen brought mouth-watering desserts from Duc de Lorraine. Thank you Victoria! After coffee and dessert the witch was duly sent off to Bloksbjerg while everyone enjoyed the bonfire and singing many of our much loved Danish songs. Thank you to Janet and Peter for letting us use their greenhouses and the grounds. Their hospitality knows no bounds and is greatly appreciated

After a hiatus while "Vineland" was down for repairs, The Canada Day Parade was very well attended by an

army of Vikings and their families all dressed in period costumes. Some Vikings even joined along the way. Our Viking ship, "Vineland" sparkled with new paint over all the repairs done by a very dedicated group of people. Thank you to Nis, Peter, Svend, Kren and many others, who took time out of their busy schedule to lend a helping hand. Thank you to The Danish Club for sharing the expenses of the cost of the repairs and for helping with the restoration. A huge thank you goes to Vagn Nissen for pulling the float with his truck. After the parade a group of participants got together for an "al fresco" lunch at PJ's on rue St. Jacques.

September came around to yet another function: On September 16th about 50 members, former members and friends enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at The Legion in N.D.G. Delicious Danish food, prepared by friends and members, was served. Thank you so much. Thank you to our wonderful florists for the beautiful flowers and thank you to all who brought door prizes! It was a delightful afternoon. Thank you to all who prepared the food, who helped set the tables and to clean up after the party.

The Christmas party in December was attended by about 70 people. As usual Bjørg and Svend got the party off to a great start by serving Gløgg and Swedish cookies. Thank you for serving and providing the gløgg and the cookies. The traditional Christmas dinner of roast pork, caramelized potatoes and red cabbage was served and of course followed by ris à l'amande with

Conferences and Seminars

cherry sauce. Entertainment was provided by the Sweet Adelines, West Island Chapter. The children had fun creating Christmas decorations in the Julestue.

The Danish Christmas Service was held at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church and was well attended. The service was conducted by Anne Jørgensen and Pastor Birgit Neuchild. The organist was Wilhelmina Tiemersma. Unfortunately Pastor Samuel King-Kabu was not able to attend as he had an out-of-town function.

The first event of 2014 was Fastelavn celebrated in style with a potluck lunch and an array of desserts. Everyone was dressed up in costumes from pretty flower-princesses to Super Heroes and all had a good time. Young and young-at-heart used their imagination to decorate Fastelavnsris and in the end the Fastelavn's barrel got a beating until all the candy spilled and a Fastelavn's King and Queen were crowned.

In closing I would like to thank members and friends and the members of the board, who gave so generously of their time and energy to help prepare food, set up tables and most important help with cleaning up after the events. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by Ole Larsen, President

4. The Danish Club of Ottawa

Hello and welcome to everyone!

Our Danish Club is alive and quite well, in spite of everyone growing older and not always up to the tasks at hand. Unfortunately many Clubs suffer from this syndrome, I am afraid.



In order to bring younger members and New Life into the Ottawa Club a Task Force is in the process of being established. The Task Force will discuss and develop a Vision for the Club. The issues and tasks to be addressed are:

- What does the young membership want?
- What do they see down the road?
- How important is the Club to them?
- What are they willing and able to contribute?

The Task Force will meet and function independently of the Board, which will serve as a Resource and, of course, be ultimately responsible for finances etc. I hope it will be a fruitful undertaking, and one which we all will approach with an open mind and with respect for each other.

Now for something more positive: We had a successful Bazaar in November 2013 – we mustered 60 volunteers – we had good weather and a large turn-out, as well as a nice big profit. This is our Club at its Best!

Another highlight this year was a Book Reading and Launch on April 15, 2014, which our Club co-sponsored with the Ottawa International Writers Festival, the Danish Embassy, and the Nordic Society. The author was Jonas Bengtsson from Copenhagen who spoke about his book "A Fairy Tale". His reading and talk was followed by questions and him signing copies of his book which were for sale. Over 80 people attended, including the Danish Ambassador and his wife.

Respectfully submitted by Vita Christensen, President

5. The Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto

For the Danish Church in Toronto, 2013 was a year of change. After our pastor left, we were so lucky to have several former ministers come to Toronto and look after the pastoral duties while we waited for a new pastor. In July, we were pleased to welcome Pastor Kenneth Berg and later his young wife, Mette, to Toronto. They quickly became part of the church family and visibly

enjoyed their duties here. The congregation has taken part in many inspiring church services since Pastor Kenneth's arrival. Our regular organist moved on to another job but shortly thereafter a young Danish lady, studying in Toronto, became our organist. Thanks to our board, our numerous volunteers and the eager participants, our many groups continue to offer activities



for people of all ages. At our AGM, we were pleasantly surprised to hear that despite the many pastors and a winter we will all remember, our average attendance on Sundays remained at 55. Our two bazaars continue to be great fundraisers with over \$30,000 in profit.

Another great change at our church involved the Kitchen Renovation Project. The new stove that was required escalated into a whole new kitchen

which had to be housed in two rooms due to new codes and would cost us close to \$75,000. Fund raising became the focus. Theme Dinners, The Penny Bottle, Lunches with Films, the Art in the Church Booklet, a Shopping Trip with stops at European Outlets all helped as did many private donations. By our Thanksgiving Dinner when Bishop Steen Skovsgaard arrived, the kitchen was completed and \$25,000 had been raised. Through much extra hard work \$32,000 was reached by March. How pleased we all were to receive a phone call from the daughter of a former member. She kindly suggested that in her Mother's name she and her family would donate the rest of the amount needed to pay for our renovation. The kitchen was now ours! About 80 people attended the service on Mother's Day and the wonderful celebration held for the family as a thank you after the service. The kitchen is there for many future Danish dinners and will hopefully be enjoyed by the next generation.

Presented and submitted by Liselotte Østergaard

9. Sunset Villa Association, Puslinch

Greetings from Sunset Villa!



Here at Sunset Villa we have been busy for nearly 60 years since the Association was founded. We are not your everyday Danish Canadian Association; we are landlords and landowners and as such we have a lot of responsibilities in making sure everything runs smoothly. We have 54 acres of land to maintain and for sure we could never do it without the "Geritol Gang" volunteers, who come in every Friday, rain or shine, to do what we

would otherwise have to pay a fortune to have done by outsiders. We have 10 apartments to maintain and keep up to date with all the everyday things that can go wrong in a house. We have to make sure all are warm, have clean running water and nice surroundings. We have a very big trailer park with nearly 50 trailers; they too must have running water and electricity to keep warm and not sit in the dark. Again this would not be possible without the volunteers. Then there is the restaurant which also requires upkeep. This winter we had a leaking roof and the ceiling came down, requiring repairs. So you see, at Sunset Villa we are busy at all times all year long. We have a lovely group of ladies, "The Sunshine Ladies", who maintain the gift shop, make "Nisser" etc. for the Christmas bazaar and in the process make money for the club. But it is not all serious stuff going on here, during the year we have, of course, several fun functions. Last year we had a couple of Concerts which were well attended, we had 2 delicious BBQ's during the summer, St. Hands and of course the big celebration coming up June 1st; Constitution Day!

Conferences and Seminars

Last year we had 875 paying guests in the park. We had a contest for best Viking costume. We had Folk dancers, very delicious smørrebrød and æbleskiver made by a whole gang of people. I believe more than 4,000 were made and you can be sure none were left over. What would we do without volunteers?

We just had a lovely unofficial visit by the Ambassador, Niels Boel Abrahamsen and the Trade Commissioner, Morten Siem Lynge, so you see we do relax now and then with good company, nice food, beer and “en little snaps”.

As most other Societies and Associations, we are trying very hard to get the next generation involved. As you know it is easier said than done. We need a fresh younger group of volunteers with new ideas to take Sunset Villa and the vision our Founders had into the next 60 years.

Respectfully submitted by Karin Thorlund Larsen, President; presented by Gert Andersen

10. Sunset Mindepark, Puslinch

Sunset Mindepark Urn Cemetery is doing very well, the gardens survived the long and hard winter very well; luckily the otherwise very serious ice storm did little damage to trees and bushes.



The volunteer maintenance group has done the spring cleanup and the grounds look good to the many visitors coming out, to check on their dear ones resting place.

2014 Interments have started with two done and with several coming up.

Prices for Plots have increased to \$750.00 and for Columbarium Niches \$1,600.00

Opening and closing is now \$250.00 per

interment for the 5 weekdays and \$300.00 for Saturday interment.

The Cemetery By-Laws has been revised in order to comply with the Ontario Ministry of Consumer Services, Cemetery Regulation unit's guide lines.

Also a Federal Corporation request for Transition from The Corporations Act II to the Canada Non Profit Act has been filed.

The Sunset Mindepark's Annual General Meeting was held at Sunset Villa Restaurant on Saturday May 10, 2014 at 2.00 PM. where the Transition and the new By-Laws were presented and unanimously approved by the members.

Sunset Mindepark - Ontario is by now a quite well known final resting place for people of Danish decent in Ontario, Canada and really North America since we have several from USA as well.

Respectfully submitted by Soren Sondergaard, President and Interment Director

11. Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula, Grimsby

The past year was very good at Grimsby. There were many activities at the Church and they were all well attended. For events such as Fastelavn, Santa Lucia and Christmas party we had a good number of children attending, mostly grandchildren and great grandchildren of the congregation.

The main actions by the board were to find ways to increase donations, but more importantly for the long run was to find areas where the expenses of the Church could be reduced.

Conferences and Seminars

Starting with the high costs of heating, we consulted with members of the Toronto Church and noted from their experience that as much as 40% savings might be possible by installing a high-efficiency boiler. The Veissman boiler rated at 95% efficiency fitted the bill, so a call went out to our members for donations to help make this conversion and upgrade possible.



With great elation we discovered that when the need was great the many seen and the many more rarely seen members of our little Church responded well, and together with some much appreciated assistance from Denmark, the funds were in place.

The Veissman boiler is now installed and performing beautifully! We shall be keeping a close watch on the upcoming savings to be determined after the next winter.

We are looking forward to making more improvements at the Church, all to help ensure that it will continue well into the future. Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen has been most helpful in this regard by encouraging us to do whatever is necessary to preserve this old but very solid building. We are all very pleased Lars and Lis are staying two more years.

Thank you all.

On behalf of the Chairman, Peter Kjaer, Presented by Gert Andersen

12. Danish Lutheran Congregation at St. John's Church, Waterloo, ON

On behalf of the Danish Congregation at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waterloo, I wish to report our activities for 2013.

We started 2013 with a New Year's Service in January officiated by Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen.

At our Annual General Meeting on February 17, 2013, we presented our financial statement to the congregation. We continue to collect and use a small coffee fund and our church collection is given to the Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby.

Throughout 2013 we marked all Christian occasions with special services.

In November of last year we welcomed the new minister, Pastor Kenneth Berg from the Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto. After the service, the congregation celebrated Pastor Berg's arrival with a dinner, good fellowship and a sing along.

In September of this year we are starting our 50th year of Danish Lutheran Services at St. John's and would like to invite all of you to attend our 50th celebration service. We will keep you posted on the date.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Esther Garde Pedersen

16. The Danish Canadian Club, Calgary

As usual, we started our year with the New Year's Gala with festivities running well into the New Year. January marked the 40th anniversary of the opening of our Mermaid Inn restaurant. Two of our staff from that era, were there, to reminisce about the menu which consisted of open-faced sandwiches at the bar for 50 cents and the fact that the dishes had to be carried upstairs to be hand washed in the kitchen. How the menu and the prices have changed. This year also marked the 26th anniversary of the GREAT DAMES GALA whose volunteers have been raising money for various local charities each year. This year Habitat for Humanity was the recipients of the proceeds of \$16,000. It was our clubs turn to staff the local Casino and receive a share of the proceeds which we use for club improvements, scholarships, donations to the National Danish

Conferences and Seminars

Museum, Sharon Danish Lutheran church; other charities and the cost of our Stampede parade float when that was an annual event. At the present time our turn to participate in the casino only occurs at 20 month intervals, and the huge job of organizing volunteers to staff the 2 day event has been handled for many years by our hard working member Jens Lehman. In addition to the



New Years and Great Dames Galas, the Club continues to host the other core functions such as the Stampede Pancake Breakfast, the Gentlemen's Viking Stag, the Valentines party, The Mother's Day Brunch, The Danish Christmas Dinner and the children's parties,

including Katten af Tønden, Halloween and Christmas. None of these things could occur without tremendous effort of countless volunteers usually lead by our tireless social director Bente Dalberg. We are also the home for The Naver Club, the Viking Businessmen's Association, the plus 55 group and the Cribbage Club.

This year marked the 80th anniversary of the founding of our club by the merging of three separate Danish Clubs in 1933 and we celebrated the occasion with a party and dance in October for a gathering of about 200 members and friends. Pictures and other memorabilia were retrieved from basements, closets and photo albums to be enjoyed and discussed over a great meal and a few beverages. Some of the past Board Presidents were recognized and tribute was given to the many members and staff whose efforts have carried the club through the many hills and valleys from that humble beginning to the point where our mortgage could be burned a few years ago. To say that we experienced a very different year of operation would be an understatement. Things were fairly normal until mid-June when forecasters were expecting a typical June storm but something else was brewing. Intense driving rain struck, bringing more precipitation to an already soggy province, and adding to the rapid melt of the heavy winter snow pack in the mountains. Alberta's worst flood in decades had arrived and it would destroy homes and businesses in Calgary and the surrounding area and displace over 100,000 people. While downtown Calgary was flooded and shut down the Danish Canadian Club escaped any physical damage due to its higher elevation, but power and communications were cut off for about a week. In the midst of the chaos a temporary power generator was located to run the food storage facilities at the club and although some prepared food had to be destroyed, other direct loss was averted. As businesses and families struggled with much more severe problems in Calgary and High River the only other effect the club saw was the reduced business at the club which continued for many months as people had other things on their minds than dining out. As individuals and groups volunteered to help people clean out the polluted mud and destroyed furnishings from homes, businesses, churches and other buildings we all began to fully realize the tremendous damage many of our neighbors had suffered.

As we moved into 2014 we hosted a group of multi-national fans who came to watch the finals of the Eurovision contest which we had streamed live to the club from Copenhagen. Also in May, The Danish National Museum had invited the new Danish ambassador to visit Alberta so we co-hosted a business lunch and a supper at the club where local businessmen and our members had an opportunity to speak with the ambassador and hear about our countries and citizens shared interests and values.

Submitted by Ben Kroman, President

18. Sharon Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary



This “Club Report” was written by Charlotte Berg, Pastor of the Danish Lutheran Church in Calgary with the assistance of an article written by Liselotte Basboll in the Heritage book of 2012. It was presented by Charlotte Berg during the Danish Ambassador’s visit to Calgary.

The Danish Lutheran Church which today is located on 10th Avenue North East, is the result of an amalgamation of the two Danish churches

in Calgary, which took place in September/October 2010. Before that time, both churches for many years had their own story, which I’m now briefly going to give you a glimpse of.

Having a Danish Church in Calgary goes back to 1913. Actually, on New Year’s Day 1913, a group of Danish immigrants celebrated their new year with a layman’s church service. They decided that because they enjoyed their weekly prayer meetings and Sunday layman’s services, they really needed a church and a pastor. They decided to form a congregation and then proceeded to elect a board from their group.

At their first congregational meeting they decided to name their church “Sharon, Danish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation”. It is unclear as to who their pastor was – whether it was either the Pastor from Dickson or Standard.

Not until 10 ½ years later, did the hope and prayers of the congregation for a pastor of their own finally materialize. June 20th 1923 Pastor M. Christensen arrived.



He had a good influence on the congregation and made it realize its obligation to the church, so slowly a financial surplus had started to accumulate when he resigned only three years later. He organized that the congregation could hold its services and meetings at the Norwegian church.

A Pastor Knudsen from Brooklyn, New York, became his successor and while he was leading the congregation the dreams of the congregation of having its own church building gained speed. In December 1928 the congregation had raised enough money to buy 4 lots on 10th Avenue. A little less than 2 years later on November 3rd 1930 it was decided, at an extraordinary meeting, to build a church in a Danish style on two of the lots.

In order to keep the cost as low as possible, the congregation took it upon themselves to help out as much as possible. February 7th 1931, the church was completed on the outside and much of the furniture such as the Altar, the pews and a pulpit were ready to be installed.

As time went by and the war brought disruptions, the Danish language slowly disappeared from Sharon’s services and activities. Therefore, when a new wave of Danish immigrants came to Calgary in the 50’s, Sharon Church tried to embrace them, but their wish for having their services in Danish were finally so strong, so they too wanted to form their own congregation with their own pastor and their own church!

A retired Danish pastor from Dalum helped out the Danish speaking congregation in its early start where they had services in different private homes, and with his help the congregation asked DKU (Dansk Kirke i Udlandet – Danish Church Abroad - an organization in Denmark which

Conferences and Seminars

through private funds, supports Danish congregations abroad and helps them to call a Danish pastor) for assistance.

In 1964, Pastor Charlo Staal Nielsen and his family arrived in Calgary and the Danish Lutheran Church, Calgary, took its beginning, first as a congregation, which rented space for worship, but soon in its own building at 130 - 32 Ave NW.

Both churches had a lot of prosperous years with several pastors, flourishing Sunday School and lived side by side for almost 45 years. Both had Danish roots, but they were of two different generations.

Both churches have been involved in the Calgary community by supporting the building of several new Lutheran Churches in Calgary, by helping establishing the retirement home Dana Village on Simcoe Blvd SW and the care center Bethany on 18A Street NW.

Then one morning in December 2009, the treasurer of The Danish Church on 32th Ave. was contacted by the Chairman of the Board at Sharon Lutheran Church asking if the church would consider buying Sharon Lutheran Church for \$1.00 and move the congregation and the services to Sharon Church. The reason was that the Sharon congregation was aging and wanted to “die” in its church.

At that time, the Danish Lutheran Church was in the process of calling a new pastor from Denmark - me - and about to finish the building of a new parsonage - so suddenly a lot was on the plate. After many meetings and some joint services it finally was decided on August 3, 2010 to merge. On October 3, 2010 we celebrated the first Thanksgiving service as one congregation in Sharon Church.

It is now 3 ½ years ago and lot of things have happened: lately we have finished building a narthex to the church so a lift could be installed to the members of the congregations who can't make the steps anymore and the hall downstairs has been renovated. Much is still on our wish list!

One thing is for sure, the congregation is not dying anymore. I feel that the amalgamation has been a boost to both congregations and now we are again trying to take up the tradition of looking outward towards the community by having Vacation Bible Schools, Danish Classes and also events that are open to our neighborhood, such as Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve and Dessert Nights.

20. The Naver Club, Calgary

The club membership sits at 46 members making it the largest club worldwide. The members meet once a month at the Danish Canadian Club, where they share a meal and sign some songs. This year six members traveled to California to join that club to celebrate their 40th Anniversary on April the 12th. The club also has a stampede breakfast, a weekend camp-out, a summer get-together at a member's home, as well as a Christmas party at the Danish Canadian Club.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Steen Jochumsen

21. The Royal Danish Guards' Association, Western Canada



The Western Canada Association has 23 members at an average age of 71.6 years. As no new immigrants are coming to Canada from Denmark, the membership can only decline. The association still has the fall meeting that is well attended as well as a summer picnic at one of the members' home. This year we hope to have two members from Manitoba at our picnic, as well as members from Edmonton;

Westbank, British Columbia; and North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Respectfully submitted and presented by Steen Jochumsen

23. Danish Canadian National Museum, Dickson

Another year passed quickly at the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson. Details of the workings, events, finances and future plans of the museum were shared at the AGM yesterday. I wish to highlight some of these from the perspective of a board member and summer volunteer at the museum.



The past year showed successes in many areas. These successes were brought about by the efforts of many persons, especially the Core Staffing Team, Board of Directors and numerous volunteers (both as individuals and participants of various organizations). The full and part time members of the Core Staffing Team are characterized by their willingness to work beyond the hours allotted to their positions. Last year's student staff members displayed amazing enthusiasm, and initiative in fulfilling and extending their assigned roles, and efforts in fostering the mission of the museum.

The Strategic Plan 2013 – 2018 has been completed, and its implementation will give detailed direction to guide decisions promoting the work of the museum in the future. The development of a detailed financial reporting system has given a more accurate and broad picture of the financial resources required to manage a national museum. Finances continue to be a concern, especially with the cancelled funding from the Alberta government effective in 2013. Without the generous donations and support from the membership in the past, the future would look bleak. Policies related to memorial gifts, bequests from estates, and Legacy Builder donations are currently being revised and clarified. Annual gift campaign donors who give a specified amount can look forward to a print of another featured part of the museum.



Work has begun on the revision and new directions of our constitution and bylaws to meet the requirements of the Federal legislation, Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act. Input from the membership is a vital part of this process.

New events this past year were well received. A Multicultural Day encouraged various groups from neighbouring communities to display their interests and events. A Danish service at the end of June, held at Bethany Lutheran Church, and led by Pastor Charlotte Berg was attended by many. Perhaps the newest building on the museum grounds attracted the most attention; the handcrafted wooden Naust to house the Freydis Joanna is an outstanding structure standing beautifully at the lake side.

Various forms of publicity are making the museum more widely known. Through most generous donations of expertise, materials and labour, new signage is now in place in Dickson. This is the beginning of other signage that will replace existing displays or be placed in areas lacking signs. And now, an invitation----

Conferences and Seminars

Each member or participating group of the Federation is invited to partner with the museum in ways meaningful to them. We invite you to visit the museum in person, and if that is not possible, to become involved in letting others know about our national treasure. You might wish to sponsor some project at the museum. Coffee and Danish treats are always available at our newly named “Saga Cafe”! We hope to see you soon!

Respectfully submitted by Sonja Myroon, Presented by Carl Sorensen

24. Red Deer Danish Canadian Club



The Red Deer Danish Canadian Club membership continues to hold steady at about 85 members. We hold a number of events throughout the year including:

- Annual General Meeting in February
 - Spring Campout on the May long weekend
 - St. Hans Fest
 - July 1 Heritage Days in Red Deer
 - Providing our concession trailer and manpower for events at the Danish Museum in Dickson
 - Golf Tournament in August
- Fall Campout on the September long weekend
 - Harvest Party
 - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
 - Christmas Party
 - Weekly Danish lessons led by Pernille Nielsen

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

All of our events and activities are described in detail on our website at: www.rddcc.com.

Respectfully Submitted by Larry Kjearsgaard, President

25. The Danish Canadian Society “Dania”, Edmonton



The past year has been slow for Dania. The numbers for our October and January dances were down, but everybody still had a good time. Our Camp-out also had fewer participants than in previous years, probably caused by all the rain we experienced the past few years, where several vehicles got stuck in the mud. Hopefully improvements to the campground will bring people back. The Children’s Christmas Party was great as always.

Submitted by Jens Woller, President

26. Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton

Best wish to all from Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton!

We enjoyed a fair year for participation in our service by our different groups this year considering the shrinking number of parishioners. With age creeping in and next to no new emigrants coming to here, but we still have people coming back, being busy or having been away, some very encouraging facts.

Thanks to many volunteers and supporters, being it money on regular basis or special donation, fund raiser-events by our groups and bequests from dear people passed away. Our outlook is bright. The Christmas Bazaar with Danish sandwiches, the Spring Supper and Concert were very popular fundraiser events, places to meet.

A summer rain storm created a basement flood that lead to extended repairs and chose to renovate in connection with that. Thanks to people donating materials and labour and especially to Valery who looked after the administrative part thereof, and to Gunnar Jensen who worked continuously with trades and jobs not farmed out. It is nicely coming together and looking forward to grand-reopening on Mother's Day in May.

A kind provider of his space by the Danish Library made it possible to carry on our regular winter activities of meetings, Men's Breakfast and Hygge-Klubben with food and various subjects of interest.

The seniors at Ansgar Villa enjoy a monthly devotion hour with communion. Bruno shows movies of their interest, and the Thanksgiving Dinner all come together there, a blessing for us all.

Pastor Gus did extend his term here and we can enjoy his experience he gained by the time passed at a somewhat different call, at a church abroad.

We look forward to enjoy our service in English as well as in Danish, the old Danish hymns, the preaching in our mother tongue, being dear to many elderly people.

Our basement renovation gave us a new fresh look with insulated walls, kitchen with better stove and cabinets. Modern heating system taking less space, allowing upgrade toilets, space for handy-cab stall, ready to adapt to elevator installation for better accessibility, a long time wish to keep with the times.

I will conclude to say, we share a great hope for the future at Ansgar Church in Edmonton.

Submitted by Kaj Nicolajsen, President; presented by Jens Woller



27. The Danish Canadian Community Centre of British Columbia

We had our AGM and it was decided to get some legal advice regarding the disposition of our monies.

Our Grundlovsfest will be held again at the Scandinavian Centre on June 1 with the Scandinavian dancers putting in an appearance.

We are planning our annual Christmas by the Fireside together with the Danish House. We sponsor, together with the Danish House, ten \$1,000.00 scholarships which are awarded in June at the Kroaften. We are four members who work independently to review these applications. We received 17 applications this year and 10 were awarded.

We also award to Danish Clubs and societies the maximum amount possible from the interest we receive from our GICs.

Submitted and presented by Ella Wolder

28. Danish Brotherhood in America, Lodge 328, Vancouver



Vancouver Lodge 328 continues the monthly meetings which are well attended.

The Lodge hosts two parties a year, the Valentine Dinner and Dance and a Bingo Dinner and Dance in November.

A yearly Bowling Tournament has become a tradition

together with friends from Seattle. Best wishes for a good conference!

Submitted and presented by Solvejg Nielsen

29. Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest

Greetings from the President, Kenneth Olsen, Seattle!

Garderstuen at Doris and Knud Nielsen's home is used for the meetings on the B.C. Mainland.

The Queen Margrethe Dinner and Dance was held at the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby. It was a very festive evening with 90 participants, on April 19th, 2014.

Submitted and presented by Solvejg Nielsen

30. Danish Lutheran Church, Vancouver



Greetings from the President, Knud Nielsen!

As mentioned in last year's report the enormous project of renovating the church kitchen, making an additional kitchen area, expanding for more storage space and having an elevator installed is now all completed and paid for, a total of \$300,000.

We look forward to hosting the Sunday breakfast in our church hall, for all delegates and visitors at the 2015 Conference.

Submitted and presented by Solvejg Nielsen

31. Dania Home, Senior Citizen Residence, Burnaby

Greetings to everyone at the Conference in Ottawa!

The new Dania Home on Norland Avenue in Burnaby had the Roof Raising Ceremony

“Rejsegilde” on April 25th, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

A flag and wreath was raised to the rafters – a true Danish tradition. We anticipate that the new Dania Home building will be ready by the spring of 2015 – for next year's Conference!

On behalf of the President Kjeld Christensen

Submitted and presented by Solvejg Nielsen

32. Danish House Society, Burnaby, British Columbia



At the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby, British Columbia, we now have all five Nordic Countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland, as owners of the centre. Iceland officially joined this past year.

The invitation to come to Vancouver for the 2015 Danish Canadian Conference is in the Heritage Book. The Danish House Society looks forward to hosting the event.

Submitted and presented by Solvejg Nielsen

33. Granly Danish Lutheran Church, Surrey, British Columbia

Pastor Morten Larsen and his wife Elizabeth Sivertsen left in April after their 2nd term of two years at Granly. The new Pastor is Claus Franck and his wife Merete. They have just arrived; it is their 2nd term of two years at Granly.

On behalf of the President Manfred Hoff

Submitted and presented by Solvejg Nielsen

34. Danish Sisterhood of America, Lodge 179, Vancouver

Our Lodge holds 10 meetings a year.

May 2013 - In May 2013 - we celebrated our 43rd Anniversary and participated in the PNW Convention in Portland, Oregon. Further we took part in the 'Flag Day' at the Danish Church in honour of Denmark's liberation in 1945.

June - In June we celebrated 'Grundlovsdag' (Constitution Day) with a picnic in the park for members, their families and our Pet club members. And at our meeting we celebrate our members special days, round birthdays and anniversaries with a special dinner. We participated in the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, where we in the Danish tent promoted the DS and sold many of our Danish cookbooks and other items.



A new Membership list (with photos of all our members) was created.

July & August - Though we do not hold meetings in July or August, we always hold a Summer Picnic with a BBQ BC salmon and chicken on the grill and invited the Brotherhood Lodge #328 – it was a fun day in warm sunshine.

September - After the summer holiday, we started our meetings again in September with a regular business meeting. We changed our Opening and closing songs at meetings to: Oh Canada and Der er et yndigt land.

October - At our meeting in Oct. we worked on our Art & Craft items for our upcoming Bazaar.

November - We participated in the combined Brotherhood/Sisterhood Andespil/Bingo, where the Sisters made and sold over 400 Danish Open- faced sandwiches. We also held our Bazaar and sold many of our art and crafts items and of course all our homemade bake-goods, which was sold out within two hours.

Conferences and Seminars

December - Our yearly and very festive Christmas party was held in December with a typical Danish dinner, followed by many 'Julesange' and our 'Julegaver' exchange – (nobody goes home empty handed) and with our raffle we were able to donate \$270.00 to our favorite charity.

January 2014 - The first meeting in January 2014 was filled with various paperwork and duties assigned and the initiation of new members. We allocated our chosen yearly donations (\$500.00) and split it between four organizations. Some members were awarded with their 25th year Anniversary pins.

February - Our yearly financial statement, revised Membership List, and the new Officers duty list were handed out in February. As well, our Bylaws were revised.

Membership fees were collected and sent to both the PNW District and to National – as well as our yearly membership to the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada and to the Danish Museum, Alberta. We were also very grateful that we received a Grant from the *Danish Canadian Community Centre*, so with that, our annual Financial Statement looks good.

March - In March we had the combined PNW Bowling Tournament – held in Kirkland, Washington - with lots of gutter balls – many spares and strikes followed by the trophy awards and banquet celebrated with Danish sandwiches and of course lots of beer and snaps.

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with home-made 'Æbleskiver' served with Green Martini's – that went down well - it was a fun evening and we were all wearing something **Green** and had prizes for the best costumes.

April - At the April meeting, we held a Bingo with prizes and we were preparing for and participated in the Olympia/Tacoma PNW Convention - it was a great event and wonderful to meet many of our Sisters and Brothers from other Lodges again.

We decided to have 250 Sisterhood business cards made to use for recruiting new members.

May - At our May meeting we received revisions to our local Lodge Manuals and we represented the Danish Sisterhood at the Alexandra Multicultural Festival. It was a huge success and we have been invited to participate next year.

Sadly, since the last report we have lost one dear Sister, who was one of our Founders.

Apart from that

Newsletter - We send out four local newsletters a year – Spring - Summer - Fall - Winter – advising of upcoming events and with lots of other interesting news - 95% are sent by email and only 5% by regular mail, so that had helps cut down expenses - and have managed to get yet another advertiser to give us their support.

Kro-Aften - In February, April and September we participate in the popular "Kro-Aften" at the Scandinavian Centre where again the Sisters made close to 500 open-faced sandwiches. It is a very profitable event for our Lodge.

Our Pet Club is a small fundraiser for our Lodge and a different way to connect members through their pets. We now have thirteen life-time pet-members.

Our Website www.danishsisterhood.ca that still gets good feed-back (please check it out) has been updated to a newer version including a Photo Gallery that contains pictures taken at all our events. It is great tool for enrolling new members online.

In conclusion, being part of the Sisterhood Lodge #179 is never dull – and keeps us on our toes.

Our goal is to motivate our present members and to attract new members to join our Lodge, and at the same time learn to understand and enjoy our heritage and Danish traditions, but I hope you can see from our report, that we have a lively and productive lodge. However, as most organizations we strive for more new members to join us.

We look forward to the 2015 Federation Conference to be held in Vancouver and sponsored by the Danish House Society.

Respectfully submitted by Jannet Tricarico

36. Danish Social Club of Victoria

Greeting to the Danish Federation from the Danish Social Club of Victoria!

Our Club has approximately 100 members and we meet nine times a year, plus we have a picnic in July and a BBQ in August.



Our Club is doing well. Three times a year we serve smørrebrød on a Saturday noon and that will usual bring out approximately 70 people. In March we served Hamburgerryg with creamed kale and that was a change, but very much appreciated by our members and again we had about 70 people for dinner. Christmas dinner is our big celebration and that will bring 100 to 120 people. We will serve flæskesteg and all the trimmings, well prepared by Henny Andersen from up Island.

Our motto is "TO HAVE FUN" and we aim for

that at every meeting.

We try to have some kind of entertainment at every function and so far we have had Mexican Dancers, a slide presentation of Storm P's caricatures, the Mayor of Oak Bay and others.

Our future looks bright. We have had new members joining us at every meeting and we have had attendance both from the Swedish and the Norwegian Clubs. Our best wishes for the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's convention in Ottawa!

Respectfully submitted by Jorgen Kierkegaard, President

Presented by Bendix Andersen

41. Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa

2013 was a milestone year for the Museum of Danish America. We celebrated our 30th anniversary in June with a gala tent luncheon attended by the Danish Ambassador to the US, Peter Taksøe-Jensen, and Iowa Governor, Terry Branstad, (who coincidentally was also present as governor at the original dedication of the museum). Construction also began on the 8,000-square-foot Curatorial Center, the largest project undertaken since the original museum building was built. The Curatorial Center will provide temperature- and humidity-controlled space for the intake, storage and processing of the thousands of artifacts in the museum collection, storage for the supplies needed to preserve them, and staff offices and an exhibit preparation area. The Center's 'green' roof of prairie plants will complement another major ongoing museum



endeavor: development of the Jens Jensen Prairie Landscape Park in the 30 acres surrounding the museum following the vision elucidated by this famous Danish-American landscape architect.

In response to an ongoing discussion about what museums should be in the 21st century and how to meet the challenges of changing demographics the museum has taken several steps to increase our relevance and serve a public increasingly distant in time and place from where their immigrant ancestors settled. The first of these has been a name change from **The Danish**

Immigrant Museum to **Museum of Danish America** to address the fact that the immigration era is essentially over. For one thing, many Danish-born individuals are long-term residents in this country but don't consider themselves to be immigrants; for another, many people appreciate

Conferences and Seminars

Denmark and things Danish without having a drop of Danish blood, and the museum wants to include these groups in our programming and outreach audience. Another step has been in the increased number of museum exhibits that have been made available for traveling to other locations, both large and small. Our major 2013 exhibit, Danish Modern: Design for Living, is



currently in Seattle, Washington, after being on display in St. Paul, Minnesota. Another traveling exhibit, 'Schleswig-Holstein: Turmoil on the Danish-German Border', is now at the German American Heritage Center in Davenport, Iowa, after having been exhibited in Elk Horn. We are also expanding and enhancing our online and social media presence in several ways. Visitors to the museum webpage www.danishmuseum.org can go

to "Sampling the Collection" to view a selection of artifacts in our collection or "Viewed through the Lens: Visual Resources," to see a collection of the Genealogy Center photo exhibits of past years. We also have nearly 5,000 Facebook Friends, and a presence on Twitter, Tumblr, and Pinterest as well as our own YouTube channel with a variety of how-to and other videos.


Genealogy Center library and research manager Michele McNabb enjoyed meeting colleagues and Federation members in Ottawa this past summer. On behalf of the museum staff we look forward to future contacts and collaboration among our organizations, many of which are facing identical challenges.

Submitted and Presented by Michele McNabb, Genealogy Center Manager, & Librarian



Alastair Smith
Président
alastair@planterra.ca

PLANTERRA LTÉE.
Grossistes de plantes et accessoires de qualité.
Les spécialistes en paysagisme intérieur et design.
Location à court terme. Décoration pour Noël.
Wholesalers of quality plants and accessories.
The interior landscape and design specialists.
Short term rentals. - Holiday decorating.
2275 chemin Saint-François, Dorval,
Québec, Canada. H9P 1K3
Tel.: (514) 684-1711 • Fax: (514) 684-8199
www.planterra.ca



Little Denmark
267 chemin Roxham C.P. / Box 64
Hemmingford, Québec J0L 1H0
Fleurs pour toutes occasions
Flowers for all occasions
Norma Jacobsen
Leif Jacobsen
Erik Jacobsen
(450) 247-2718
1-800-363-1446

VAGHN NISSEN
Tél. : (450) 245-3226
Fax : (450) 245-7148



Serres
DUTCH
Greenhouses inc.
Cultivateurs de Potées Fleuries et plantes Tropicales
Growers of Flowering and Tropical Plants
787 Route 217, Napierville, Qc, J0J 1L0



Making life easier...

Coloplast develops products and services that make life easier for people with very personal and private medical conditions. Working closely with the people who use our products, we create solutions that are sensitive to their special needs. We call this intimate healthcare. Our business includes ostomy care, continence care, urology and wound and skin care. We operate globally, employing more than 9,000 people.

Danish Heritage Seminar at Calabogie Peaks Resort

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

The theme of the 2014 Danish Heritage Seminar was South Slesvig. Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen of Grimsby, the Headmaster, spoke about the history of South Slesvig; daily life of the Danes there; Danish organizations south of the border; his time in South Slesvig; as well as the Danish Senior Centre, which he was involved in building in South Slesvig.

The Seminar was held from May 26 to 31st at the Calabogie Peaks Resort, about 90 km west of Ottawa. There were 21 participants. The guest rooms were large and the food plentiful. The



Seminar Participants

meeting room was superb and fully equipped with a fire place, podium, projector and screen.

Professor Robert Gould came from Carleton University, Ottawa, to speak about Migration and its Challenges to Identity. He showed a short video from Denmark and asked the group to identify quotes by various European leaders.

Janet Carlile, curator at the Arnprior Museum, spoke about Arnprior and its colourful history. Annelise Pedersen, who sits on the board of directors of the Danish Canadian

National Museum, gave a lively presentation about the Museum in Dickson, Alberta. Aase Christensen showed photographs from the trip she and her husband, Jens, took to China, which was a real eye-opener. Rolf Christensen spoke about Denmark as a Competition State, as well as

Conferences and Seminars

about Free Trade and the EU-Canada negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.



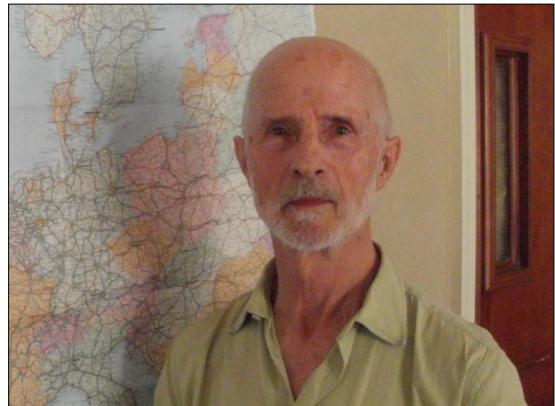
Calabogie Peaks resort from the ski hill

Friday evening the participants organized a Goodbye Party, decorating the meeting room, providing drinks and snacks, and presenting some light and funny entertainment. It was a wonderful evening where a week of information, fun and good fellowship culminated.



Headmaster Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen

The participants also took part in a Show and Tell session, where they introduced themselves. Another occasion to participate was the workshop at the end, which gave the participants a chance to comment on the week's varied topics of discussion. The group also saw the first one-hour episode of *Borgen*, with subtitles, the popular Danish TV series about Danish politics.



Prof. Robert Gould



Lis and Lars Skjødt Jakobsen

Conferences and Seminars



Lis Skjødt-Jakobsen, Hanne Christensen & Mary Jorgensen



Kirsten Roy and Lise Pedersen



Lili and Alf Gregerson



Lili Gregerson and Henrik Langer

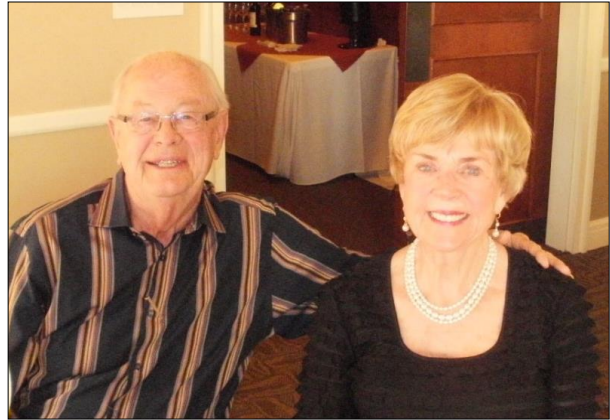


Mary Jorgensen and Birgit Bakgaard

Conferences and Seminars



Henrik Langer and Birgit Bakgaard



Ben and Karen Kroman

CLOVER TOWING LTD.
Ph. 604 513.1900
20291-102 Avenue, LANGLEY BRITISH COLUMBIA, V1M
Serving the Langley and Surrey area for over 20 years!
www.clovertowing.com

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR HERITAGE
VANCOUVER ISLAND DANISH - CANADIAN - CLUB
MEMBER OF THE FEDERATION OF DANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN CANADA

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



Danish Canadian Club

A Club for all Canadians

www.DanishClubCalgary.com

Join Us!

**Good Food
Good Friends
Good Fun**

evam@shaw.biz.ca

727-11th Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta (403) 261-9774



MERMAID INN

in the Danish Canadian Club
727-11th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
(403) 261-9774



Restaurant & Lounge Open for
Lunch and Dinner Every Day
(except Sunday).

Peter's Famous Brunch Every
Saturday Morning from 10 to 1:30.

Danish Buffet Monthly.

Excellent Meeting & Banquet
Facilities for 6 to 400 People.

Ideal Downtown Calgary Location!

Good Food. Good Friends. Good Fun.

evam@shaw.biz.ca
www.DanishClubCalgary.com

Danish House Society

The first 8 Years

Danish House Historical Committee

The Beginning - Our Dream Became a Reality

From the start, in the fall of 1995, when the germ was planted to create the Danish House Society (DHS) until the final instalment of the DHS's share of the Scandinavian Community Centre was paid in November, 2003, an awful lot of hard work was done by many, many people. All volunteers!

In the fall of 2013 Lise Shearer, Poul Moller-Hansen, who both have been involved since day one, Niels Andersen, who joined the Board a bit later, and Jorgen Rohweder, a long time member, thought it would be worthwhile to capture the spirit of this endeavour, and we have tried to select, from the voluminous material available, what we considered most relevant/representative. Not an easy task at all!!

Poul Moller-Hansen recalls the beginning as follows:

A meeting was initiated by Lennart Osterlind, the then President of the Scandinavian Community Centre Society (SCCS), at Erik Unheim's office. Lennart suggested to me, that the Danes should establish their own House Society. After 15 years on the Board of the Scandinavian Businessmen's Club, I thought it was about time to step down from any kind of board. However, Knud Peter Nielsen, also present at the meeting, took the initiative, at a later date, to call a meeting, to see if we could get anything going. He and Svend Gerslund talked me into at least coming to the meeting, along with about 15 other people.

Al Paquette chaired the meeting and his wife, Inge, took the minutes. The result was the formation of the Danish House Society's steering committee with Lise Shearer as Chair.

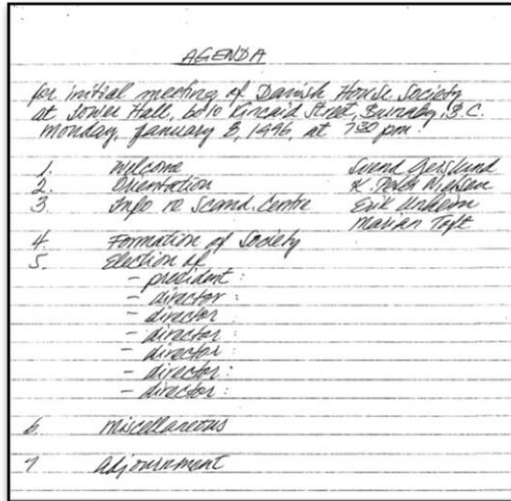
The first meeting of the committee took place at Lise Shearer's home, where each one of the board members pledged \$1,000 towards our petty cash, since we had no money, period....

We were faced with the enormous task of raising \$550,000 to become equal partners with the Finns, the Norwegians and the Swedes in the Scandinavian Community Centre, previously known as The Roald Amundsen Centre, purchased from the Norwegian Government for \$1,350,000. In addition, when we were asked to join, the three other countries had already spent \$100,000 each on improvements.

Organizations

The First Year: 1996

Svend Gerslund, Knud Peter Nielsen, and Poul Moller-Hansen were involved right from the start.

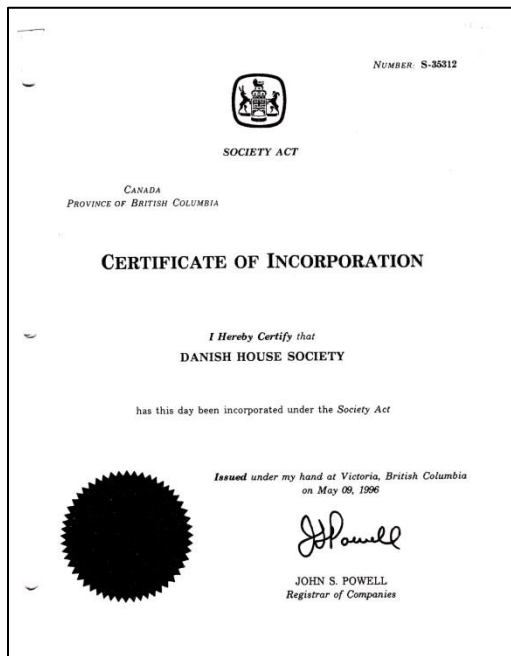


Agenda of Jan. 8, 1996 Meeting

On January 8th, 1996 a meeting was held at the Danish Church in Burnaby where a small group of 15 people attended to discuss the possibility of forming a Danish House Society, similar to the Norwegian/Sweden/Finland House Societies. Erik Unheim and Mariko Toft from the Norwegian House Society attended, giving us an insight into their experiences in forming their society.

Subsequently a meeting was called on February 15th, 1996 to be held at the Roald Amundsen Centre, where a steering committee was established with Lise Shearer as Chair; Pia Christensen as Vice-Chair; Secretary Inge Paquette; Treasurer Poul Moller-Hansen; Directors-at-large: Elin Beall; Knud Peter Nielsen; Jens Rasmussen; Svend Gerslund.

The name Danish House Society (DHS) was approved in late February, 1996 by the BC Societies Registry, and the Danish House Society was officially registered in Victoria on May 9th, 1996.



DHS Certificate of Incorporation

The membership fee was set at \$25 and these fees were to be used as operating funds.

In 1996 there was a 'Fabulous Fund Raiser Festival' on June 1st. 50-60 people attended this event.

On October 19, 1996 a gala night was held to celebrate the official opening of the Scandinavian Community Centre (SCC). A large tent was erected on the grounds and over 200 people attended the event.

The evening festivities were opened by Knud Peter Nielsen playing on a Danish lure. A colourful procession of national flags was followed by singing of the national anthems. The event was attended by representatives from the diplomatic corps of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The guests enjoyed a scrumptious catered dinner and finished off the memorable evening by dancing to live music.

Organizations

The Danish House Society's logo was designed early in 1996 and was officially used for the first time at the Gala opening.



*Danish House Logo presented by
Pia Christensen & Lise Shearer*



Gala Night: Oct. 16, 1996

A General Meeting was held on October 28th, 1996. Altogether 22 members were present out of 90 members. The following members were elected to the Board of the DHS:

President Lise Shearer; Vice-President Knud Peter Nielsen; Secretary Pia Christensen; Asst. Secretary Elin Beall; Treasurer Poul Moller-Hansen; Asst. Treasurer Elin Beall; Directors-at-Large: Svend Gerslund; Ingrid Lyth; Inge Paquette; Bernie Cramer.



*From L to R: Inge Paquette, Ingrid Lyth, Pia Christensen,
Knud Peter Nielsen, Lise Shearer, Elin Beall, Poul Moller-Hansen,
Svend Gerslund, Bernie Cramer.*

Organizations

It was subsequently decided that Poul Moller-Hansen would look after the fundraising, and Elin Beall would take over the accounting for the Danish House Society. Elin did a tremendous job for the DHS as well as for the Scandinavian Community Centre Society.

Our first Newsletter was issued in December, 1996.

The first 'Christmas by the Fireside' was celebrated in 1996 with glögg and 'æbleskiver' at the suggestion of Lise Shearer. Many people attended this event, which became a cherished tradition.

1996 was the year that work was begun on our very own meeting place, the Denmark room. It was a big job to turn a sport changing room, complete with showers, into a cozy, inviting environment for board meetings and other activities. We recognize and give thanks to Jack Larsen and his many volunteers for the renovation of the space, Heinrich Hansson for the installation of the beam, Karl Madsen for the construction of the large wall unit, Svend Gerslund for handmade collapsible tables, and Bent Ewald for donating all the chairs. Jack Larsen has been invaluable to the DHS, as well as to the SCCS as chair of the building committee, and with his involvement in various other activities at the Centre.

Sadly our very active Board member and tireless promoter of the DHS, Knud Peter Nielsen passed away on December 30th, 1996. **See separate comments under 'In Memoriam'.**

It was an exceedingly busy year for the Board, and it logged 29 meetings from February to December that year. Luckily, in subsequent years the number of meetings dropped to between 11 and 13 a year!

The Second Year: 1997

A 'Fastelavns' party took place on February 8th, 1997. Salam Kahil sponsored 'det store kolde bord', which was spectacular. Thank you, Salam.



Fastelavn 1997- From L to R: Ruth Cramer, Bernie Cramer, Elin Beall, Lise Shearer, Fred Mortensen

Organizations

Our first AGM was held on February 24th, 1997 with the following Board members being elected:

President Lise Shearer; Vice-President Poul Moller-Hansen; Secretary Pia Christensen; Treasurer Elin Beall; Asst. Treasurer Poul Moller-Hansen; Asst. Secretary Bernie Cramer; Directors-at-large: Svend Gerslund; Steen Heilbuth (later named Laursen) and Tove Clarke. Membership: 105.

Poul Moller-Hansen had written to several Danish foundations to seek funding, and finally on May 27th, 1997 we received our first (and only) donation from 'Stiftelsen Clara Lachmann's Fond' for \$9,618.87. This was highly appreciated, and even more so as this foundation is Swedish in origin! These funds went towards the rebuilding of the bar at the Centre! This was DHS' contribution towards the general renovation of the Centre.

We obtained our tax-exempt status as a registered charity from Ottawa in April, 1997. We could then issue tax receipts for donations retroactive to July 1st, 1996. **See separate note under 'Revenue Canada's Dolly'.**

The Board of the Centre agreed to give each house a monthly rent free evening. The Danes chose the first Friday of each month at the insistence of Lise Shearer.

On the suggestion of Jack Larsen that the 'free' Friday evening should be used to gather members for a 'sammenkomst', Lise Shearer right away arranged future 'pub/club' nights with Danish open faced sandwiches; of course beer and aquavit would be served.

The first 'Pub Night', as our 'Kroaften' originally was called, took place on Friday, June 6th, 1997. Lise Shearer says it would never have been a success without the help of Aase Larsen, who volunteered to serve both a hot meal and sandwiches. It took quite a while for this new event to become popular. Many times we had fewer than 20 people but we persevered every first Friday of the month (except the month of December). Later on a full house would be the norm.

We had our first 'Høstfest' in 1997. Svend Gerslund prepared and donated all the food, and once again it was 'det store kolde bord'.

Svend was granted a lifetime Honourary membership in November, 1997.

The first of many successful dinners and auctions took place in October, 1997. That evening we raised \$17,759 after expenses.

Funny moments:

Poul Moller-Hansen recalls that at one of the first auctions, with the late Erik Andersen as the auctioneer, either a rye bread or a half large salami was being auctioned off, one bidder bid \$50 and Erik asked for higher bids. The gentleman grabbed his wife's paddle and bid \$60. Erik asked for higher bids, and the bidder raised his own paddle and bid \$70!! Erik Andersen said he had never seen anybody outbidding himself!! But it was all for a good cause.

The Third Year: 1998

In January 1998 the Board reviewed its finances and its commitments to the other Houses, and although we had met our commitments so far (having paid \$100,000), it became apparent that

Organizations

the original payment schedule as agreed with the other Houses was too ambitious. Steen Heilbuth (SH) and Poul Moller-Hansen (PMH) being President and Vice-President undertook several meetings with the other Houses, which agreed to keep payments in abeyance until a revised agreement could be reached.

On December 19, 1998 an Extraordinary Meeting of the Board of DHS was held at the Centre, and a revision to the original agreement was under consideration: The principal amount of \$444,000 was to be paid at 6.5% amortized over 15 years with quarterly payments commencing March 16, 1999. This proposal would be presented at the AGM in March 1999, to be voted on by the members.

Karl Madsen was granted a life time Honourary membership in January, 1998.

The second 'Fastelavns' fest was held in February and was a great success. Net income was \$1700.

Our second AGM took place on February 23rd, 1998 and the following persons were elected to the Board:



President: Steen Heilbuth (later named Laursen); Past President Lise Shearer; Vice-President Poul Moller-Hansen; Secretary Anita Goudi; Treasurer Elin Beall; Directors-at-large: Bernie Cramer; Ruth Nielsen; John Madsen; Ebba Siple. Membership: 94.




*1998 Board of Directors from L to R:
Anita Goudi, Poul Moller-Hansen, Elin Beall, Bernie
Cramer, Past President Lise Shearer, Steen Heilbuth,
Ebba Siple, Ruth Nielsen. Absent: John Madsen*

At the March 9th, 1998 Board Meeting, it was decided that the name 'Pub Night' would be changed to 'Club Night', as 'Pub Night' was not acceptable to the Liquor Control Board!


In 1998 it was decided by the Board that donors to the DHS would be recognized. Karl Madsen did a fine job of fashioning wooden shields to hold brass plates engraved with the names of the donors.

 Danish House Society - B.C.

Club Night



D.H.S.



Carlsberg

Join The Danish
House Society
The First
Friday
of Each
Month

CLUB NIGHT is a social gathering where we serve Open-Faced Sandwiches, created by Aase Larsen. Wash them down with snaps and Carlsberg on tap. All for a very reasonable price!

STARTS AT 6:30 P.M.

Drop in at the Centre after work and enjoy dinner!

If possible, call Aase at 984-7097 and let her know the number of people in your party.

6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, B.C., Canada, V5B 4P9
Telephone: (604) 294-2777 Fax: (604) 294-3932

Organizations

The idea of using 'Barter Dollars' was discussed as early as May 1998. John Madsen was the 'primus motor' behind this, as he was actively involved in the 'Barter Dollar' organization. It proved very much worthwhile for DHS to get involved, and it was a revenue generating activity for the Society. Thank you, John.

For the SCCS as a whole it was a great benefit that our long time board member, Poul Erik Rasmussen had previous experience with applying for gaming grants. Our first gaming account was opened in October 1998, but the initial application was not accepted. Later Poul Erik got involved, and we received two grants: the initial one for \$18,000 in December 2001, and the second one of \$15,000 in October 2003. Thank you, Poul Erik.

The 'Christmas by the Fireside' tradition was continued with glögg and 'æbleskiver'. Shirley and Poul Moller-Hansen were the dispensers of the glögg, and many ladies provided the 'æbleskiver'.

The Fourth Year: 1999

At the February 22nd, 1999 AGM the following persons were elected to the Board:

President Steen Laursen (formerly Heilbuth); Vice-President Poul Moller-Hansen; Secretary Marianne Laursen; Treasurer Elin Beall; Directors-at-large: Lise Shearer; Ruth Nielsen; John Madsen; Ebba Siple; Jack Larsen. Membership: 67.



From left to Right: Ruth Nielsen, Poul Moller-Hansen, Steen Laursen, Elin Beall, Jack Larsen, Lise Shearer, John Madsen, Ebba Siple, Marianne Laursen, Al Paquette.

At the AGM the revised payment schedule of \$444,000, owing to the other 3 Houses, was discussed. The Board having been under considerable time restraint, felt that it could not recommend it as presented, and the membership voted to empower the Board to negotiate a long term lease agreement with the option to purchase, including the full use of the Danish Room. The vote was carried.

A new agreement between DHS and the 3 other house societies was signed on March 24th, 1999, with an 8 years' duration and an annual rental of \$10,000 to be paid in quarterly installments. We

Organizations

had an option to purchase which was valid until March 24th, 2007. Ron Beall helped draft the tenancy agreement, which was approved by the other Houses.

In April, 1999 Niels Andersen was the first member of the DHS to become president of the Scandinavian Community Centre Society. Niels initiated the lucrative annual lottery which included 2 SAS airline tickets to Scandinavia, and other prizes donated by the 4 houses. The net income from the first lottery totaled \$19,000. The income from the ticket sales was designated for the annual property tax.

Another successful fundraising event was a wine tasting evening arranged by Ingelise Nielsen. This was held on Friday, May 7th, which was our monthly rent-free Friday.

As an additional revenue generator, a 50/50 draw was introduced quite early at our monthly gatherings, and Sonja and Michael Kmetyk did a great job in 'coaxing ' money out of people's pockets. They were always cheerful, and a great team working for the benefit of DHS. Thank you, Sonja and Michael.

Our annual Fundraiser and Auction on October 30th, 1999 raised \$13,500 after expenses.

On December 14th, we had our traditional 'Christmas by the Fireside', starting with a St. Lucia Girls processional (organized by Ebba Siple and her daughters, Colleen and Branwen), followed by singing of Danish and English carols and songs, while enjoying hot gløgg and 'æbleskiver'. Santa Claus (Ken Jensen) arrived on top of a huge fire truck to the delight of the children present.



Michael Kmetyk holding Raffle Sign

The Fifth Year: 2000

For the Year 2000 the following persons were elected to the Board:

President Niels Andersen; Vice-president Steen Laursen; Secretary Marianne Laursen; Treasurer Bente Christophersen; Directors-at-large: Poul Moller-Hansen; Elin Beall; Lise Shearer; Ebba Siple; Ruth Nielsen; John Madsen; Jack Larsen. Membership: 187.

Niels Andersen was instrumental in recreating the Newsletter 'Reports-News' into a very attractive and interesting newsletter. He also designed new informative brochures. His larger than life personality helped the DHS maintain its dignity after defaulting on the original agreement.

Elin Beall organized a 'Legestue', for children under 6, where they were exposed to the Danish language and songs. This was held on the 3rd Saturday of each month in the Denmark room.

On Friday, September 1st, which was a Club Night, Vice-President Steen Laursen addressed the members present and told us his story. Here is Steen's story:

Organizations

'Vice President Steen Laursen gave his moving story about his adoption. When Steen turned 50 his father informed him that he didn't want to see him or his family anymore because he was adopted. His mother had passed away several years before.

Steen was devastated and could not believe what he was hearing and thought that his father was suffering the first signs of dementia. After writing to his cousin in Denmark, he was surprised to read in her return letter, "Of course you were adopted. Didn't you know?"



After receiving the news, Steen started the search for his biological parents. All he had was his baptismal certificate from Birkerød Church in Denmark. With the help of Pastor Kai Glud of the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby, Steen was able to find the names of his biological parents. Both were alive. His mother lived in Kalundborg and his father in Copenhagen. His mother and father never married; Steen being the product of a one-night stand during the war.

Happily, Steen was able to introduce his father, Stig Laursen, who was visiting from Denmark. It was a memorable evening for Steen and his father.'

Thank you, Steen.

The fourth Annual Auction on October 14th, 2000, raised \$11,500. As had become the custom Ingelise Nielsen, her sister Annemari Hermans and their mother, Edith Peterson made the delicious and colourful 'kroplatte', a favourite with the members.

On November 3rd, in conjunction with our monthly 'Danish Club Night', Don Mowatt, a former CBC producer and DHS member, and Company put on an outstanding performance entitled 'The Incredible Adventures of Peer Gynt'.


 Danish House Society - B.C. 

Presents

Club Night

Friday November 3, 2000

Bar Opens at 6pm
Dinner at 6:30 pm




PEER GYNT

"THE INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES OF
PEER GYNT"

A shortened 40-minute version of Henrik Ibsen's Play with music.
Adapted and performed by Don Mowatt and Company

SONGS, DRAMA AND INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS



Limited Seating
Reservations required

Phone: Lise Shearer at 926-0293 or
Sonja Kmetyk at 599-7282

6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, B.C. Canada, V5B 4P9
Telephone: (604) 294-2777 Fax: (604) 294-3932



Niels Andersen hosts the Jule Frokost for the Board of Directors: (L to R) Ebba Siple, Bente Christopherson, Poul Moller-Hansen, Marianne Laursen, Elin Beall, Niels Andersen, Steen Laursen, Lise Shearer, Jack Larsen, John Madsen, Ruth Nielsen

Organizations

On December 12th we had our traditional 'Christmas by the Fireside' with the St. Lucia processional and choir singing, followed by a visit by Danish 'Nisser' and a 'special visitor'. Many thanks go to Lise Shearer, Elin Beall, and Ebba Siple for the arrangements. Also a special thanks to Marianne Laursen and Ruth Nielsen, who made almost 800 'æbleskiver'.

The Sixth Year: 2001

The February 'Club Night' was a 'smashing' success with over 60 people attending. Ebba Siple put on a great show, 'Victor Borge in Memoriam', with tidbits from Victor Borge's fascinating life, interspersed with clips from some of his more outstanding performances and shows. Thank you, Ebba.

In 2001 Kate Praegel took over the food preparations for the monthly Club Night/Kroaften for the next many years. The menu consisted of a choice of a hot meal or delicious open faced sandwiches. Food is important to Danes and their friends, and Kate and her helpers did a great job. Thank you, Kate.

Our 'Fastelavns Fest' on February 24th was well attended, and people 'behaving like children' had a great time doing 'slå katten af tønden' and catching 'fastelavns boller'. Thank you, Ebba Siple and Jorgen Johansen for leading us in this 'play time'! Thanks to Ole Jensen and his partner, Aerock, for supplying the great tunes for dancing pleasure. The highlight of the evening was 'det store kolde bord' presented by Karsten and Leif from Viking Deli and Grill. Thank you, Karsten and Leif.

DANISH HOUSE
Scandinavian Community Centre
6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, B.C., V5B 4P9 Ph: 294-2777

Friday, March 23rd. 2001

The Western Gold Theatre
Presents
WINTER Nights -
FRONTIER THEATRE
Directed by Don Mowatt

An anthology of songs, skits and drama from Northern
Countries, including Norway, Denmark, Russia and Canada.
Starring Joy Coghill
Founder of "Western Gold Theatre", former director of
Vancouver Playhouse and the National Theatre School

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Performance at 8:30 p.m.

Per Person: \$25.00

This is a fundraising event for Scandinavian Community Centre!
For info. and tickets call Lise Shearer - 926-0293 or 294-2777
(reservation is a must)

On March 23rd, 2001 Don Mowatt and The Western Gold Theatre put on another great show 'Winter Nights - Frontier Theatres'.

At the AGM on March 26th, 2001 the following persons were elected to the Board:

President Niels Andersen; Vice-President Poul Moller-Hansen; Secretary Marianne Laursen; Treasurer Margit Hansson; Directors-at-large: Elin Beall; Lise Shearer; Jack Larsen; Ruth Nielsen; Ebba Siple; John Madsen; Sonja Kmetyk; Poul Erik Rasmussen. Membership: 230.

Our annual Fundraising Auction and Dinner took place on October 20th. Knud Nielsen did a marvellous job, and thanks to the many members who attended, and influenced by the good food and good company that we all enjoyed, we raised over \$10,000 that evening. Thank you.

Organizations

A Theatre Night & Dinner evening was held on November 23rd, 2001 with Don Mowatt, Ebba Siple, Katalin Magyar and the 'Gammel Dansk' musical ensemble in 'Carl Nielsen Addresses the Herring Falls Danish Club 25 Years After his Death'.

Approximately 150 adults and 30 children attended our annual 'Christmas by the Fireside', which took place on December 11th with the St. Lucia processional, visit with Santa Claus, glögg and 'æbleskiver', and carol singing.

The Seventh Year: 2002

In February 2002 the following persons were elected to the Board:

President Niels Andersen; Vice-President Jorgen Lyth; Secretary Marianne Laursen; Treasurer Margit Hansson; Directors-at-large: Elin Beall, Lise Shearer; Jack Larsen; Solvejg Nielsen; Ebba Siple; John Madsen; Sonja Kmetyk; Poul Erik Rasmussen. Membership: 285.

On February 23rd, 2002 we had another very successful 'Fastelavns Fest'. Thank you to Jorgen Lyth and his committee for the great job they did.

After a very successful dinner/theatre evening of Don Mowatt's performance held on November 23, 2001, Poul Moller-Hansen suggested that we should have a repeat performance in order to raise serious funds for our Building Fund and to pay our loan to the other Houses – the Finns, Norwegians and Swedes. The Board agreed and set out to organize a very special and outstanding evening featuring Don Mowatt and his group of talented actors and musicians.



Gala Dinner and Theatre Evening: March 22, 2002

The "Gala Dinner and Theatre Evening" on March 22nd, 2002 was attended by 85 people. Poul and Shirley Moller-Hansen contributed funds to stage the event. Niels Andersen approached Ole Elmer, President of Western Waffles, and without hesitation, he donated a generous amount. As well, Niels contacted the manager of SAS in Seattle, who quickly donated two return tickets to Denmark.

We also received baked goods from Chris, the owner of Cloverdale Bakery. In addition, Vera Andersen (Gazebo Gift

Co.) created the table center pieces which were later auctioned off.

As the Gala dinner-theatre evening was to be by invitation only we assembled a list of Danes in Vancouver whom we felt would be in a generous mood. Formal invitations were sent to about 90 people who were promised a fun-filled gala evening.

The evening started with hors d'oeuvres served in the four rooms of the "Houses" followed by a wonderful four course dinner and concluded with "kransekage" (Cloverdale Bakery). Wines were carefully selected to enhance the enjoyment of the excellent meal.

Organizations

After dinner Don Mowatt and his group of talented actors and musicians performed “Carl Nielsen Addresses the ‘Herring Falls’ Danish Club 25 Years after His Death”. Don Mowatt portrayed Carl Nielsen.

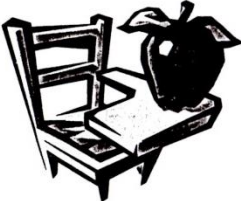
Delightful speeches by Poul Moller-Hansen, the Danish Consul, John Petersen and others were delivered.

A quick auction was held at the end of the evening to sell the center pieces and the two airline tickets to the highest bidders. These funds along with the donations from the Moller-Hansens and Ole Elmer were more than adequate to pay for the fantastic dinner catered by Critics Choice Caterers Ltd.

A grand total of \$40,000 was raised by guests at this event.

This successful event was the beginning of major fundraising efforts which gave the Danish House Society board its confidence that it would be able to fulfill its promise to the other three Houses “to pay off its obligation”.

The Danish Language Classes, organized by Elin Beall, had a graduating class in the spring of 2002.

DANISH HOUSE SOCIETY 6540 THOMAS STREET BURNABY, BC V5B 4P9	
DANISH FOR BEGINNERS	LEGESTUE
	In The Danish Room
NEW CLASSES STARTING FEBRAURY 2003	February 15, 2003 from 10 o'clock to 12 o'clock
PLEASE CONTACT: JOHANNE JUHL JENSEN 604-526-2177	CHILDREN ZERO! TO 6 YEARS OLD BRING ALONG A PARENT, GRAND PARENT, UNCLE OR FAVOURITE AUNT TO PLAY, SING AND DANCE WHILE LEARNING DANISH
	COME JOIN US EVERY THIRD SATURDAY IN THE MONTH FROM 10:00 TO 12:00 O'CLOCK.
	Please contact Elin @ 604-737-1994

Organizations

We celebrated 'Høstfest' on September 27th, 2002 and 97 people attended.

On October 12th, 2002 we had our annual auction and dinner. 'Christmas shopping in October' with over 100 people attending. In that connection Bendix Miller wanted to support our Society, and as he did not drive his 'pride and joy' any longer, he donated his 1985 Oldsmobile to be sold at the auction! Thank you, Bendix. We raised more than \$12,000 that evening.

We held our traditional 'Christmas by the Fireside' on December 10th with the St. Lucia processional and it was once again a great success. 140 people enjoyed the show and all the children had a chance to visit with 'Santa' (a.k.a. Jack Larsen). Thank you, Ebba Siple and daughters, Colleen and Branwen, along with Katalin Magyar.

The Eighth Year: 2003

In February, 2003 the following persons were elected to the Board:

President Jorgen Lyth; Vice-President Solvejg Nielsen; Secretary Rikke Rytter; Treasurer Margit Hansson; Directors-at-large: Sonja Kmetyk; John Madsen; Elin Beall; Jack Larsen; Poul Erik Rasmussen; Niels Andersen; Lise Shearer; Ebba Siple. Membership: 346.

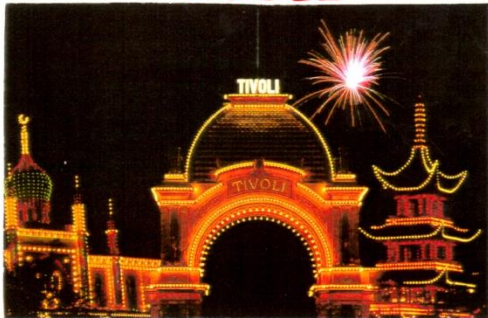


***Back Row Left to Right:** Niels Andersen, Lise Shearer, Elin Beall, Jack Larsen, Sonja Kmetyk, John Madsen & Poul Eric Rasmussen
Front Row Left to Right: Rikke Rytter, Solvejg Nielsen, Jorgen Lyth, Margit Hansson*

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

Dinner – Theatre Evening
Friday, February 28th, 2003
Cocktails:18:00 Dinner: 19:00

TIVOLI



H.C. Andersen, H.C. Lymbye Johanne & Johan Heiberg
Elvira Madigan, Pjerrot & Columbine

Scenes from their lives performed by the
“Scandinavian Players”, Music of Tivoli performed by
“Gammel Dansk” and soloists recreate life at one of
the World’s greatest amusement gardens 1860-1880.

Cost: \$25.00 (members) - \$30.00 (guests)
(Reservation with payment, please!)
Tickets: Lise Shearer: 604 926-0293 E-mail: lises@telus.net

On February 28th, 2003 the fundraising event was a 'Tivoli Program' put on by Don Mowatt, Ebba Siple, Tove Clarke, Jarl Christensen, Branwen Siple, Colleen Siple, Robert Clarke, Katalin Magyar, and the 'Gammel Dansk' Orchestra.

After the very successful Gala Dinner held on March 22, 2002 it was felt by some of the Board members that the 'selected' guest list for that event was a bit restrictive and did not give all our members a chance to attend.

Margit and Heinrich Hansson therefore suggested another evening of fine dining, open to all members. They generously donated the funds to hold another evening on March 28th, 2003. It was publicized as a 'Fin Middag' and a three-course meal with wine was offered. The same evening our Chairman of the Membership Committee, Johan Madsen, introduced a new fundraising project: 'Building Fund Promissory Notes' to all the guests. The return for the

members would be 4% interest earned and payable within 20 years. Each year a lottery was to be held to re-pay 10% of the money 'borrowed' to lucky winners. The project was a great success and \$ 45,000 was pledged that evening. The 'Promissory Notes' were still to be sold in the future.

In two years the 'Building Fund' had grown to over \$100,000 and the mood was very optimistic.

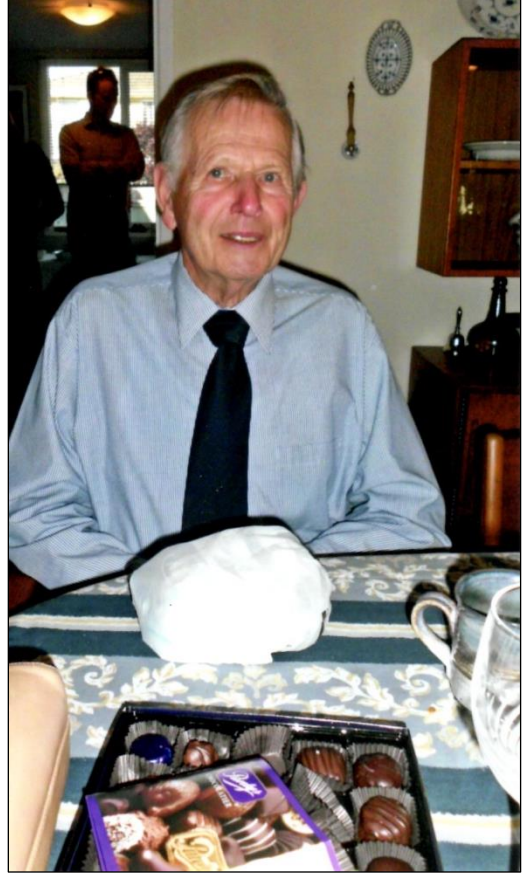
Again the generosity of Margit and Heinrich Hansson came to our aid! They offered the DHS a loan of \$ 200,000 to be repaid within 5 years. It was accepted with gratitude by the Board on July 7th, 2003.

Over many years Margit and Heinrich Hansson have been extremely generous with their time and donations. Not only has Margit been a superb treasurer for many years, but both of them have volunteered in many capacities. In addition each 'Kroaften' they bring large baskets of fruit and vegetables to be used as door prizes. Heinrich even bakes fantastic loaves of Danish dark rye bread, which are eagerly sought after. At several of our fall auctions one loaf has often been sold for more than \$50! They also donate large green salads at our August Men's barbeque each year.

Organizations



Margit Hansson



Heinrich Hansson

Now that is what we call **volunteerism!**

In April, 2003 Solvejg Nielsen became president of the Scandinavian Community Centre Society. Solvejg Nielsen became a force to be reckoned with when tickets for the lottery had to be sold. She would sell more lottery tickets than anyone else in the Centre. She would also be in charge of event tickets and persuaded people into attending our functions, and remitting their membership dues. Thank you, Solvejg.

Our initial agreement from 1999 with the other Houses for a $\frac{1}{4}$ ownership share in the Centre was for \$550,000 plus/minus a pro-rated increase/decrease in the assessed value of the property calculated on the date of purchase from the 1999 base year assessment. In 2003 the assessment was actually lower than in 1999, meaning that the Danish purchase price would drop to \$523,070 (from \$550,000). With funds on-hand of \$140,747 plus \$143,000 in the 'building fund's account' in the bank, together with the above mentioned \$200,000, we now had \$483,747 to apply to the purchase. We were about \$40,000 short of our goal. A final 'push' was required to make it happen.

On July 25th, 2003 written notice was given to Finland, Norwegian, and Sweden House Societies that DHS would exercise its option, on November 28th, 2003, to purchase an undivided one-quarter interest in the Scandinavian Community Centre property at 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, BC.

Organizations

Another means to raise funds was our first Men's steak BBQ dinner on August 15th. It was sold out, and we raised \$1,400 at that event. Many thanks to the hard-working men: Borge Tingskov, Borge Nielsen, Michael Kmetyk, Carl Sorensen, Niels Andersen, and Jack Larsen. It was agreed to book a date in August, 2004 for a similar event. Jorgen Lyth, our president, continued promoting the sale of Club jackets, which featured the logos of the four individual Houses. This generated profit for DHS.

On October 18th, 2003 we had our annual Fundraising Auction, and we raised over \$16,000 on this occasion.

The grand celebration – December 4th, 2003 was a day many, in fact all, of our members had looked forward to for so long.

The Danish House Society was finally able to pay off what we owed to the members of the Scandinavian Community Centre. We invited the presidents and the members of each 'house' to be present at the historic celebration. The Danish Consul, John Petersen, was also invited.

Niels Andersen, Immediate Past President, bid welcome to everyone, and gave a short speech pointing out the hard work which had been contributed by so many. The next speaker was Poul Moller-Hansen, who as a founding member had been there from the very beginning. Poul had held many different Board positions and entertained us with stories about some of the trials and tribulations of the first couple of years.

Next the Danish Consul made a congratulatory speech and pointed out how proud he was of being able to walk into a Scandinavian Centre of which the Danes were part owners.

All of the Past Presidents and the current President, Lise Shearer, Steen Laursen, Niels Andersen, and Jorgen Lyth of Danish House gathered at the front. First the President of Finland House, Kristiina Morrison, was asked to come forward; then followed Tor Olufsen, President of Norwegian House; and then the President of Sweden House, Tomas Edlund. Each President was presented with a cheque for \$128,442.00 as the amount owed by the DHS.



*The President of Finland House
receiving cheque.*

Organizations

DANISH HOUSE SOCIETY
OPERATING ACCOUNT
6540 THOMAS ST.
BURNABY, B.C. V5B 4P9
Tel: (604) 294-2777 Fax: (604) 294-5932

0800

DATE Dec. 4, 2003

PAY TO Finland House Society \$ 128,442 ⁷⁰/₁₀₀
the order of

One hundred twenty-eight thousand four hundred forty-two DOLLARS

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
NO 3 ROAD & COOK ROAD BRANCH
6400 NO 3 RD
RICHMOND BC V6Y 2C2

DANISH HOUSE SOCIETY
OPERATING ACCOUNT

RE 1/4 Share 6540 Thomas St.

PER [Signature]

PER [Signature]

⑈000800⑈ ⑆04800⑈003⑆ 100⑈ 136⑈ 1⑈

It was a glorious feeling to be able to say we, the members of the Danish House Society, were now an equal partner in the Scandinavian Community Centre.

It should be pointed out here that even though we were owners we still had debt to look after. We had a loan of \$200,000 to be paid back within 5 years to Margit and Heinrich Hansson. We also had 'Promissory Notes' to be repaid within 20 years. Everyone present was very optimistic and felt it would be an easy task (they were so right!)

After the presentations wine and hors d'oeuvres were served.

Now we were, for the first time, a true partner in the Centre.

In Memoriam



Reprinted from the DHS' 2nd newsletter in January, 1997

Knud Peter Nielsen 1935 - 1996

The passing of Knud Peter Nielsen on the evening of December 30th, 1996 was a great loss to his family and also to his friends and the Scandinavian Community. He loved his music, which he shared freely with all. At functions we would all look forward to listening to him play, whether it was a piano, violin, trumpet or lute. His enthusiasm, many interests, and willingness to work hard got him involved with many volunteer activities, such as the Ethno Business Council, choir director of the Danish Choir, organist for the Danish Lutheran Church, President of the Scandinavian Businessmen's Club, founder of the Scandinavian Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and co-founder of the Danish House Society. Knud Peter gave the DHS leadership and inspiration, as well as the benefit of

his considerable experience, knowledge and wit. He was tireless in his efforts to secure the Danes of British Columbia a place in the Scandinavian Community Centre. It is often said no one is irreplaceable, but Knud Peter is surely the exception to the rule. We miss him very much.

'Revenue Canada's Dolly'

As the Norwegian and Sweden House Societies already had obtained their tax exempt status as charitable organizations, we thought that it would be fairly easy to obtain DHS'. We followed what the other houses had submitted and waited for our tax-exempt number to arrive. How wrong could we be!

Poul Moller-Hansen, as our treasurer, was the point man in this exercise. At the other end was a Charities Examiner of Revenue Canada, whose first name was Dolly. Shortly after DHS was officially registered in Victoria on May 9th, 1996, we submitted our first application. This was followed by numerous letters, faxes and telephone calls. At each DHS board meeting Poul was reporting on the progress of our application, and that came to be known as 'Any news from Dolly?'

However everything came to naught when we received Revenue Canada's letter of October 2nd 1996 that our application had been turned down, subject to further clarifications!

This was not only serious, but it was obviously vital for DHS to somehow get this registration so we could issue tax receipts for donations.

We contacted our local MP at the time, Svend Robinson, whose mother was Danish, and he wrote to Revenue Canada on our behalf. We also contacted a local law firm to help us formulate a revised proposal. Further correspondence ensued.

One more hurdle to overcome was, at the 'request of Dolly', to change the DHS constitution. That was done on April 21st, 1997, and then (finally) we got Revenue Canada's fax of April 23rd, 1997 that DHS had now been issued a tax-exempt status as a registered charity under the Income Tax Act. Furthermore, and very importantly, the effective date of registration was July 1st, 1996. We could then issue tax receipts for all the donations we had received.

Thank you, Poul, for all your hard work.

Danish House Society

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

Club Night – "Kro Aften"



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

**"Kro Aften" is a popular
social gathering, open to
anyone, where we serve
famous Danish
open-faced sandwiches,
dessert and coffee.**

**Wash it down with snaps
and Carlsberg on tap!**

Starts at 18:30!

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

The History of Dania Home

Burnaby, British Columbia 1938-2015

Some Extracts from Dania Home Information Booklet 1944-1977.

Kjeld Christensen, President, Dania Society & Dania Home Society

Thanks to years of hard work by devoted board members, (which always included the Minister of the Danish Church), the members of the Ladies Auxiliaries, committed management teams, and loyal employees, the history of Dania Home is a happy one.



*Danish Consul
Mr. L.L. Jessen*

In 1938 the idea of care homes for seniors was slowly catching on in North America. Mr. L. L. Jessen, the Danish Consul at the time, was a great supporter of the idea as he had visited care homes in Denmark. Mr. Jessen had observed seniors in Canada living in small uncomfortable rooms in undesirable areas and suggested a care home in the Vancouver area at an Annual General Meeting at the Danish Lutheran Church. He offered \$1,000.00 of his personal Church bonds as a contribution towards the home. The idea met with little enthusiasm.

In 1940 an elderly gentleman from Ponoka, Alberta, Mr. Carl Mortensen, was visiting Vancouver and expressed a wish for a place for old Danes like himself to find comfort. Mr. Mortensen passed away shortly thereafter but bequeathed the sum of \$3,000.00 toward the realization of his dream.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Danish Church in 1941, a committee to deal with the suggested care home was selected. At the request of Consul Jessen, one member of the Church congregation and one member of the Danish Brotherhood were to work with him in finding a suitable property.

A good sized farmhouse on a small acreage on Douglas Road in the Burnaby Lake area was purchased for \$4,300.00. The house and property had been the home of the pioneering family of Charles Sprott for many years. It was a good property, centrally located with a view of the mountains. The house was rented out at first to cover the cost of some renovations and remodeling. A Ladies Auxiliary was formed and the consul's wife, Mrs. Agnes Jessen, became the first president. The ladies stitched, knitted, baked, and sewed to help raise money for the remodeling.



C. F. Sprott farmhouse in 1908

Organizations

The orchard and vegetable gardens on the property were brought back into production and the fruits and vegetables were sold in the neighborhood. Money and building materials were donated and most of the work was done by volunteers. Gifts in the form of furniture, kitchenware, books, and other household items came from generous donors.

A Provincial charter was granted, and the official name was “West Coast Danish Old Peoples Home”. The first official general meeting was held the same year, 1941, and a board was elected and a Society was formed.

“West Coast Danish Old People’s Home” – then “Danish Old People’s Home” & finally “Dania Home”

Matron, Maren Hansen, and six guests moved into the Douglas Road house with its seven rooms. The official opening of the home on July 23, 1944 was officiated over by Lieutenant Governor W. E. Woodward. Many invited dignitaries and other guests attended this opening of the first senior citizens home for an ethnic group.

His Honour Mr. Woodward congratulated the Danish community on having achieved this goal. Over the next several years a number of cottages were built on the acreage and added to the inventory of rooms available for rent. The cottages were especially popular for married couples and a total of seven cottages eventually dotted the grounds.



Original building with two new wings added on.

In 1947 a new West Wing was added to the original house and in 1951 a North Wing was added, with Provincial Government grants covering 1/3 of the cost. By 1952 a total of 45 residents could be accommodated in the main building.

It was a constant struggle to raise enough money to run the home, retain old members, recruit new ones, and obtain permits to add wings and cottages on the grounds. Often the board members would burn the midnight oil. At an AGM it

was decided to rename the Home, “Danish Old People’s Home”, and that was later changed again to “Dania Home”. Along the way an adjacent property was bought and sold at a profit. Today the property size is approximately seven acres.

Dania Lodge

The former Rio Vista Auto Court was purchased in 1961. It was an aging two story structure facing Norland Avenue, which became 12 self-contained independent reasonably priced rental suites occupied by Danes. Tenants could purchase meal tickets for the noon meal and eat with others in the Carl Mortensen Manor (CMM) dining room. As renters are merely tenants of Dania Society, there is no limit on income. Two guest rooms were available for rent. Tenants of the

Organizations

Lodge could bypass the wait list for CMM when a suite there became available. This building was demolished to make room for the new Dania Home in 2015.

In September 1967, Dania was honoured with a visit from Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Margrethe and Prince Henrik.



Dania Home in 1958 at 1279 Norland Avenue and Canada Way

The photo's accompanying description reads, "Dania – Modern Danish Rest Home / on site of pioneer estate of C.F. Sprott, one of the first reeves of Burnaby, on Douglas Road – near Norland."

The original house, at the centre of the building, was one of the earliest homes in the Burnaby Lake area, built in 1891 by Charles F. Sprott with the assistance of Bernard R.Hill.

Dania Manor

Dreams of more buildings on the site were discussed and after many meetings, much planning, applying for permits, designing the building, and arranging financing, construction of Dania Manor was started. A ground breaking ceremony was held on June 6, 1969 and the sod turning was performed by Provincial Cabinet Member, the Honourable Grace McCarthy, and Mrs. L.L Jessen. By February 1970 Dania Manor was ready to be occupied and consisted of 42 bachelor suites and 8 one-bedroom suites available for rent. In the early 2000's



Dania Manor in 2001

major renovations included kitchens and bathrooms, a spacious dining room, a beautiful lounge, and installation of an elevator. Soon after completion of the renovations, Fraser Health initiated a new program for Assisted Living or Supportive Housing. Potential residents are assessed to determine if they qualify for these programs with qualifying residents paying 70% of after tax income. A 24 hour nurse is on the premises. Services include 2 meals a day, half-hour housekeeping per week, "Medialert", laundry of sheets and towels. Additional laundry services are available for a small fee.

The Next Dania Home

In February 1972, the membership of Dania Society, on the recommendation of the board of directors overwhelmingly voted in favour of replacing the original building. Work on a new Dania Home now began. Maintenance costs of the old structure were high, expenses exceeded revenue. Approval of a Provincial grant of \$393,000 was received. In 1973 a CMHC loan

Organizations

agreement of \$574,000 was signed. Representatives from several levels of government attended the grand opening on June 5, 1974. When Dania Home Society in 1978 joined the Provincial Long Term Care Program, a substantial portion of the cost was covered by the government. Dania Home now accommodated 65 residents and 32 guests, with a later conversion to 72 single rooms and three doubles.

In 1982 a ¾ acre lot along Kincaid Street was sold to the Danish Lutheran Church which was then located at East 19th Avenue and Prince Albert Street in Vancouver. A new church was completed in 1984 on the adjoining land to Dania Home. Dania Home and the Danish Lutheran Church have been very good neighbours ever since that move.

In 1984 Dania Home Society was split into Dania Home Society and Dania Society, and the government covered 100% of the cost of running the Long Term Care Home. Dania Society became landlords and managed both Dania Manor and Dania Lodge.

Carl Mortensen Manor

In 1991 a 1 acre lot alongside Kincaid Street was purchased from Mrs. Wise. With lots of planning and hard work once again contributed by board members and management, on June 1, 1993 the new Carl Mortensen Manor, a B.C. Housing subsidized building, opened on land owned by Dania. CMM was completed with 49 one-bedroom suites housing independent tenants selected from a waiting list controlled by Dania.

The Boards of Directors of the two societies realized that a professional manager was needed, and in 1992 many candidates were interviewed. A young, bright nurse, Margaret Douglas Matthews recently graduated with an MBA in nursing and care home management was hired. About 10 years later, Margaret suggested that she and the management team she had assembled over the years had resources to spare, and that they could also manage the Norwegian care home “Normanna”. The two homes would share the costs incurred by this great and well paid team. The Normanna board agreed, and thus began a long harmonious relationship between Dania and Normanna. In 2006 the first accreditations were achieved for both Normanna and Dania care homes.



Carl Mortensen Manor (CMM) under construction

The newest Dania Home

The crown jewel of all the buildings on the now 7 acre park-like setting is the newest Dania Home. Ground breaking took place on October 4, 2013 with construction completed in the spring of 2015. It was designed by the

Organizations

architectural firm NSDA and built by VanMar Construction on a budget of \$20,000,000 plus. The new Dania Home is a 2-story building with 102 single rooms, many of them complex care rooms, in 6 “neighborhoods”. Dignitaries and elected B.C. politicians, along with many friends of Dania, attended the traditional “Rejsegilde” (roof-raising) ceremony which took place on the April 25, 2014.

Dania Home is a “Campus of Care” – consisting of independent living in Carl Mortensen Manor, some assisted living available in Dania Manor, and complex care in Dania Home. Both Dania and the Norwegian care home Normanna are recognized in Burnaby and by the Fraser Health Authority, to which both homes report, as very well run homes. The bulk of the credit for that must go to the Executive Director of both facilities, Margaret Douglas Matthews.

THE NEW DANIA HOME IN PHOTOS

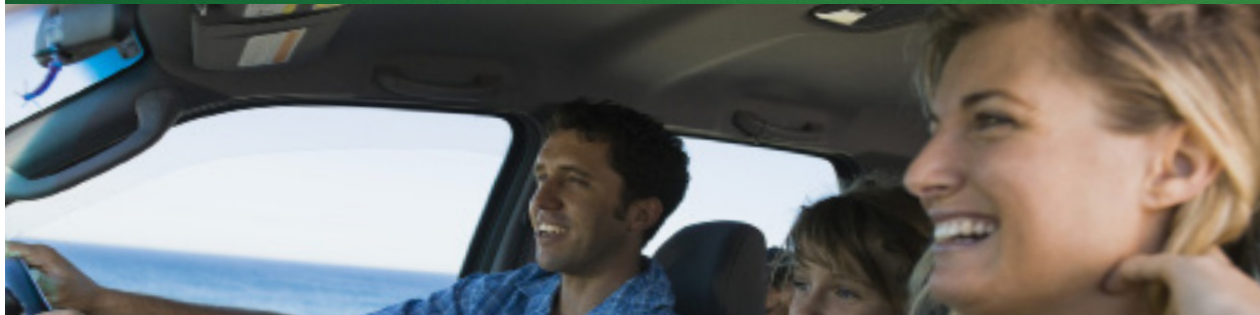




Need a car in Denmark?

Special rates for members of DCCC
Please call +45 89 33 11 33
or mail to reservations@europcar.dk
Refer to contract no. 44 37 97 14

- Unlimited mileage
- Full insurance with zero excess!
- V.A.T
- All sizes basic & luxury cars
- Automatics
- Stationwagons
- Minibusses
- 7.000 cars
- 40 locations incl. all airports
- Free national one-ways (min. 2 days)



THE MEMBERS OF THE ONTARIO REGION OF
THE DANISH FEDERATION
WISH YOU A SUCCESSFUL
CONFERENCE



The Danish Club of Ottawa
 Danish Lutheran Church
 of the Niagara Peninsula
 Danish Canadian Chamber of Commerce
 Royal Danish Guards' Association
 Eastern Canada
 Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto
 Danish Women's Association
 Sunset Villa Association
 Sunset Mindepark
 Danish Lutheran Congregation
 at St. John's Church, Waterloo
 Pass Lake Historical Society

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

Ansgar Villa Foundation dissolved

Kai Lynge, Edmonton

The Ansgar Villa Foundation (AVF) was registered as a non-profit society in Alberta in May 1978. A group of dedicated members of the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church (ADLC) in Edmonton sponsored the Ansgar Villa Foundation, supporting an initiative by Pastor Holger Madsen, then pastor of the church, to establish a senior citizens apartment building in Edmonton.



After numerous meetings and lengthy negotiations with the Province and the City of Edmonton plans to build a 12 storey building at 10170-120 Street were developed. The building was to have 176 one-bedroom apartments and one, two-bedroom, apartment for the manager.

Funded by the Province of Alberta Ansgar Villa was officially opened in May 1985. Since its completion Ansgar Villa has provided safe and comfortable living quarters for numerous senior Edmontonians

of various denominations and cultural backgrounds. Located west of downtown in the Oliver area, a block north of Jasper Avenue, it is close to drugstores, grocery stores, medical clinics and a wide variety of shops and cafés. Although Ansgar Villa was an initiative of the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, the number of Danish residents seldom exceeded eleven percent of the tenants.

Upon the completion of Ansgar Villa, the Ansgar Villa Foundation became the managing body of the building. The Foundation continued to be closely associated with the Church as only members in good standing of the congregation of Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church could become members/directors of Ansgar Villa Association. The seven member board of directors was elected at an annual meeting held in January each year. For most years AVF functioned with one or two vacancies.

ORGANIZATIONS

The Ansgar Villa Foundation's responsibilities included the hiring of staff, approval of tenant applications, collecting rents and the supervision of building maintenance. Financial reports were submitted quarterly to the Government and an annual review was made by a professional auditor. Major maintenance projects such as roof or elevator repair had to be approved by the Government before they could be undertaken.

In addition to the manager the staff usually included two maintenance employees and a janitor and grounds keeper. Additional help was obtained through a contract janitor and various trades contractors as needed.

On January 1, 1995 the role of the Ansgar Villa Foundation changed as it became part of a larger management body named Ansgar Lutheran Housing (ALH). ALH was created by a ministerial order as the Province had decided to combine Ansgar Villa with Trinity Lutheran House (TLH) under one management body.

TLH is a 36 suite apartment building for seniors located at 10006-80 Avenue in Edmonton. Trinity Senior Citizen's Housing Society (TSCHS) of Edmonton, an organization affiliated with Trinity Lutheran Church (German), had been responsible for the management of TLH.

As the new management board, ALH comprised five directors from AVF and four directors from TSCHS. The directors were selected by the Ansgar Villa Foundation and TSCHS respectively following their annual meetings. Board positions were established by mutual consent at the first ALH meeting in the year. The duties of ALH were essentially the same as they were for the Ansgar Villa Foundation and TSCHS, only larger in scope covering two buildings. The directors from TSCHS were like-minded people and we enjoyed an excellent working relationship.

However, nothing stays the same forever. Last year the Province decided that Ansgar Villa and TLH should be combined with a larger group. As the result of this decision Ansgar Villa and TLH became part of the Greater Edmonton Foundation (GEF), an organization managing some 3000 apartments for seniors. GEF assumed management of the buildings on January 1, 2015.

Relieved of its management responsibilities Ansgar Lutheran Housing became superfluous as did the Ansgar Villa Foundation. Consequently at a special meeting of the Ansgar Villa Foundation on January 25, 2015, in the Ansgar Villa Recreation Room, it was decided to dissolve the Ansgar Villa Foundation, effective February 1, 2015. This ended the Ansgar Villa Foundation and the Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church's involvement in seniors' housing after 30 some years.

Post Script:

Over the years Ansgar Villa has been the focus of several articles in the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada's Heritage Book. On pages 126-133 in the 1992 Heritage Book, Kris and Alice Kristensen wrote about the founding of the Ansgar Villa Foundation and the building of Ansgar Villa. As well, on pages 110-117 in the 2000 Heritage Book, Dorthe Flauer wrote about Ansgar Villa. Her article contains numerous photographs. Moreover, on pages 214-215 in the 2007 Heritage Book, Pastor Holger Madsen, who was instrumental in establishing Ansgar Villa, talks about his inspiration and ideas for the Ansgar Villa project. Despite the dissolution of the Ansgar Villa Foundation, the building still stands, and it continues to be used as a senior citizen residence; and it is still called Ansgar Villa.

A Naust for Freydis Joanna - the little Viking Ship

Steve Morck, Danish Canadian National Museum

What is a Naust? According to our sources, Naust is a word of Old Norse origin, meaning a boat shelter. The Naust dates back to the Viking age where presumably, the ship was pulled ashore where it was protected against wind and weather, during winter. Archaeology evidence supports the origins of boathouses during the Viking era to shelter and protect their prized ships.



When our little ship, the Freydis Joanna (built at the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, Denmark), arrived at the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta, after its highly celebrated cross Canada tour, there was no place to store her. As a result, she was temporarily housed during the off season and displayed during the summer in a portable shed. However, this was always meant to be temporary and a vision was articulated by our Viking ship enthusiast, Svend Nielsen, who sought input from our Viking historians Cherise and Paul Elliott to refine the concept. With the financial support of Egon Sommer, who shepherded the ship safely across Canada, and who offered to fund a permanent shelter for the little ship, the project was proposed and approved.

This project initiated with the installation of footings in 2012 followed by the construction of the building in March through to June of 2013. The Vikings who volunteered to use their special skills to build our Naust were Svend Nielsen, Bendt Husted and Christoph Niggli. Much like our Danish Canadian immigrant craftsmen, Christoph, a carpenter from Switzerland, brought the knowledge and techniques of old style timber framing, a specialty craft that requires careful joinery, specialty tools, and skilled, patient carpenters.



These centuries old techniques are incorporated into the design and construction (without nails or bolts) of the frame system in the Naust, creating a beautiful building both inside and out. Specialty sized timbers for framing the building were custom crafted by a small sawmill in British Columbia. The project got underway in the March snow at the Danish Canadian National Museum.

The Naust building and exterior were completed in June in time for a traditional Danish Rejsegilde to celebrate the erection of the building. The Freydis Joanna was carefully placed in her Naust on the day of the celebration by enthusiastic supporters and participants at the event. The final finishing touches to the interior were completed in preparation for the opening of the 2015 museum operating season.





Warmth and Comfort. It's What Defines a Dane.

As a Canadian insulation company with a Danish heritage that goes back to 1909, ROXUL Inc. is proud to support the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. We're proud of our roots, and our history of helping Canadians live warmer, safer, more energy-efficient lives.



ROXUL®
The Better Insulation™





Biographies

Ben Sorensen

R. Ben Sorensen QC

My father, Marinus Bonde Sorensen, immigrated to Canada from Denmark in 1911. After odd jobs in Pembroke and Ottawa, my father homesteaded near Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. My father was an Anglophile, so when the First World War broke out in 1914 he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Regiment. Following training, he served in France for the balance of the war.



The six Sorensen kids in 1934

While on leave in England, he met my mother, Miriam (Minnie) Stephens, one of nine children, born to a stone mason and his wife, who lived in Stow-on-the-Wold in Gloucestershire, England. She was born there on November 15, 1889. Mother was trained as a nurse in a London Hospital and later became a midwife. During the First World War she attended to the wounded troops brought to England from France. My father was on leave from France, and was visiting a distant cousin in Bromley, when mother and he met. They were married on March 14, 1918, in Bromley. She came to Canada as a war bride.

In Canada they settled in Red Deer, Alberta. My father had been trained as a cheese maker in Denmark, so my father formed a partnership with the husband of his sister, Thyra Baines, and another man, to run a dairy. However, the partnership broke up because of the low prices being paid for dairy products.

At this time the Canadian Pacific Railway was anxious to sell farm land to immigrants. My father wrote to the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and suggested that the company needed a Scandinavian representative to promote itself. He was invited to come to Montreal to

BIOGRAPHIES

present his ideas and was provided with a train ticket and expenses for the trip. The result was that he was appointed Scandinavian Superintendent for the company in Denmark, moving to Copenhagen in 1921. Eventually my father opened CPR offices in Oslo, Stockholm and Kaunas.

At first we lived in a house in Glostrup near the railway tracks. This is where I, Richard Ben Sorensen, was born on December 7, 1928, as the fifth of six children. When I was a year old the family moved to Roskilde, where we lived until the Second World War broke out, first in a beautiful house on Vindingevej and then on Villavej.

My eldest brother, Eric Edgar, was born in Red Deer in 1920. The rest of us, Colin Frank, Dennis Ewan, Eileen, myself, and Wilfred Bryan, were born in Denmark.

My father commuted to Copenhagen by train and frequently my sister and I went with him to the station. More often we would meet his train in the afternoon. My great delight was always to climb the steel trellis bridge which allowed access to the far side of the tracks at the station and stand where I could be engulfed in all the steam and smoke from the steam trains passing underneath. The annoyance of extracting coal dust from my eyes was only momentary. Much of the fun disappeared when the trains became electric.



*Ben Sorensen, Lieutenant
Commander, Navy (Reserve)*

The CPR office in Copenhagen was more than a travel agency or ticket office. My father's work involved correspondence and travel throughout the Baltic countries, interviewing potential immigrants to Canada. For several years my father had sheltered German Jews who had escaped from Germany.

Since 1962 I have had as a client, Adolphe Abraham Sterns. I had known him only as a client, but my wife and I dropped in on him and his wife at their summer home in 1995 on a social call. He had been urging us to do so. When he learned I was from Denmark, he said he had been in Copenhagen after he fled Czechoslovakia, when the Germans invaded in 1938. He had been with a large group of other Jewish and non-Jewish refugees awaiting passage to Canada. During their stop in Copenhagen, the manager of the CPR office had laid on a tour bus for the group and had personally conducted them on a tour of Copenhagen. He was startled when he learned that my father had been that manager.

In the summer of 1939, father decided to move the family back to Canada. We left Denmark on August 26, 1939, just days before Hitler invaded Poland. We only had three days to pack and sell the house and its belongings. We then took the train from Roskilde to Hirtshals in Jutland. From there we sailed to Kristiansand in Norway. From Kristiansand we sailed to Newcastle. It was then on to Stow-on-the-Wold.

Weeks passed before we could get passage to Canada. Finally we were able to get tickets and we crossed the Atlantic on the *Duchess of York* along with the *Duchess of Athol*, accompanied by two destroyers for the first two days. The *Duchess of York* was later refitted as a troop carrier, but sunk in July 1943.

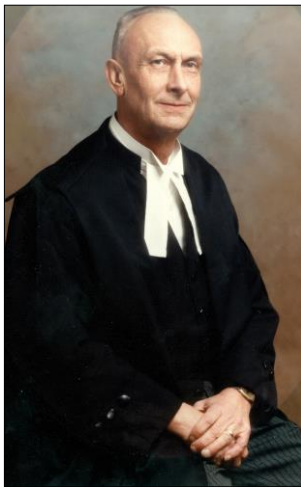
BIOGRAPHIES

After our arrival in Canada we settled on a farm in Brome Lake, Quebec. This was a difficult time for us as our father spent the war in England, mother having to look after six children. Eventually my two older brothers, Eric and Frank, joined respectively the Royal Canadian Corps of Engineers and the Royal Canadian Air Force. Dennis thus became a father-figure to me and he did so naturally. I had to obey him because he was bigger than I was. He was the enforcer of mother's commands.

In 1941 we moved to Kingston, Ontario. I attended secondary school in Kingston, as well as first year university at Queen's. In Kingston I also joined the Canadian Navy organization which trained university students to become officers. I then transferred to Dalhousie University in Halifax, where I studied law. In Halifax I met Joyce Hart, born on June 5, 1926. We were married on August 18, 1951. Joyce, who was a teacher, worked and helped to put me through law school. I completed my law degree in 1953.

Joyce and I have one daughter and two sons. They are all grown now. They are Michael in Cornwall, Jean in Cumberland, and Gordon who lives in England.

We moved to Kingston where I established a law practice. While practicing law, I served with the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve and later retired as a Lieutenant Commander. I practised as a lawyer for forty three years, the first six in Kingston with a colleague. I then wanted my own practice and was looking for a larger city, so we moved to Ottawa.



*Ben Sorensen wearing
court gown*

For fourteen years I had an office on the fourth floor at 151 Sparks Street, a prestigious address just one block from Parliament Hill. But the Recession of 1981 was hard on my practice and I decided to move to a strip shopping mall where people could park for free. I moved my practice to Richmond Square, across from the Lincoln Heights Shopping Centre in the West End of Ottawa. That was the location of my office until I retired at the end of 1996.

Initially I did some criminal defence work, but I was not happy about representing those clients. In Kingston, also known for its penitentiaries, I defended a couple of prisoners before the Court of Appeals and was successful. However, I preferred working in a general practice. My emphasis was on marital litigation and custody actions, so divorces and the custody of children. I also handled the dividing of assets, real estate, mortgages, foreclosures, wills and estates.

When I moved to Ottawa from Kingston, I was frequently retained to present Quebec divorces to the divorce committee of the Senate of Canada. The laws of Quebec did not provide for divorces and these cases had to be dealt with by an act of Parliament.

Until 1968, the only ground for divorce in Canada was adultery. The law changed with the Divorce Act of 1968, introduced by Justice Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, which established a uniform divorce law across Canada, including Quebec. The 1968 Act widened the reasons for divorce from adultery to include mental or physical cruelty, desertion or separation for three years.

BIOGRAPHIES

The passing of the Divorce Act preceded by several months its coming into force on July 1, 1968. I had kept a list of the clients I knew would benefit from the changes to the law. As well, I received many referrals from other lawyers who were not interested in this form of practice, or felt uncomfortable with the new Act.

I have served thirty-three years as president of several Ottawa condominiums. For nine years I was an active member of the Central Ottawa Lions club. We met weekly at the Chateau Laurier Hotel. At one point Joyce and I also bought a hobby farm at Woodlawn, Ontario, which we called Valhalla. We owned it for about eleven years. I enjoy gardening. I also enjoy working with wood, making furniture, particularly tables and chairs.

After retiring, I have tried to learn how to play the piano. In August 2010 we moved to Manotick, south of Ottawa. In Manotick I have been active in three bridge clubs, a discussion group called Diatribes, the Rideau Township Historical Society, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 314, the Manotick Kiwanis Club as well as Probus, an association of active retirees. I am on my computer every day. The computer has been a great help in me writing a 150-page story about my family. In 2002 I made 50 copies of "The Sorensen Story" which I distributed to family and friends. It was later revised and updated.



Ben and Joyce

After 62 years of a happy marriage I lost Joyce in January 2014. I have now moved into Orchard View on the Rideau, a full service retirement residence offering a full continuum of care, located within walking distance of plenty of historical sites and amenities. My window faces St. James Anglican Church across the street. In January 2015 I suffered a light stroke. Otherwise I am happy to be at Orchard View on the Rideau, particularly since I don't cook.

It also pleases me that there were write-ups about my Father in both the 1987 and the 2013 Heritage Book. An article about my brother, Colin Frank Sorensen, written by a Danish historian, appeared in the 2011 Heritage Book. During the Second World War, Frank, a fighter pilot, was shot down and taken prisoner. He was involved in The Great Escape from Stalag Luft III. And for the last two or three years I have been requested to write my own story. Finally, here it is!

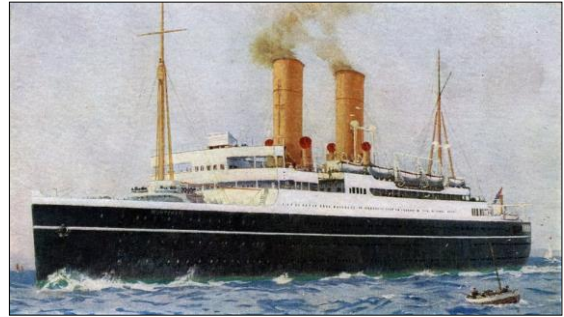
 <p>Dan's WELDING & FABRICATING EST 1960</p>	<p>3485 Mainway Burlington ON L7M 1A9 P: 905-335-8844 F: 905-335-8868 E: info@danswelding.com W: www.danswelding.com</p>
---	---

Viggo and Karen Andersen

Compiled by Fred and Bernice Andersen
and Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Viggo Andersen and Karen Kappel were respectively 24 and 23 years of age when they decided to get engaged and immigrate to Canada. At the time they were living in the small town of Torkilstrup on the island of Falster.

Karen Kappel was from the area, having been born in Sullerup, east of Torkilstrup, on January 27, 1903. Viggo Andersen was from Lading, outside Århus, where he was born on August 6, 1902. Viggo was working in Torkilstrup as a labourer and thought he could do better in Canada. They had been told that in Canada they would be able to acquire their own farm, which was something which was nearly impossible for them in Denmark. Together they went to the police station in Nykøbing Falster, where they obtained their passports in order to travel abroad.



The CPR's "SS Montcalm"



Viggo Andersen and Karen Kappel on board the "SS Montcalm"

Viggo Andersen and Karen Kappel left Denmark in March 1926. They sailed to England, and from Liverpool they took the CPR's *SS Montcalm*, a fairly new ship, which had only entered service in 1922. On April 4, 1926, the ship arrived in St. John, New Brunswick. Viggo and Karen then took the Canadian Pacific Railway to Standard, a Danish settlement in Alberta.

Looking out the window of the train they found the

landscape bleak; it was still winter, and there was snow and more snow in all directions. They worked in Standard during the spring and summer, and made good money. In the fall they

BIOGRAPHIES

headed to Dickson, another Danish settlement, where in November they were married in Dickson's Bethany Lutheran Church by Pastor N. Bentsen. As well, they bought a quarter section of land, and began to farm.



Viggo and Karen's Silver Anniversary

In Denmark Karen had attended a Folk High School. She had also been a gymnastic instructor. It therefore came naturally for her to start a gymnastic class in Dickson. So in 1927 she started gym classes with the encouragement of Pastor Bentsen. Even though they didn't have the proper gym equipment, they got the exercise and had fun.

Viggo and Karen farmed west of Dickson until early 1939, when they sold the farm. They were tired of their crop being destroyed by hail nearly every other year. They then moved to Spruce View and started the Spruce View Co-op, known as the Corner Co-op. It was a challenge to start from scratch with very little financial backing, but with perseverance, hard work and lots of volunteer labour, they succeeded and the store grew and expanded. In 1945, they bought a Quarter Section a mile east of Spruce View, where they farmed for ten years. In 1958 they sold the farm to Hans Hindbo and moved to Innisfail, where Viggo worked as a bookkeeper. Karen always grew a wonderful garden where ever they lived.



Viggo and Karen with their children Vera, Paula, Dana and Fred



*Viggo and Karen's Golden Wedding Anniversary
With children and grandchildren*

Viggo and Karen had four children, Vera, Paula, Dana and Fred. The three girls all moved away, to respectively Vernon, B.C., Iowa, USA and Calgary, Alberta. All three daughters are married and each has three children. Fred stayed in the area and married Bernice Johannson who is from Markerville. They have two children.

Viggo Andersen died in 1977. Karen Andersen passed away eighteen years later in 1995. They are both buried in the Innisfail Cemetery.

Below is a letter by Karen Andersen. It is followed by a short article about the establishment of the Spruce View Co-op

BIOGRAPHIES

at the Corner, written by Viggo Andersen.

In 1927, the year after she arrived in Canada, Karen Andersen was asked by the Canadian government to write the letter that follows. The purpose was to encourage other Danes to immigrate to Canada. The letter has been translated from Danish.



*Viggo Andersen,
Denmark, 1926*

My husband and I came to Canada in April 1926. We were engaged at that time. Because the chances of getting something of our own in Denmark were not good, we decided to try greener pastures. We came over as immigrants with the CPR Company from Esbjerg to England and from there over the Atlantic Ocean. It was quite an adventure to take such a long trip because we had never been outside of Denmark.

We looked around when we got to St. John, New Brunswick, now that we were in Canada. But we had such a long way to go yet, in that we still had to travel to Standard, a Danish colony in Alberta. As soon as we got inland there was snow, and the

further we went, there was more and more snow. When we were riding on the train we saw a lot of snow on the stooks. It was difficult to take the cold when we thought of our home in Denmark where it was green and the flowers were blooming when we left. In England the trees and spring flowers had been in bloom.

It took us five days to cross Canada by train from East to West. We finally arrived in Standard, a small prairie town. There were no trees, just prairie as far as the eye could see. The soil was rich though. My husband and I worked in Standard that summer, and we were paid well. In the fall we moved to Dickson, where my husband worked. It was also at this time that we bought a quarter section of land (160 acres). Seventy-five acres of this was cleared land.



Viggo and Karen's bunk house in Standard

We got busy building a house to live in. There were hardly any buildings on the land. My husband and two young Danes who lived with us the first winter built the house. It isn't a mansion, but we really don't need that here. We lived with the neighbours until the house was finished. On the eighth of November we were married in the Dickson Church. The people

BIOGRAPHIES

wished us all the best and gave freely. We were given potatoes and vegetables, and many other things to sustain us through the winter. In time many new immigrants arrived; we understood each other and became good friends.

The hamlet of Dickson is not big. It consists of a church, school, a church manse, a grocery store and a couple of houses. The landscape here is similar to Denmark, and many of the trees are the same as in Denmark, but many of them will have to be cut down. My husband and I feel good about being here in Canada; we cannot think of returning to Denmark now. We had a good harvest this summer. We cannot get everything at once, but we now have five cows, two calves, four horses, two foals, a sow and fifty chickens.



Dominion Day in Dickson, July 1, 1926

Hopefully everything will turn out for the best. We now have a little daughter. She is like a ray of sunshine for us, because my husband is in the hospital with a broken leg. This will take time and cost money, but God willing, we will overcome this. He works everything out for the best.

Yes, this is a letter of what we have gone through since we came to Canada. Should there be someone who reads this or someone who wishes to come to Canada, there is lots of room and opportunity to have something of your own, but you must be willing to work hard if you wish to succeed.

Friendly greetings from
Karen and Viggo Andersen
Dickson, Alberta
November 1927

Post Sript: Karen's younger brothers, Hans Christian Kappel (born 1904), John Kappel (born 1907) and Paul Kappel (born 1909) also immigrated to Canada and settled in Alberta.

Spruce View Co-Op

Viggo Andersen, the first manager

In 1938, having been hailed out for the seventh time in thirteen years, I was just unable to continue farming any longer. So I disposed of the farm in the spring of 1939. However, during that winter I spoke to a lot of people, trying to interest them in a co-op store. There seemed to be a lot of interest, so a meeting was called at the Spruce View Hall for the purpose of forming a co-op association – with the idea of erecting a building to do business in.

After canvassing the district, people promised to support the co-op, and a number of people took out a fifty cent membership. Shares were to be \$ 50. However, only about 40 people bought a share, not enough to start anything. So another meeting was called where I promised to finance the building, with the provision that I would manage the store until such time that the Association could pay me back. And it was so decided.

However, it would still not have been possible to go ahead, if it had not been for all the donation work done by the members in building the store. No cash wages were paid to anyone.

But we were far from over the hump yet. The Government Supervisor promised to have all the incorporation papers and the licence ready by May 1st. We waited and wrote Edmonton several times. But nothing happened; and it was now mid-June.

We finally drafted a pretty strong letter to the Government demanding to know what the holdup was, as we had sent the money for everything back in April.

We finally received an answer to the effect that the Supervisor we had been dealing with had been fired on account of drunkenness and his successor didn't have all the files. But they promised to have it looked after at once. At least everything was straightened out and the store was opened on July 10, 1939.

It was not a very impressive opening. After we had spent money on a counter, a scale and a few other necessary items to run a business, we found ourselves with the impressive amount of \$103 with which to buy stock. A salesman from Western Grocers said that this was absolutely ridiculous, and he almost refused to have anything to do with us. But we convinced him that as time went on we would grow and prosper (we hoped). The building was 24 x 26 of which 12x24 was taken up by living quarters, which left 14x24 for the store part. This, however, was more than ample for the stock we were able to buy at the time.

If it had not been for the fact that we had trucking service to Calgary every week, I believe we would have had to give up.

BIOGRAPHIES

It goes without saying; we were not able to buy whole cases of anything in order to have a variety. We were not even able to buy a full carton of tobacco or cigarettes. The wholesalers were not too fond of splitting cases. Fortunately, they went along with us. It was also embarrassing to have to keep telling the customers that we didn't have this and we didn't have that.

Finally some of the members of the Co-op came to our help by each leaving a \$20 deposit to draw on. In that way we managed to keep the store open, often until midnight or later, and also on Sundays. The first month we had a turnover of \$175. Moreover, it was encouraging to see that the turnover kept growing month by month.



As my wife and I worked on a commission, we did not make much money the first two years. So I had to supplement our earnings by picking roots, hauling manure, haying, stooking and threshing, or doing any other job which was available. However, by the third year we began to do a good business. Furthermore, we could then buy on credit, which we couldn't do when we really needed it.

We now had gas, oil and grease, as well as gas pumps in front. Before that we used to get a drum of gas, and measure it out with a gallon measure which was a rather slow process when we had to fill a car up. Besides it caused a lot of waste.

With the business expanding, we had to build new living quarters on the east end. We took the partition down, and had a business area of 24x26. However we were soon cramped for space and a warehouse was build on the south of the store, with still another one built on a couple of years later. By the way, in the community we were also known as the Corner Co-op.

When we installed underground tanks we had to build quite a good sized building as the first one was only 10x10 feet. After that the building was used for shingles, tar paper and the like. By now the store was way too small, so a good sized addition was built to the west end of the store.

In 1948, the last year we managed the store, we had a turnover of nearly \$102,000, which was a very high turnover for the time.

I am not too sure of the board of directors at the time we started. I remember that Andrew Larsen was the first chairman, and I think that Bert Thompson, Peter Thompson, Marvin Thompson, Thorvald Jorgensen and Jacob Thompson were on the board at that time. However, if the old Minute Book is still available that information could be found there.

The foregoing is some of the highlights of the first ten years of the operation of the Co-op at the Spruce View Corner. There is a lot more which could be told, but it would be a very long story,

BIOGRAPHIES

and perhaps somebody more familiar with the history since then could tell about the difficulties the store ran into in the fifties. But it came through it with flying colours. It has been a pleasant revelation looking at the financial statements the last few years. In closing I want to congratulate the board, the members and the manager on the success they have made of the association.



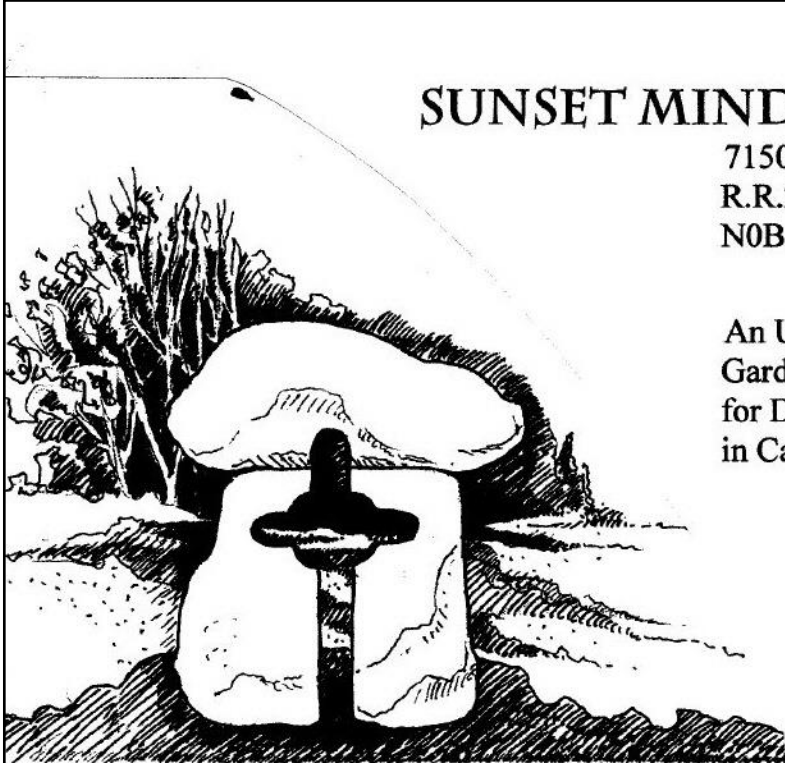
VELKOMMEN
TIL
SUNSET VILLA
R.R. #2, Puslinch
(519) 824-0539
web site: www.sunsetvilla.on.ca

*"Stedet hvor Danskerne Mødes --
The place where Danes Meet"*



Sunset Villa Restaurant
Operated by The Danish Place
Cozy Country Atmosphere
Specializing in Danish Cuisine - Open Thurs. to Sun

We serve delicious Open-Faced Sandwiches &
"Home Cooked" Danish Meals
Tel: 519-824-0539 - Fax: 519-826-9825
LCBO Licensed



SUNSET MINDEPARK (ONTARIO)
7150 Concession 1
R.R.2, Puslinch, Ontario, Canada
N0B 2J0

An Urn Cemetery and Memorial
Garden in peaceful Surroundings,
for Danes and Danish Descendents'
in Canada and USA.

Plots and Niches Available.

Soren Sondergaard, President
(519) 821 9296
e-mail:
s.sondergaard@sympatico.ca

TORP

INCORPORATED

CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN CLASSIC DESIGNS



FURNITURE, DOORS AND WINDOWS,
LIVING, JEWELLERY.

245 DAVENPORT ROAD, SUITE 200, TORONTO, CANADA, (416) 968-2768, WWW.TORPINC.COM

Robert Helms

July 16, 1922 - August 26, 2014

An Autobiography condensed by Ebba Grey

I was born in Gludsted, Ejstrup Sogn, Jylland, on the family farm "Granly". My parents were Niels Jørgen Helms and his wife Tomine Mette Kirstine Nissen from Aalbæk, and they had 11 children.



*Tomine Mette Kirstine Nissen
Niels Jørgen Helms*

My paternal grandparents were Kristiane and Edvard Helms [Gamle Helms] and my maternal grandparents were Marie and Martin Nissen [Gamle Nis]. The latter lived with us on the Granly farm after they sold their own farm. Gamle Nis, who was about 60 at the time, would ride his bicycle over to help build a brick house for his daughter and her husband. He left Monday mornings at 4am to bicycle 30 km to have things ready in time for the bricklayer. I can still see him coming home to Granly Saturday nights on his bike. I was introduced to an indoor toilet in that house, and I still remember how uncomfortable I felt the first time I had to use it. It was a new experience for me, a grown man using a toilet inside a house where people were

eating and sleeping! It was the first time I had been in a bathtub with running warm and cold water, what a treat. Gamle Nis still had money in the bank, and

helped out if necessary when the mortgage had to be paid twice a year. He refused for a number of years to accept his pension, because he disagreed with the improvements introduced by the Socialists, in horse trade with the Liberals, the farmers' party.

Kristiane's last job before being married was as house keeper on an estate where her brother Jorgen was the manager, and Edward his assistant. When Jorgen discovered there was hanky panky taking place between his sister and his assistant, he sent notice to his parents to remove his sister from his territory. She left, but took Edvard along with her to be introduced to the family. Apparently, they were not too impressed, and the couple eloped across Lillebaelt in a borrowed boat, with her parents in hot pursuit in another. By the time they landed the parents had lost contact with them, but they continued by themselves to Edvard's home Rorbaekgaard, a fine farm. His father Jacob, my great grandfather, was the bearer of a lifetime title, granted by the

BIOGRAPHIES

Danish King. This cooled her parents off sufficiently that a wedding date was set for Edvard and his true love. As a wedding gift they were given a couple of hundred hectares of heather with some buildings on it.

Kristiane (paternal grandmother) was the first hostess on Granly, as she was one of the few women of her generation who had learned a trade – a dairy/creamery maid, and had worked on an estate called Havarti, where she and the female owner developed a new type of cheese and named it after the estate. That is what my grandfather Edvard told and I have tried to have it documented.

From about ten years of age I helped on the farm during the summer, and before barbed wire fences the cows were tethered, and it was up to us to see to it they left nothing behind by giving them only what they could eat in one hour. They had to be moved every hour, of course, all day long until it was time to bring them home. A good job for a boy who had every other day off from school; and the sandy soil made it easy to step on the iron peg and push it down with your clogs.

Cows were easy except when the weather was getting hot and the big mosquitoes appeared out of nowhere. They laid eggs under the cow's hide and when the hot weather arrived the cows were often hard to manage. There were about 20 cows, and we tied them together four abreast, with a link chain that was separated from the main link left behind in the field. We had to be careful that they did not step on our toes, as we were bare footed. With the insects around they had their tails up in the air, and took off down the road, as soon as we tied them together, and they did not stop until they reached the barn. We were hanging onto the chain of the lead cow and if we did not get out to the side they would run us down. I wish somebody with a camera had been around. This seems to be a bit of Denmark's farming history that has been forgotten.

We had five working horses on Granly, one being "Swot Pejrr", a black Norwegian horse, very gentle except when she was in heat. She would get out of control if a rope became dislodged under her tail. That happened one Sunday afternoon when she was pulling the cart Dad was using to drive us to church. About half way there Swot Pejrr came to an abrupt stop, and before we knew it she was laying down in the middle of the road and nothing Dad could do would get her up again. It was a sleepy summer afternoon, and the farmers along the road were awakened from their midday snooze and came running. Eventually, we managed to get the horse up again and turned around, and she looked so embarrassed about the whole thing. The cart was damaged and we were limping home, but she was still my dad's favourite horse, and the smartest one we had.

During the winter we fed the horses at night. The oat straw was cut short in lengths of about one inch, and the horses were fed every hour. If there was more feed in the trough, it would become damp from the animals' breath, and they would not eat it. That was considered a job one of the hired hands took care of, during the evening after supper. I had a fulltime job on Granly replacing another man when I was 14, and was getting his wages. The next year another guy, my age, was hired. He and I did the work that usually was done by fully grown men for another two years and were paid their wages. There were no tractors on Granly until after the war was over.

BIOGRAPHIES

Except for the binder, sowing machine and the double plough, the work was done with two horses.



Late 1920's - The five eldest Helms children - Robert, the second oldest is standing on the left beside his older brother Henry. This was the last time the family could afford a professional photographer.

One of the duties I disliked the most on the farm, was in fall when for a couple of weeks on every second day, when not in school Henry and I took turns to pick up potatoes behind a plough. It was the ones we had missed when they were taken up. I am sure if you had to pay someone to do it, they would have stayed in the ground but it was cheap labour and I guess it did not hurt us. It was done with two horses and a single furrow plough, which meant that it was a slow and boring process.

It is difficult to appreciate how important it was to me to have one day off every week to attend the apprentice school in Horsens. It was not mandatory because we lived more than 15 km from town. It was much later that I learned I was there, thanks to two other merchants in town who also had an apprentice. They had twisted the Old Man's arm, for which I am eternally grateful. Of course, it should be appreciated it was a major concession on his part, to let me have a day a week off for two years.

I worked on Granly until September 1, 1939 when I was 17 years of age to begin an apprenticeship in a general store with Dalhof & Son in Norre Snede.

Few of us will ever forget April 9, 1940. At about 5 am we were awoken by small black planes buzzing outside our windows, and it was not until the six o'clock news, that we found out that we had been occupied and that Denmark had capitulated which of course was the only option the country had. We were situated on the Vejle-Viborg main road, and about 9am the German troops began rolling through Norre Snede heading to the northern ports of Hirtshals and Frederikshavn, on the way to Norway. It was difficult to get across the road all day. About 5pm they came to a stop. It was dinner time and we were standing around watching what they were eating, a little surprised perhaps as we had heard rumours that Hitler was short of food. Apparently his army did not go hungry at this stage of the game. We did have an underground movement, and after a while it did slow down the movement of the Germans.

It was part of my job at the store to deal with Germans who came in to do business, and sometimes the room next to mine was requisitioned for an officer, when the army stopped in town for a while. The Germans had no money, everything was added to the bill, and when the

BIOGRAPHIES

war was over all of it was written off. In other words, the Danish taxpayers ended up paying for what the German army had spent during the five years of occupation.

I was conscripted into the Army which had been moved from Fredericia to Kerteminde, and had received my train ticket and was ready to go, when the whole thing was cancelled by the Germans in August, 1943.

We are not that much different from the average German and it was not difficult noticing that most of the conscripted soldiers were normal human beings. How much could we blame these soldiers, that they were part of a large nation that had occupied about a quarter of Denmark? They are still Denmark's nearest neighbours, with whom we always did a large amount of business, both between and during the wars. I guess we could say that the Germans are having a stabilizing effect on the world today.

Apprenticeships during my era would today be considered cheap labour but not anything I needed to lose sleep over. To me, it was a vital necessity for what lay ahead in my future. How else would a farmer's boy with an elementary education have come to go to school in Horsens, which gained me my high school certificate and was enough to take me to the Jyske Handelshøjskole, a business college in Aarhus in August 1945, followed by a good position with Esso in Odense which lasted for three years?



August 1948: Robert leaves Denmark for London where he attended the Danish Merchant School

In August, 1948 I took the train to Esbjerg to board the *Kronprins Frederik* for Harwich, England, never to move back to Denmark again, except for a visit.

Esso had given me a leave of absence for 15 months to go to England to improve my English. I attended a business course at the Danish Merchant School at Ealing Broadway, and went to work for Selfridges Stores on Oxford Street in London, England's largest department store.

I met Peggy at the International Club which had regular dances and meetings, and sometimes, a Sunday hiking tour where we took a train and got off somewhere and hiked the "foot paths". We became serious and I discovered that life was never better. It came to an end suddenly when I was informed that my work permit expired in three days. We set a date to get married, and I went to Denmark for a month, before they deported me. Returning to England, the customs people took my word that I was going to marry Peggy. We were married October 1, 1949 and spent our honeymoon in Paris. When we returned to everyday life, we spent many lovely summer holidays on long bike rides throughout England, North Wales, and Ireland.

BIOGRAPHIES



October 1953: Peggy & Robert seated together on the left, on the Greek ship "Olympia", bound for New York.

In October 1953 Peggy and I left Southampton for Canada on board a brand new Greek ship, the *Olympia* bound for New York via Cherburg, Cork, Halifax, and finally Vancouver, British Columbia. When you arrive in Canada, there is not much choice but to find some work and bring home a pay cheque. I did look for 'inside' work in line with what I had left behind but was told that I was too old at 31. There were bills to be paid and so I started working in construction.

I last saw my mother just before we left for Canada. My dad came for a three week visit to Vancouver in 1964, and on the way from the airport he asked if I could take him to Chicago to visit his friend Theodor Lorentsen. I thought I had talked him out of it, but during his visit we drove to Oregon to visit friends, and after a couple of days, Dad said to us, since we have come this far, perhaps we could do that trip to Chicago.

We moved to North Delta, BC in 1957 and Peggy and I were blessed with three children: Juliette Inga (Aug 9, 1954), Paul Nicholas (Oct 27, 1956) and Anita Lynn (June 30, 1959). In 1969 the five of us visited Denmark for the first time in 16 years. Our seven week trip took us from Denmark on a driving holiday to East and West Germany, Belgium, England and back through Holland and Germany. Peggy's mother had passed away by this time, unfortunately. On a later holiday in 1982 Peggy and I rented a Citroen and drove throughout England and Scotland.



Helms family home in North Delta



Helms Family in 1968: Peggy, Paul, Anita, Juliette, and Robert

As a member of the Carpenters Union, I became aware of the shoddy building practices in North Delta, BC and I started writing letters to Ottawa and to City Hall which got me in trouble with the union and the mayor who had a suspicion that something was wrong with the way a labour union had infiltrated his territory, which in fact it had not done. It was mostly hype, and it grew when the Council mistook my letter to Ottawa as official union communication. The inspector used it as an opportunity to thrash our local to cover up his own butt. My departure from union office was simple; my associates fabricated a story and had the members boot me from the executive. I consider myself honest, above the

BIOGRAPHIES

average if possible and otherwise just a realist/idealist. I got myself involved in saving Burns Bog from development when homeowners in the vicinity discovered a one square mile of the bog had been designated a park reserve, and organized to approach Delta council to have it dedicated as a regular park. Volunteers were organized to build trails, and the Delta Nature Reserve became a reality.

In August 1979, our house caught fire while we were asleep and it woke us up at 3am. The fire had started from smouldering ashes put into a plastic bucket that Peggy had put on our porch. Luckily, the house didn't burn down, and we were not hurt.

On my arrival in Canada in 1953, I had wasted little time getting my bicycle, which I had been waiting two months for, on the road after it had arrived from England. I remember this boy standing beside the road and saying to me, "grown-ups don't ride bicycles", which was true, it was only kids who rode bikes then. Peggy had also brought her bicycle, and one Sunday she came with me for a trip, and we cycled from Central Park to Surrey via the Pattullo Bridge. When we arrived home she put her bike away, and she told me that the roads were unsafe for cycling.

It was many years later, when we began cycling again in 1987. June 2nd of that year, a sunny dry day with no reason for us to have expected it, would be the last time I would see Peggy alive. Peggy was hit by a car while riding her bicycle and was dead at the age of 62. It was a nightmare for our family to lose her.

To get over my loss, I signed up for a bicycle tour of China that was to last for 30 days during which we were to cycle 11 days. On April 1, 1989 I also went with a bicycling tour leaving from Cape Town in South Africa.

In 1994, I obtained permission to build an "eight feet by twelve feet" cedar log hut with Peggy's name on it, in the UBC Research Forest, north of Maple Ridge. It is about half way on the Blue Trail, about nine kilometres hike round trip and not too steep.



A 2011 family photo including: children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



Robert in 2012 with daughters Juliette and Anita, and son Paul

BIOGRAPHIES

Cathy Lynch, my hiking, biking, and dancing partner for ten years, was in her late seventies when she was hit by a car on January 5, 2007. Although she had no broken bones and only a minor concussion, which the doctor credited to her strong bone structure and good health in general, shortly after the accident she was suddenly booked into an Alzheimer institution for life. A couple of years earlier she had fallen on black ice with her bike, which may have contributed to this sad situation. I approached the Alzheimers chapter, hoping that we could bypass red tape and other obstacles that in my opinion were making Cathy's life unbearable, but to no avail, as I was merely a retired ESP carpenter in his late eighties.

P.S.:

On August 26, 2014 Robert Helms passed away peacefully in North Delta, BC where he had lived for 57 years. He was predeceased by his wife Peggy in 1987 and is survived by children Juliette (Rick), Paul (Pat) and Anita (Steve), 5 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.



Dania

Dania's Campus of Care

Providing quality housing and residential health care for seniors

Dania Home

Newly Opened in March 2015!
Accredited & Licensed Residential Care

Dania Manor

Assisted Living & Supportive Services

Carl Mortensen Manor

Independent Subsidized Living
for individuals 55+

For more information, please visit our website www.dania.bc.ca

Phone: 604-299-2414 - Fax: 604-299-7775

info@danialc.ca

THE PACIFIC REGION
WISHES
THE DANISH HOUSE SOCIETY
A VERY SUCCESSFUL 2015 CONFERENCE

The Pacific Region includes representation from the Vancouver Island Danish-Canadian Club of Nanaimo; Danish Social Club of Victoria; Danish Canadian Community Centre; Danish Sisterhood of America, Dogwood Lodge 179; Danish Brotherhood of America, Lodge 328; Danish Lutheran Church, Granly; Danish Lutheran Church, Burnaby; Danish House Society; Royal Danish Guards Association; Dania Society & Danish Home Society.



Dr. Erik Sporon Fiedler's Stay in Canada 1909-1915

Erik Sporon Fiedler, Sindal, Denmark

This biography of my father, Dr. Erik Sporon Fiedler, was written exactly one hundred years after he became a Canadian citizen in 1915. It is the result of an investigation, I, William Reeves and especially Ruth Botel started after my son and I paid a visit to Vancouver Island in the year 2000.



Dr. Erik Sporon Fiedler

Prior to our trip to Canada, my knowledge of my father's life on northern Vancouver Island was based only on the stories I remember from my childhood, and on the letters and photos that I found after my father's death. While growing up, we heard about Canada and the life of my father "over there". There are photos from both my father's and his brother's time in Canada. They were both good photographers, and many of the pictures have an explanatory note on the back. In my father's letters to his family in Denmark, we only found correspondence from his years as a physician in Vancouver between 1912 and 1914. These letters were very informative, revealing life in the city and that of a Dane at the time. Unfortunately, there are no letters from his time in Quatsino and Duncan on Vancouver Island, only the written comments on the back of the photos from these places. Then again, this was the part of my father's stay in Canada I mostly remember because of the stories he told about these places, and his life there.

In the fall of 2000, my son, also named Erik Sporon Fiedler, and I began our journey to Canada. We took The Rocky Mountaineer train from Calgary to Vancouver. We then headed for Vancouver Island, where we rented a car and drove north. We visited the local museum in Port Hardy, where we met the curator of the museum, William Reeves. He in turn contacted Ruth Botel, an accomplished local historian, also from Port Hardy, who we just had to meet at the behest of William Reeves. They both told us about the former Danish settlement at Cape Scott and the hard life the settlers had faced. They explained that as life at Cape Scott got tougher, many of the settlers moved to Quatsino.

We then told William Reeves and Ruth Botel that my father, Dr. Erik Sporon Fiedler, had stayed at Quatsino from 1910 to 1912. He was hired as a physician for the community shortly after the settlers had moved from Capae Scott to Quatsino. As well, he took care of the First Nation community, as no else did. My father told me that many years ago. This story came as a

BIOGRAPHIES

surprise to both William Reeves and Ruth Botel, as they thought that the first physician on northern Vancouver Island was a physician by the name of Cox, who apparently was also a Dane.

William Reeves contacted the Quatsino history group at the museum after our visit. They didn't



Dr. Fiedler in doorway of house in Quatsino, 1910

really believe that my father had been there. Consequently, Ruth Botel started looking into this. Her research took a lot of time and effort, but with the photos from my father's album, which I had sent to her after returning to Denmark, and with the comments on the back of the photos, here was the proof which was needed! It was just research that was required! Back in Denmark I searched for the name Cox in the files of the University of Copenhagen, but found no one by that

name. How information of my father's stay in Canada was lost or had not been recorded is hard to tell. Ruth Botel's research revealed a lot of information, which I am very grateful for. Ruth Botel's knowledge of the history of the area is impressive and I have truly obtained new knowledge about my father's life and the history of the Danes who settled on Vancouver Island.

My father, Dr. Erik Sporon Fiedler, for whom I was named, was born on April 19, 1881, in Skælskør on the Danish island of Zealand, as the son of Dr. Otto Joachim Fiedler and Olavia Blixenkroner Harboe. My father was number two of three sons, of which the oldest tragically died on a sailing ship under a storm in the Baltic. The youngest brother later followed my father to Canada.

My father went to school in Sorø, a small town on Zealand, and graduated in 1900 from Sorø Academy, an old well-known boarding school. He then matriculated at the University of Copenhagen for the study of medicine. In 1908 he received his medical degree from the university.

At the beginning of the 20th century, when my father obtained his degree, there were not a lot of opportunities for young doctors in Denmark. Many, with a university degree, sought employment in other countries.

In some of my father's letters to friends and family, he mentioned going abroad as a possibility after finishing university. I think this, together with a curiosity for new opportunities abroad, prompted his decision to emigrate. Others in our family had left Denmark for shorter or longer periods of time, so it was not an unfamiliar thought to think of opportunities elsewhere. One of

BIOGRAPHIES

my father's uncles had immigrated to the United States in 1883, and settled in Kansas City. Other family members had immigrated to Argentina.

My father immigrated to Canada in 1909, probably after an inquiry from C.B. Christensen of the Cape Scott settlement. Carl Brink Christensen, who was a teacher and the leader of the Danish settlement, had several contacts in Denmark. At the time, it was common to ask for, or advertise for, new settlers, especially people with needed skills.



Dr. Fiedler & Mr. Evensen, Quatsino Sound

So in 1909, a year after he received his medical degree, he travelled to England, and from Liverpool he continued his journey, probably on board the "Empress of Ireland" a passenger ship operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway. After landing he travelled across Canada and finally climbed aboard the steamer, which ran from Vancouver to a bight near where Port Hardy now is. After walking through the forests, he arrived in Coal Harbour, near the mouth of Holberg Inlet, from where he continued to Quatsino, where he spent the first two years of his stay in Canada. The Danish settlement at Cape Scott had in 1909 moved to Quatsino, where my father settled in Hecate Cove. The house he rented was later owned by the Rasmussens, family members of Ruth Botel's husband.



Carl Brink Christensen (white tie) and others at Quatsino

According to the research carried out by Ruth Botel, my father was the first doctor who settled and practiced that far north on Vancouver Island. After having completed courses in medicine in Victoria in 1910, he was permanently employed as a doctor: "Resident Physician, Quatsino". He was employed by the government of British Columbia, having been affiliated with the Cape Scott settlement as a doctor since 1909.

From 1910 until the spring of 1912 he was the official physician in the area. His responsibilities included taking care of the medical supervision and treatment of the First Nation residents, and a pharmacy. According to Ruth Botel's research, my father travelled all over the North Island. He spent time helping the Indians, plus being a doctor locally, the position he was hired for originally. One of Ruth Botel's family members told her that his parents, the Rasmussens, had talked a lot about Doctor Fiedler. They thought very highly of him. Doctor Fiedler had stayed with them overnight each time he made the trip up to Sea Otter Cove at the top of the Island. They were also very appreciative of his travelling up there for one last trip, when he had decided to leave the Quatsino area. He had left medicine and bandages etc. with each family, dividing between them what he had left before heading down island.

BIOGRAPHIES

In the summer of 1912 my father moved down island to Lake Cowichan where he was employed as a railway physician at the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway construction site. Here he took care of the workers' medical needs and travelled to the various surveyor camps out in the forest. He also attended to a hospital/clinic in Duncan.

My father's younger brother, my uncle Svend Gunnersen Fiedler, followed in my father's footsteps and immigrated to Canada in 1911. We know for sure that he travelled on the "Empress of Ireland" due to the letters which survive from that voyage. Svend was born in Skælskør in 1883. He graduated as an engineer from the Polytechnic Institute in Copenhagen, and right after his final exam he decided to follow his brother and head for Canada. Since his arrival in British Columbia, Svend had worked in Comox on Vancouver Island as a surveyor in the Canadian Collieries Survey Party.

He later worked as an engineer and surveyor for Christie and Dawson Land Surveyors, a drafting firm in Kamloops. However, when my father was hired by the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway on the building of the railway from Duncan and north, Svend also acquired a job, as an engineer, with the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway. He was given his own surveyor team and travelled with it into the forests north of Lake Cowichan. My father and his brother rented a house in Duncan, where they spent their spare time together. They also bought a piece of forest land. The land was



The rental house in Duncan, 1912



My father in Duncan, 1912

Later that year, he moved from the Glencove Lodge and from his clinic in the Dawson Block, to the Bell Irving Building at 679 Granville Street, just opposite the new Hudson's Bay department store. The new premises included both an apartment and a clinic. According to his letters, this was a great improvement. Moreover, he had additional tasks both as a railway doctor for the northern route through the Rocky Mountains and as a doctor in hospitals both north and south of the Canada-US border, for example, in Seattle and Spokane in Washington State.

At the time he was convinced that his future was in Canada. In his letters he describes his work with his patients and the cooperation and competition with colleagues. He also took an

was later sold when Svend decided to go back to Denmark in 1913. During his stay in Duncan my father completed the English/Canadian medical exam, which was a prerequisite for establishing one's own private practice.

In the winter of 1912-13 my father moved to Vancouver, where he established his own medical practice, in the new Dawson Block, together with another doctor, Dr. Kenneth D. Panton.

At that time my father stayed at a boarding house, The Glencove Lodge.

BIOGRAPHIES



Dawson Block, Hastings Street, Vancouver

As an aside, I read in one of his letters a description of a pocket watch which he had acquired. I had found this watch in an old box in a drawer some years ago. But only when I read the letter, did I realize the connection. It's a fine watch - now with a history! As far as I have been able to find out, it was manufactured in Canada in 1913 on license from the Swiss Tavannes Watch Company.

interest in the new university which was being built in Vancouver. He spoke about the possibility of being employed at the university, when it was completed. It appears from the letters that my father was satisfied with his situation, and that he participated in the social life of the city, going to lectures and other social gatherings.



*Glencove Lodge,
Vancouver*



Fiedler moved to 679 Granville Street

Svend Fiedler followed his brother from Duncan to Vancouver, where he was hired by a company which manufactured machinery for the gas and electricity industry. The company provided light to areas in and around Vancouver and Victoria. As mentioned above, he left for Europe in 1913. Svend later became a British citizen and established an engineering company and factory in London, which provided heating to English homes. Svend Fiedler died in London in 1956. I never met my uncle.

The First World War broke out in August 1914. Already in letters from 1913, my father mentions talk and fear of a coming war between Britain and Germany. In the Scandinavian community they talked about the possibility of their countries becoming involved in the war.

In the letters he wrote to his parents in late 1914, after the outbreak of the war, he mentions the hard times the community faced due to the war. He describes the fear the Scandinavians had; they were afraid of internment of the Scandinavian community. At that time the British government was not sure of the neutrality of the Scandinavian countries. I think this is one of the reasons why my father decided to become a Canadian citizen in early 1915.

Maybe there were other reasons, but there are no letters and very little other information between

BIOGRAPHIES

1915 and 1918. The only thing I have found from his last month in Canada was an article in the "Vancouver Daily World" from May 22, 1915, on page 16, where my father's name is mentioned. Like thousands of other "Canadians" he set off to Europe to participate in the war.



*Dr. Erik Sporon Fiedler in his
Vancouver office, 1914*

My father's colleague, Dr. Kenneth Panton, had left for Europe in November 1914. He served as a Medical Officer, and reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He later returned to Vancouver and became president of the British Columbia Medical Association.

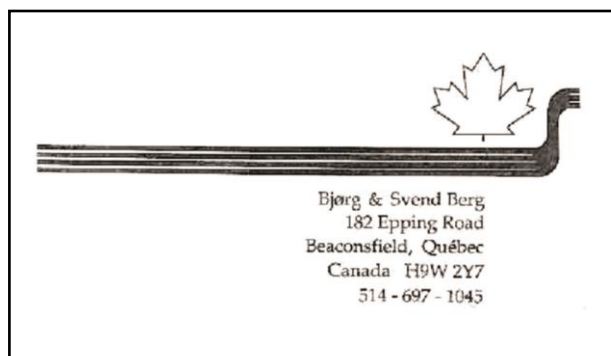
In 1915, my father returned to Europe as a Canadian citizen and as a physician ready to help. In May 1916 he was working in a hospital in St. Petersburg, now renamed Petrograd. His last position during the war, prior to the Russian Revolution in November 1917, was as head of a Red Cross field hospital located in Prince Stroganoff's mansion in St. Petersburg.

After his years in Canada, participating in the war as a physician, seeing the Russian Revolution unfold and working for the Red Cross, he returned to Denmark in 1918. He settled in Hjørring, a peaceful town in Northern Jutland. In Hjørring he established himself as a physician.

During his first year in Hjørring, he travelled a lot. He joined a number of expeditions as doctor for the participants. One much later expedition to the north of Karelia in the early 1930s, brought back to the National Zoological Museum in Denmark an entire bear family. An exhibition in the museum shows the bear family in a panorama, which can still be seen at the museum today.

In Hjørring in 1938 my father married my mother, Grete Fiedler, née Mogensen, born in 1918. I was born in 1946, and my sister, Thora Fiedler, was born in 1948.

When my father retired from his medical practice in 1954, the family moved to a small farm with a forest in the countryside outside Hjørring. He had bought this farm in 1923, and it is where my father spent his last days. After a long life my father passed away on May 21, 1967; my mother passed away in 2003.



ENGANG GARDER, ALTID GARDER

**BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL
CONFERENCE FROM**

ROYAL DANISH GUARDS' ASSOCIATION, WESTERN CANADA

Contact: Secretary/ Treasurer FEB-71 Jan Bjerreskov
60 Hidden Vale Crescent NW, Calgary, Alberta T3A 5B5
Phone 403-275-2135

E-mail bjerre@telusplanet.net
www.garderforening.dk/wcgf.html

ROYAL DANISH GUARDS' ASSOCIATION, PACIFIC NORTHWEST

President FEB-81 Kenneth Olsen, President
15706 NE 65 Street, Redmond, WA 98052 USA
Home phone 1-425-881-3320

E-mail VKO61@hotmail.com
Garderstuen: Knud Nielsen 604-534-3707 knudnielsen@shaw.ca



K. Hansen Masonry (1983) Ltd.

OFFICE: 11520 - 154 STREET, EDMONTON, AB T5M 3N8
MAILING: 8347 SASKATCHEWAN DRIVE, EDMONTON, AB T6G 2A7
TELEPHONE: 780-451-0980 FAX: 780-451-2299

KONRAD HANSEN

AFTER HOURS: 780-439-3178
CELLULAR: 780-446-3289
EMAIL: info@khansenmasonry.ca

SHOP: 780-452-8477
780-451-2603

Pastor Skanderup - a founder of the Tilley settlement

Ellen (Skanderup) Wagner, Calgary

In 1930 about thirty settlers from Nebraska made the long trek to Tilley, Alberta. In Nebraska most of the Danes were just renting farms, while Tilley offered them the opportunity to buy land and establish their own farm. In order to secure the land and enter into a contract with the CPR, the Danes formed a congregation in Laurel, Nebraska, headed by Pastor A.N. Skanderup, who, having secured a block of land, became the agent who handled all land sales in Tilley.

Skanderup served as pastor of the Bethany congregation in Tilley from 1930 to 1934. In 1937, he received a call from Dannevirke, a Danish congregation in Redvers, Saskatchewan. Then in 1944 he accepted a call to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Salmonhurst, now New Denmark, New Brunswick. He served the congregation in New Denmark until 1947, when he retired, and then moved back to Tilley in 1948. Below is Pastor Skanderup's story as compiled and told by his granddaughter, Ellen Wagner.

In the Bethany Lutheran Church's Twenty-fifth Anniversary booklet, Pastor A.N. Skanderup writes the following about the founding of Tilley:

“It was the days of Colonization by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. They sent agents everywhere, also to the States. The CPR, upon request, contacted me. A free trip was arranged to Canada, and we ended up in Brooks, where land was for sale. Millicent Flat was the original place thought of, but already too much of the land was sold so there was not enough left to settle a colony of Danes on. We looked over the land around Tilley. Also here were two agents busy selling land. One bringing in Slovakian settlers, another mostly Hungarians and I was to bring in Danish [sic]. The CPR decided to give up their big hay farm and let it be settled by Danes and several other sections of land were added to be reserved for the Danish to settle on. We kept the reservation for two years.”

This took place in August 1929. Since most of the Danes in drought stricken Hardy, Nebraska, were renting, they saw this as an opportunity to be able to own their own farms; and in an area where they would have access to water when the rain didn't come. A delegation from Ruskin and Hardy went to Laurel, Nebraska, to speak to Pastor Anton Nielsen Skanderup, where it was agreed that if they bought land, he would accompany them and be their pastor. In October a number of men went up to Tilley and bought land. On the way back, on October 9, 1929, they stopped in Laurel, to initiate and organize the Bethany congregation. Subsequently a call was issued to the Rev. A.N. Skanderup to be their pastor, signed by John W. Aagesen, A. Westergaard Knudsen, Andrew Christensen, David Christiansen and Marius Svendsen.

BIOGRAPHIES

The call read:

“As the congregation is in the formative period and based upon colonization, it is our wish that you continue to work for the colonizing and increase of the congregation. Meanwhile we leave it to you to arrange for church services and the like, until the congregation in the future makes definite arrangements. The congregation cannot promise you any wages at present but the free use of the church land to be and we farm it for you.”

Due to the failure of previous colonization attempts the Church Council of the Synod (United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church) prohibited them from advertising in the synod papers about their colonization project for an entire year, and actually discouraged involvement in this venture. This prevented them from being able to attract enough people before the land reservation that Pastor Skanderup had acquired expired and the land sales were then opened to others outside the Danish community.



First Parsonage in Tilley

In the early spring of 1930, the Skanderup family left the big roomy comfortable parsonage at Laurel, Nebraska, and joined the group of about 30 Danes to begin the eight-day trek to Tilley, Alberta, Canada. The family was

packed into their 1929 Chevy, with their essential belongings and headed north. There were now six kids: Milton-11, Verne-9, Leo-7, Agnete-5 ½, Naomi-4 and Ruth-2. Leo and Naomi have recounted some of what they recall as young children. Naomi remembered that the roads were very bad and that they got stuck in the mud and had to move to the side of the road in order to get out. Leo remembered that a car came out from a side road and hit their car which delayed them for about half a day while the car was fixed. Both Leo and Naomi remembered that they had to leave the car at the Canada-US border because they did not have enough money to pay the duty required to take the car across the border.

The family somehow got to Sterling, Alberta, and stayed with the Peder Nielsen family. From there Pastor Skanderup took the train to Tilley to borrow a car. About four days later, he returned to Sterling in David Christiansen's Whippet coach and they continued on their journey. After driving for miles over bald prairie and endless winding roads they arrived. They saw their new home, which was a long granary, 12 feet wide on skids and one ply of lumber; another 12 x 14 granary served as a bedroom. There were no trees, only sagebrush and very little grass and endless space. The granary served as their house until the fall.

Harvest came before the basement of the house was finished so they had to share their makeshift home with the grain that had just been harvested. Naomi remembered a rocking chair sitting on the top of the pile of the wheat. Later that fall, the basement of the house was finished and a roof put on it; and this is where they lived for two or three years, until the house could be built. Pastor Skanderup purchased an abandoned house in the dry country and salvaged the lumber from it. This lumber was what they used to build their house.

BIOGRAPHIES



Note the children on the running board

During the Great Depression, grain prices were low and money was scarce. They lived mostly on garden produce, milk, eggs and home-grown meat. Lois Hansen remembered her mom (Ruth) talking about the kids catching pigeons, which they canned and used for meat. They purchased a hand grinder from the Eaton's catalogue and ground their own flour, using the fine part for bread and the course for

porridge. Pastor Skanderup's wife, Kristine, got a New Home sewing machine to sew clothes for the kids and other projects for the home. Leo stated that he never remembered having to go hungry. He recalled that, "Mom was a good cook and could make a little go a long way." The same was true of their clothes. On October 10, 1930, Alvin was the second baby born in the congregation. Clifford followed on January 21, 1933, and Verner on August 14, 1935.

Initially Church Services were held in the home of Anton Jensen. Later they were held in Renfrew School. The first congregational meeting was held in the Renfrew School in May 1930, and the board of officers was elected, with John W. Aagesen as president. Anton Jensen, Niels Nielsen and Chris Hendrickson were elected respectively vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Elected trustees were David Christiansen, Andrew Christensen and Peter Hendricksen.



Bethany Lutheran Church, Tilley

In 1935 the church was framed and was used unfinished. It was finally finished and dedicated on March 30, 1941, when Pastor Emil E. Nommesen served the congregation. At the dedication ceremony, Pastor Skanderup was the guest speaker.

The parsonage was built in 1937-38. At this time it was also decided to have English services on the first and third Sunday each month. Between 1943 and 1951 English was used at all Services and meetings except for one Danish Service each month.

In 1930, there was no school in the area so Eleanora Jensen taught the children in their basement. When Bethany School was built, the children walked the mile and a half to and from school every day. Naomi recalled one bright sunny winter morning leaving home for school and not even getting halfway before a blizzard blew in. They got a bit lost and Milton came and found them. He sent Agnete home and took the rest of them to school. Agnete made it to Ingemann Sorensen's place before having to seek shelter. At that point everyone stayed where they were until their parents came and got them. Everyone did get home safe and sound.

BIOGRAPHIES

Pastor Skanderup loved to sing. He always carried a bag of books with him. It didn't matter if it was a pastoral call or a family gathering, it always ended with the invitation, usually in Danish,



The second parsonage in Tilley

"Shall we sing?" Evelyn (Christiansen) Hendricksen shared in Bethany's Fiftieth Anniversary Book an example of how much he liked to sing. Evelyn and Lilly (Nielsen) Jaspersen had walked over five miles to get to confirmation class. When it was over, "Pastor Skanderup took pity on them and offered them a ride home. His mode of transportation was a stone boat (sled) pulled by a fine team of horses, the seating space being two apple boxes. Pastor Skanderup was always singing, as he also did at this time. Perhaps he was not watching the road too carefully and he hit a rut. This sudden jar

pitched Lilly and Evelyn into the ditch. Pastor Skanderup had not noticed that they had fallen off and kept on driving and singing. Not wishing to walk farther than necessary, they hollered for him to stop. Naturally he stopped and they got back up on their boxes to enjoy the rest of the ride, even if it was rough."

In 1934, Pastor Skanderup resigned from being the pastor of Bethany Church at Tilley in order to try to get the debt the family had incurred in their move under control. For the next three years he continued farming. As well, he worked as a land agent with the CPR to recruit people to come and join the Tilley colony. As a CPR land agent, Anton Skanderup was paid a commission. According to my research at the Glenbow Museum it appears that there were a number of contracts that could be entered into. As with many real estate contracts, if you made the sale yourself you would get paid 5%, but if someone helped you, then the commission had to be shared evenly. It also appeared that in some instances they were paid \$1.00/acre but again even that seemed to be flexible. Moreover, during this period Pastor Skanderup filled in at any of the vacancies that occurred in the Danish congregations in the area. Stanley Rasmussen of Standard related a story to David Skanderup, "Pastor Skanderup would come to Standard by train to teach confirmation class. There had been a blizzard, but he got on the train anyway. Because there was so much snow on the tracks, the crew decided that the train could not go beyond Chancellor. Rather than going back with the train Pastor Skanderup decided to walk the last ten miles to Standard through the deep snow so that the confirmation class would not be disappointed."



The Skanderup family, 1935

It took a year before a replacement for Pastor Skanderup was found, but finally Pastor Harold

BIOGRAPHIES

Larsen was installed in August 1935. During the winter, Pastor Vilhelm Beck had come from Standard to conduct services.



The parsonage in Redvers

In September 1935 Mr. & Mrs. Skanderup's second son, Verne, was killed in a tragic farm accident.

At the end of 1936 the debt was nearly paid off and Pastor Skanderup again requested a call. A call didn't come right away, so he even began to explore the possibility of going back to Denmark to serve as a pastor there.

In 1937, Pastor Skanderup did receive and accepted a call to the Dannevirke Lutheran Church in Redvers, Saskatchewan. The Skanderup family arrived in Redvers on October 4, 1937. Pastor Skanderup believed in doing pastoral visits and would try to visit each family twice a year. In the winter he would travel on these visits either by cutter or stone boat and would often be gone for two to three days at a time. In addition he farmed a Quarter Section (160 acres or 65 hectares) of land in Redvers.

In 1938-39 Pastor Skanderup started holding church services in Swan River, Manitoba. And in 1940 other functions of the congregation were started such as youth/young people's meetings. During this time, he bought some land in Swan River, Manitoba, and because Leo had quit school after grade 8 he was given the job to clear the land of trees and to farm it.



Dannevirke Church, Redvers

During the summers, Naomi would go to Swan River to help Leo. Most summers she would stay until after the harvest in October before returning home to go to school. Pastor Skanderup would faithfully go to Swan River once a month to provide services for the congregation there.



Pastor Skanderup's winter rig

In 1944 Pastor Skanderup accepted a call to Salmonhurst/New Denmark, New Brunswick. The move happened during the Second World War when everything was rationed. The family traveled east and when they reached Ottawa, the tires on the car would take them no farther. Because tires were classified essential to the war effort, they were not readily available for a passenger car. Pastor Skanderup was

not going to be deterred from getting to his destination. He made many inquiries and by that afternoon he returned having received a voucher signed by Prime Minister McKenzie King himself. The family was now able to continue on its way!

In 1946, the Skanderup family visited Tilley for the summer holidays. They all stayed with Leo, who had come back to Tilley a year or two earlier with his friend Ove Pedersen of New

BIOGRAPHIES

Denmark. The little house couldn't hold all of them so the boys had to sleep in a granary. On this trip, the three youngest boys were introduced to irrigation and the use of a shovel to try and make the water run uphill. They also got to meet the Hendricksens and the Sorensens who would play a large part in Verner's life a few years later. They returned to New Denmark at the end of August so the children could go back to school.



Bethany Church, New Denmark

In 1947 Pastor Skanderup retired from active ministry, and in 1948 the family returned to Tilley. They packed their belongings into one half of



St. Peter's Church, New Denmark

of a railway car; the other half of the car was filled with 500 spruce trees. Unfortunately the trees didn't survive! Pastor Skanderup was always planting things and over the years there had grown quite an orchard beside the house. Verner recalled the trip back to Tilley. "The trip itself was better this time, as we had gotten a new car. Alvin had the old '36 Ford. When we traveled, there was always singing. Papa loved to sing. We also sang in Danish, so we got to know hymns in Danish and English. We settled in on the farm next to the church and thus began my life at Bethany."

Being a pastor's son was not always fun. Both Leo and Verner recalled being spoken to from the pulpit when they were misbehaving. Leo shared a story about when he was seven or eight years old. The three older boys were seated in the front pew right below the pulpit. Leo, being the youngest, got restless and started to ever so slowly slide across the pew to the other end. Once he got there, he started back across the pew again. On his third trip across the pew, his father looked down at Leo and said in Danish "Leo, can you sit still!" Leo said that he froze in that position and hardly dared even breathe.

Harry and Gladys Hendricksen, their daughters Elaine and Kathy, and their son Leslie Dean, lived about three-quarters of a mile south of the church. Dean and Verner were close to the same age and got into all kinds of mischief together. Gladys was the organist and the choir director and was able to cultivate the boys' musical abilities. She taught them how to sing in parts and the first hymn they learned was "Beautiful Saviour". This started them on many years of singing in the Bethany Choir.

Ingemann and Lili Sorensen, and their daughters Doris, Edith and Ruth, as well as their son Carl, lived a quarter mile west of the church. There was a slough in their field just north west of the church. In the winter the Luther League (the church youth group) would hold skating parties on this slough and afterwards they were always invited over to the Sorensen's house for hot chocolate, coffee and cookies. The evening would always end with singing and devotions. Their daughter Ruth became a special flame of Verner's and in 1957 they were married.

BIOGRAPHIES



The Home place, 1956

monthly publication started by Pastor Paul Nyholm of Dickson, Alberta, in 1930, as the voice of the Synod's Western Canada District.

In the 1950s, a new wave of Danish immigrants began to arrive in Canada. Because many of the new immigrants who came to the area around Tilley spoke little English it was decided that services in Danish would be held once or twice a month. Pastor Skanderup was once again asked to lead these services as Pastor Al Rasmussen did not feel he was fluent enough in Danish to conduct a service in Danish.

Between 1949 and 1957, all but two of the Skanderup children had gotten married. By 1959 the family had grown from 10 people to 36, which included 19 grandchildren. Anton and Kristine Skanderup loved being with the grandchildren.

Martha Skanderup related a story that happened in their home one afternoon while there was a family gathering. The meal was completed and the mothers were in the kitchen cleaning up the dishes. Suddenly Martha realized that the children had all disappeared and everything was quiet. She decided to go and investigate and found all the children in the bedroom with Bedstefar, sitting quietly on the floor while he told Bible Stories.

We celebrated Bedstefar's 70th birthday on August 1, 1959, by having a big picnic on the front lawn at the house. Bedstefar's birthday present from the family was a rocking chair. People came all afternoon to visit and wish him happy birthday. Many pictures were taken and we had so much fun playing with our cousins for the whole day. As usually happened, toward the end of the day the books were passed around and we sang. Some were in Danish and some in English and then the day closed with Bedstefar's favourite hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". As



Pastor and Mrs. Skanderup, 1959

BIOGRAPHIES

a nine year old, I had already memorized that hymn and enjoyed singing along with all of the adults.

In October 1959 Pastor Skanderup had agreed to fill the vacancy at Dannevirke Lutheran Church in Redvers. After his first service, during the Sunday school opening service, he collapsed with a massive heart attack and died on October 24, 1959 at the age of 70. In the obituary for the church newspaper concerning Bedstefar's funeral, Pastor Archie Morck wrote:

"Because singing does not usually go well at a funeral, the bereaved family generally asks for a minimum of hymns for the funeral service. But not at the funeral of the late Pastor Anton Skanderup, who passed away at Redvers, Saskatchewan, on October 24 and was buried at Bethany Lutheran Church, Tilley, Alberta on October 28. Pastor Skanderup had always loved singing and whether on pastoral duties or making a social call, he carried his box of Inner Mission Song Books and whether the event was in his own home or that of a friend the evening always ended with the lusty singing of spiritual hymns.

For this reason his family chose four hymns for the funeral service and several more were requested at the coffee table afterwards, to which were invited friends from other congregations and pioneer days. There was an aura of victory of a hero laid to rest over the whole event. The family, despite deep consciousness of their loss, were determined that this was not sorrow without hope but rather the final victory of one who had fought well and now had received his crown. We admire them for their Christian maturity in this respect."

Following Pastor Skanderup's death, his wife, Kristine, continued to live in their house in Tilley for about two years. Then the egg grading station was moved out to the farm and renovated. Brenda (Skanderup) Bergum shares her remembrances of living so close to Bedstemor:

"Bedstemor lived in a house that had been moved to the farm from Tilley. It was the former egg grading station. I remember sitting at the top of her stairs (with several cousins) and rolling marbles down the board between the steps and the stair back. It was pretty noisy, but it sure was fun! In 1974, Bedstemor moved from this home, on one side of the driveway into a doublewide mobile home the other side of the driveway. Dad laid a sidewalk from the road closest to the church, past Bedstemor's house and almost to our house. This way Bedstemor could have a smooth path to church and we would not drag so much mud and dirt everywhere.

Having such wonderful access to Bedstemor is one of my greatest memories. Her home always smelled of wonderful baking. She made doilies, cross stitched, tatted and crocheted. She sewed many quilts for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren on her old foot pedal New Home sewing machine. Most of all she, loved her family very much and took time for them. After I moved from the farm I would often come home on weekends. Bedstemor told me she would lay awake at night waiting to hear my parent's phone ring so she was comforted I had arrived back at my destination safely. I tried to never forget to call. Dad would watch from our dining room window to ensure Bedstemor's bedroom light went out at night, so he would know she was safely in bed before he would retire for the evening. For many

BIOGRAPHIES

years, just prior to Christmas, Bedstemor would call me over and divide out money for me to spend on her behalf for everyone's Christmas presents, as she could no longer shop herself. I do not remember how much she gave me to spend, how it was divided, or even what was purchased on her behalf. I only remember we had much fun deciding what to buy, then viewing and wrapping all the purchases. It instilled the value and joy of giving, for the sake of giving alone. Once, while looking through pictures, we came across a picture of the Nebraska house they lived in before coming to Tilley to live in a granary. She said the Nebraska house was the nicest home she ever lived in and that the most difficult home was the granary."



Niels and Kristine Nielsen and their children

One day around her 90th birthday Bedstemor started to feel that her life had been too long and she was longing for the time when she would go home to be with Jesus. She talked to Leo about this. He told her that God still had a job for her to do.

Her reply was, "What can I do, I'm too old?" Leo said, "You can still pray for your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren." She took this to heart and for the next 8½ years she prayed for each one of us by name every day. Her life bound us together as a family as we came together for special occasions, especially her birthday. She enjoyed seeing each of us move through the stages in our lives and rejoiced with us at our baptisms, confirmations, high school graduations, weddings, the birth and baptism of our children and so many more occasions. Bedstemor lived on the farm until 1988, when she moved to the nursing home in

Brooks, Alberta. While in the nursing home she still kept very busy. Her first Christmas there she had spent months crocheting and putting together soap ducks for each of the nurses. She lived there about one year and passed away on November 28, 1989.

Pastor Anton Nielsen Skanderup's childhood

Anton Nielsen, the third child of Niels Nielsen and Kristine Nielsen, née Hansen, was born in Knorborg in the parish of Vorbasse, Jutland, Denmark, on August 9, 1889, and baptized there on September 29, 1889. His parents eked out a living on a small farm and had fourteen children.

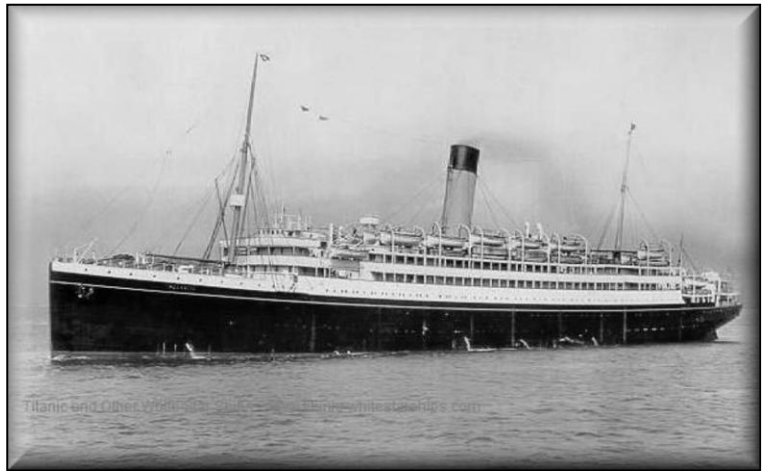
Anton's childhood was thus spent in a poor, but loving and Christian home. As a 10 year-old boy he was sent out to work, to help put bread on the table for his younger brothers and sisters. That was quite common for farm children at that time. His faith in God was greatly influenced by his parents, friends and teachers, but mostly by his pastor, the well-known Danish Inner Mission Pastor Peder Lauridsen. He was confirmed on October 4, 1903, in Hejnsvig Church, by Pastor Lauridsen.

BIOGRAPHIES

Great changes were taking place in Hejnsvig parish at the beginning of the new century. The revival movement Inner Mission was setting its mark on not only the Hejnsvig parish, but this part of Jutland. Inner Mission (*Indre Mission*) has been described as a pietistic Lutheran revival movement, which was sweeping certain parts of Denmark at that time. The Hejnsvig Church, dating from the twelfth century was expanded and a Mission House (*Missionshus*) was built, to accommodate prayer meetings, Sunday school classes and spiritual and revivalist lectures.

Another revival movement in Denmark was lead by Pastor N.F.S. Grundtvig, and the two movements did not see eye to eye. One disagreement was the authority of the Bible and others were the importance of language and culture. These differences did not lead to a split of Folkekirken (The Church of Denmark). However, in North American the two movements eventually each established their own synod.

Anton Nielsen Skanderup wrote in a brief autobiography, translated from Danish: “My confirmation had a lasting impression on me, but in particular the Bible verse that was given to me on my Confirmation Day: ‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your path straight.’ My lovely childhood was a time full of rich memories, conflicting thoughts and many decisions. In 1904, a Spiritual Revival spread over my homeland.



The impressive “SS Megantic”, carrying 1,660 passengers

Many found peace in faith in the Crucified but now Resurrected Savior, and when the Lord had made me strong enough I put my whole heart into my faith. At the same time a longing grew in my soul to do something separately for the Lord. This longing was given ample substance by Pastor Lauridsen's missionary zeal that still pointed toward the distress of sinners. One evening, after he had laid the Santal Mission on our hearts, I promised God that if he could and would use me in His work, I would go. During the next year I sought the Lord often in the endeavour to find clarity in regards to the question of working in the Santal that had been laid on my heart. As time went on the idea seemed to fade more and more.”

The Santal Mission was a Scandinavian mission to the Santal people in India. Then about two years later, Pastor Christian Christensen, who was active in the Inner Mission movement and who had been a missionary in Australia, came to speak in Hejnsvig. He came to shed light on the plight of the Danish immigrants in America and the urgent need for Danish clergy among them. An elderly faithful woman encouraged Anton to travel to America, to educate himself, and to work there as a Pastor.

In November 1911 Anton Nielsen said goodbye to his family, friends and homeland, and sailed from Esbjerg to England. In Liverpool he boarded the White Star Line's new ship the *SS Megantic*, which had just been launched in 1909. It could carry 1,660 passengers. Anton Nielsen arrived in the United States of America at Portland, Maine, on December 3, 1911.

In the autumn of 1912, he enrolled at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. Already on September 1, 1914 in Blair, Anton became a citizen of the United States of America. Then on June 5, 1917, after the United States had entered the war in Europe, he registered for military service, thereby interrupting his studies for a brief period of time. He spent his military career as a cook in Kansas City. He did not go overseas.

After leaving the army, Anton changed his name to Anton Nielsen Skanderup. When asked why he changed it, his comment was that there were already too many pastors named Nielsen. Why he chose Skanderup is unknown. In the genealogical time line of *Ahrenkiel Slægten*, Anton's maternal grandfather, John Hansen, refers to his daughter's husband as "Niels Nielsen (Skanderup)". In my research this is the only reference I have found to the name Skanderup so far. This is interesting, as Niels Nielsen was not a Skanderup, only his son Anton, and that after he settled in the United States. Another interesting fact is that all of Pastor Skanderup's children were given the name Nielsen as a middle name.

Anton Nielsen Skanderup marries Kristine Jensen



Anton & Kristine with Milton, 1920

Pastor Skanderup's wife, Kristine Jensen, was born in Myrhøj, Denmark, on March 14, 1891. She was the second child of Pernille and Jens Jensen. Jens was a labourer and worked on the roads filling the holes with gravel using a wheelbarrow and shovel. He was paid by the community to do that job. Kristine's mother stayed at home and worked as a seamstress and a tailor from their home.

Later the family moved to Farsø and bought a farm there. It was a wasteland which her father cleared and then he broke the land. Both Kristine's brothers, Niels and Søren, were born on this farm. As time went by they were able to obtain more land. Initially Jens farmed with an ox, then a horse and an ox and finally they were able to obtain a workhorse. The kids went to school every day until they were 13 years old; in the winter, they went to school all day; but in the summer it was half a day. All the children worked as soon as they were old enough. Kristine's job was to milk the cows.

The children didn't attend church until after they were confirmed. However, Kristine's uncle held Sunday school in his home and the church sent out a newspaper for the children. The children sat around the table and Kristine's dad would read it to them. From the age of 13 the children attended confirmation class and were then confirmed at age 14.

Denmark was a poor country with very few opportunities for farm workers and smallholders before the First World War. A visitor to Kristine's home had told them of America's wealth and potential. After discussing it with her family she decided to immigrate to America. Kristine's father paid for the trip. He had very much wanted to go himself but just could not afford to take the entire family. She left Copenhagen when she was 23 years old. After being at sea on the

Scandinavian America Line's *SS Hellig Olav* for three weeks, she arrived in New York on February 10, 1915. At first she went to Audubon, Iowa, where she did housekeeping and childcare for a family there. Later in 1915 she went to Blair, Nebraska, where she again did some housekeeping and also worked at Dana College as a cook's helper in the school cafeteria. She worked there from 1915 to 1918. It was here that she met Anton Nielsen, a seminary student. On May 16, 1918 Kristine Jensen and Anton Nielsen Skanderup were married at Dana College. While still at Dana College, their first son, Milton, was born on October 4, 1919.



The Skanderup Family, 1959

After eight years of studying at Dana College, Anton graduated in the spring of 1920. Anton was then ordained as a Pastor in the United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church on June 5, 1921. Anton began his ministry at the Scranton/Coon Rapids, Iowa Parish. Verne, their second son, was born on February 6, 1921 in Coon Rapids. Kristine was homesick for Denmark, but now that she was married and had two children and a third on the way, it was not easily done. Leo, their third son, was born on September 15,

1922, in Scranton, Iowa. In 1924, the family left Scranton- Coon Rapids, as Anton had accepted a call to Moorhead, Iowa. Agnete was born in Moorhead on May 13, 1924, and Naomi followed 18 months later on October 8, 1925. In 1925 the family, now numbering 7, moved to the Laurel/Pilger Parish in Nebraska. Ruth was born here on August 10, 1928. The Laurel church's 25th anniversary book described his ministry there in these words. "Rev. Skanderup was a very hard worker, upright and conscientious in all his ways and dealing with his fellow men. He did perhaps more than anyone else to establish the congregation in all its activities. He worked hard to get the debt paid, and was successful to some measure."

In a taped interview that Verner conducted with Bedstemor (Kristine) he asked her why they had decided to move to Canada. She said that Bedstefar (Anton) had a heart attack and was told that he wouldn't live more than five years, if they didn't move to a place with cleaner air.

Anton and Kristine's children

Milton Nielsen Skanderup

October 4, 1919 – April 9, 1993

Milton was born in Blair, Nebraska on October 4, 1919. He was the first child of Anton and Kristine Skanderup. He was 10 years old when the family made the trek to Tilley, Alberta, Canada. Milton was 16 years old when his brother Verne died. He never recovered from this. Over the next seven years his grief turned into full blown mental illness. Naomi recalled that Milton had been in a fight with someone and had hurt him badly. Leo stated that dad was afraid of Milton. Milton had wanted to go into the RCMP and his dad had told him that in order to go into the RCMP he was required to have a psychiatric assessment at the Weyburn Hospital. In 1942, he was committed to the mental hospital in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. Anton wrote in a letter to his sister Esther in Iowa. "One child died but two were lost." For the next 20 years this

was his home. With the advent of new medications, Milton was able to be discharged in 1962. At this time he came to Tilley and lived with his mom until he went to live at Newbrook Lodge in 1979. When he moved into Newbrook Lodge in Brooks he decided that it was time that he went to college so he enrolled in two math courses at Medicine Hat College and achieved marks in the 90s. He had all our birthdays recorded and enjoyed sending birthday and Christmas cards to all of us, even his great nieces and nephews were recipients of these cards. Milton died in Brooks on April 9, 1993 and was buried at Bethany Lutheran Cemetery.

Verne Nielsen Skanderup

February 6, 1921 – September 1935

Verne Nielsen Skanderup was born in Coon Rapids, Iowa on February 6, 1921. He moved to Tilley with his family at age 9. In September 1935, the two oldest boys, Milton and Verne, were sent out to get the horses for threshing. Verne tied the ropes around his waist; the horses were spooked somehow and bolted to the other side of the quarter. He died as a result of his injuries. According to Naomi when they found him the horses were standing in a circle around him. He was laid on the bed off the kitchen and someone helped his mom clean him up before the family could see him. Because Verner was not yet baptised, on the day of the funeral, the first service was at the house. There month old Verner was baptised beside the open casket of his older brother. He was given the name Verner in memory of his brother Verne. He was buried at Bethany Lutheran Cemetery.

Leo Nielsen Skanderup

September 15, 1922 – August 8, 2002

Leo Nielsen Skanderup was born in Scranton, Iowa, on September 15, 1922. He was seven years old when the family moved to Tilley. He attended school in Tilley and Redvers. When he had finished grade 8 he quit school and was sent by his father to Swan River, Manitoba, to work the farm that had been purchased there. Leo enlisted in the Canadian Army on April 14, 1944. He went into his basic training at Camp Shiloh in Manitoba. On October 5, 1944 he left for Great Britain on *SS Ile de France* and then to Holland with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles on November 11, 1944. During the next three months they were involved in the final expulsion of the Germans from Holland. In February 1945 they moved into the Rhineland and took part in Operation Veritable. On February 21, 1945, during the Battle for Moyland Wood he was injured when he stepped on a land mine. This injury resulted in the amputation of his left leg



Leo home on embarkation leave

below the knee. He returned to Canada on Hospital Ship *Letitia* for rehabilitation and was discharged from the army on July 16, 1945.

A long-time friend of the family, Harry Hjorth said, “Leo never felt sorry for himself when it came to his ‘wooden leg’. Instead he would actually make a joke about it.” For many years the prosthetics were made of wood and quite heavy, which caused Leo to have back problems. In the 1960s, the Department of Veterans Affairs decided to experiment with making them out of lighter materials. Leo was chosen to test these out because if they could survive him then they

would work for everyone. The first one was made of aluminum and was very much lighter than the wooden ones. Unfortunately the soft nature of aluminum made them prone to denting and bending. Following this they tried fiber glass and these proved more durable and could better withstand the punishment that Leo put them through. This technology is still used today for making prosthetics.

After his rehabilitation, he returned to his farm in Tilley with his friend Ove Pedersen from New Denmark. Ove took over the cooking duties and I suspect that this was out of self-defence. Dad told me that he lived mostly on oatmeal when he was batching in Swan River. He would make a large pot of oatmeal in the morning and eat his fill while it was hot. When he came back for lunch and supper the left-over porridge was sliced and fried in bacon fat and syrup was poured over it. It's no wonder why Ove decided to be the cook!

In the summer of 1948, Leo attended family camp at Sylvan Lake Bible Camp where he met Elsie Løgsted from Tofield, Alberta. They were married on April 16, 1949 at Ansgar Lutheran Church in Edmonton in a double wedding with Elsie's sister Grethe. They continued to live on their farm in Tilley. Their castle had four rooms: a kitchen, living room, bedroom and the newly added room (later it doubled for a laundry room and a bedroom for Morfar, Just Løgsted, when he came to visit). In 1957, dad and mom started to think about building a new house. Our family had now grown to five and my grandfather "Morfar" came regularly to stay with us sometimes for two to three months at a time. The little house could no longer hold the growing family. In the spring and summer of 1958, construction started and a new split level house was completed enough to move into on Christmas Eve 1958. It was a huge house compared to the old one as the old house could have been placed in the living room, dining room and kitchen portion with room to spare. I remember my brother, Gerald, who was 22 months old, eating one or two bites of his Christmas dinner then getting up and running around the wall that separated the kitchen from the living room, there was a doorway at each end. This was repeated over and over again. He was so excited about all the space.

Over the years, mom and dad took on many ventures from dad buying forty head of registered Holstein cows in order to get into the dairy industry; to mom going from farm to farm selling World Book Encyclopaedias. They were very hard working people. In the 1963, Dad and Mom started talking about the possibility of drilling a natural gas well for use on the farm. This would have to be negotiated with Canadian Pacific Oil and Gas, now Encana, as they were the owners of the mineral rights in that area. What started out as just an idea to get natural gas for their own use, within a short period of time took on a life of its own. A presentation of the idea was made at a Unifarm meeting. After numerous meetings with many different levels of government and going from farm to farm selling the idea to anyone who would listen, a meeting was held, a board of director was elected and Tirol Gas Co-op became a reality. Today, both Tilley and Rolling Hills are fully serviced with natural gas.

Church was always a big part of our lives. Mom and Dad held many positions on the church council over the years, taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, led many Bible Studies, helped to start a group for the young married couples called "The Christian Home Builders" and many other activities. One thing that really made an impression on me was that in our discussions around the supper table, Christ was often brought into it. Scripture was quoted from memory or paraphrased in response to the topic under discussion. In our home the Word of God was real and alive in our everyday life. In the 1980s, my oldest brother, Gerald rented the

farm from dad and my youngest brother, David, rented the neighboring half section of land to the east. A pivot sprinkler was put on the north quarter and a wheel move sprinkler was put on the neighbour's land. Now there was only a small part of the south quarter that had to be flood irrigated. This freed dad to start custom swathing of hay and grain for the farmers in the area.

In 1990, Leo and Elsie subdivided the farm into three parcels: the farmstead, 10 acres of land for their new double-wide mobile home and the rest of the farm. The big house was vacated so that my oldest brother, Gerald and his family could live there and the double-wide mobile home was put on the ten acre parcel of land that was closer to the main road. Leo and Elsie loved to travel and would go on road trips with no real destination in mind and in this way visited much of the United States and Canada. Dad didn't mind flying but always thought about all the things he wasn't able to see while he was in the air.

On December 16, 1996, Elsie died after a long battle with breast cancer. The following summer Leo met Agnethe Haakinson at Hungry Horse Bible Camp in Montana and they were married on November 1, 1997, in West Salem, Wisconsin. They kept two homes, one in West Salem, WI and the other in Red Deer, AB. During the next five years Leo and Agnethe made many trips between their two homes as well as a trip to Israel. In June of 2002, while building some cupboards in his garage in West Salem, WI, he suffered a compression fracture of one of his lumbar vertebra. There really wasn't much that could be done for this so he was treated with morphine for the pain. This caused a depression of his respirations leading to pneumonia. This caused stress on his heart and ultimately to his death by cardiac failure on August 8, 2002. Leo and Elsie have four children Ellen, Carol, Gerald and David. Today their family has grown to include 14 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren.

Agnete Christine Nielsen Skanderup

May 13, 1924 – October 26, 2013



Naomi, Agnete, and Verner, 2005

Agnete was born on May 13, 1924, in Moorhead, Iowa, USA. She moved with her family to Tilley, Alberta, Canada, in the spring of 1930. As a child Agnete had Scarlet Fever and the high fever caused some minor brain damage. Agnete was very quiet but had a great sense of humor. One year at Christmas, their mom had made the usual large pot of rice porridge which had an almond in it. There was a small gift for the person who found the almond. On this occasion, about half the rice was eaten and it appeared that no one had found the almond. Alvin and Clifford were determined to find the almond and so proceeded to eat everything that was left but

didn't find the almond. It turned out that Agnete had found the almond in her first bowl of porridge but had quietly place it under the edge of her plate where it couldn't be seen. Needless to say, Alvin and Clifford didn't eat a lot of turkey that Christmas. Agnete married Niels Christian Eskesen on September 24, 1950. They lived on their farm in Sundre, Alberta, Canada. They have five children: David, Sharon, Shirley, Lyle and Darlene.

Agnete was a good cook and had learned from her mom how to make things stretch. She could also sew and made cute little matching dresses for her three girls. Along with farming Niels had a small saw mill for the trees he cleared from their land. He was also active on the town or county council. In 1999 or 2000 Agnete and Niels moved into Sundre. In the summer of 2002, while working on the Sundre Museum, Niels fell from some scaffolding and died as a result of this fall on August 13, 2002. Agnete continued to live in their house in Sundre and when the new pastor moved to Sundre before his house was finished he was invited to stay at Agnete's house. This seemed to bring Agnete out of her shell and her sense of humour became more evident. In about 2008, Agnete was having more and more trouble taking care of her self and the house, so a house was purchased in Olds for her. Shirley and her husband Kurt lived in the basement while Agnete had the upstairs for herself. This seemed to work quite well. In 2012 Agnete started to have some kidney problems and on October 26, 2013, she died at the Innisfail Hospital.

Naomi Jenny Nielsen Skanderup

October 26, 1926 – November 11, 2008

Naomi was born on October 26, 1926, in Moorhead, Iowa. She was 3½ when the family moved to Tilley. She attended school in Tilley, Redvers and New Denmark. When Naomi had finished grade 11, her father found out that she could go to Normal School (Teacher's College) and told her she should do that. So with her friend Meade, she went off to take the one year course which would allow her to become a teacher. Following her training she taught at Hearts of Oak School and Salem School in Saskatchewan; five months in New Brunswick, and then at Bethany in Tilley. That last year she felt like she was on the top of the world because she was now making \$1800 per year. Through those years she had saved about \$1000.

Ahlmann was serving with the Regina Rifles as a sniper. He was stationed in the Aleutians and then later in North Western Europe. He had also been able to save about \$1000. After he and Naomi were married this was what they lived on for the first year.

Naomi's writes in her memoires, "We were married on October 26, 1949, at Bethany Church, Tilley, Alberta. Pastor Schultz performed the ceremony and my father gave the sermon. The reception was held in the church basement. It was full. We butchered chickens for the reception and hired a couple of women to look after the meal. The young people did the serving. We went into Brooks and had our pictures taken. We did not go on a honeymoon. We stayed at mom and dad's, collected our belongings and hired Ted Berialsen with his truck to take us to Redvers - a chaperoned honeymoon. On our way we stayed in Moose Jaw overnight. Ted stayed in Redvers for quite a while where he got jobs hauling things. Ahlmann's father eventually bought his truck which we used for hauling grain from the fields. It was a hard one to steer because it didn't have any power steering and the brakes were imaginary. I nearly ran into the ditch when I was bringing a load of grain in from the field. We lived in a new house 1½ miles west of Arnold and Agnes Olsen (Ahlmann's Folks) where we lived for 18+ years. Then we moved to the home place. We bought it in 1967, I think. Carl (Ahlmann's brother) had left home and moved to Regina. On our original farm we farmed two quarters which wasn't enough to do more than pay our expenses every fall. With more land things started to improve.

We have three children: Elaine, Dennis and Edwin. In 1980, Edwin took over the farm. Ahlmann would go out to help during seeding and harvest. We bought the house at 10 Souris Avenue where I lived 28 years. . . . I did not have a garden for vegetables, but had my flower beds and

lots of planters with flowers. Ahlmann planted most of the trees and looked after them. We enjoyed our yard and also the patio at the back where we had a couch we could lie down on when the weather was nice. Ahlmann built bird houses and put them up around the patio and yard. We watched the swallows build in them and also a wren and robins. I enjoyed my flowers and looking after my home plus working at the Haven until I was 65 and retired. I started working there in 1978 in the craft department. I had very few shifts so decided to work on the floor as an aide as well. I had both jobs until the union came in and they wouldn't let me work two jobs. I chose working on the floor. I had to take the course for special care aide. I got my certificate and pin just when I was retiring. I retired at the end of September. My increase in pay would have come into effect in January so moneywise I got nothing out of it. My total years at the Haven were thirteen. I met lots of people after starting to work and made many new friends. Ahlmann died on August 2002 from Multiple Myeloma (cancer of the bones). After Ahlmann died I had a deck built on to the front of the house where I enjoyed sitting. After Ahlmann died my neighbour often brought me supper and in the summer we would go for ice cream together". On November 11, 2008, Naomi passed away after battling kidney failure for about a year.

Ruth Mary Nielsen Skanderup

August 10, 1928 – January 27, 1997

Ruth was born in Laurel, Nebraska, and was 1½ years old when the family moved to Tilley. She went to school in Tilley, Redvers and New Denmark. Following high school she worked as a teller at the Bank of Montreal in Grand Falls, New Brunswick, and moved back to Tilley in 1948 with the rest of the family. She then worked at the Treasury Branch in Brooks. Ruth married Ben Oliver Colbens at Bethany Lutheran Church on June 7, 1953. In 1954 they purchased the Colbens home place which was two miles east and one mile south of Bethany Lutheran Church. In 1967, they purchased Hans Peder Johansen's farm and moved into his house across the road, which had running water and plumbing. From 1965 to 1977, Ben was Secretary-Treasurer of Tilley Mutual Telephone Company. In 1969 Ben became the Secretary-Treasurer for Tirol Gas Co-op Ltd, which became and almost full-time job for both Ruth and Ben. They worked for Tirol for a total of 25 years. Ruth also worked as Secretary-Treasury for Tirol Dehydrators Limited for two years. In the late 70s and into the 80s Ruth worked part-time at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Brooks.

As a child it was always fun to go to Ruth and Ben's house. Ben had built a small kid size table with chairs. The younger kids would eat at this table. The afternoon was spent by playing games: a rowdy game of Corner on the Market, Rook and always Convoy – an early version of Battleship drawn up on paper with eight to twelve people playing at one time. There was always so much laughing.

Ruth and Ben were active in the life of Bethany Lutheran Church. Ruth regularly participated in the Lutheran Church Women Bible Studies as well helping with the catering and serving at the different church social functions. Ben sang tenor in the Bethany Church Choir and was also an avid curler. Ben and Ruth had six children: Keith, Lloyd, Lois, Edith, Clark and Mark. Keith, their oldest son was born with a congenital malformation of the spine called spina bifida and only lived for two weeks. Their third son Clark died as a result of a head injury he sustained while working with his 4H calf on May 1, 1978. In November 1996 they purchased a house in Brooks and at that point their youngest son, Mark, took over the farm. Ruth died of a heart attack on January 27, 1997. Ben remarried. He married Ethel Mosby in Brooks on October 25, 1997.

Unfortunately, Ben died in Brooks on September 2, 1998. Their second son Lloyd died in a motor vehicle accident on July 28, 2005. Their family now consists of three surviving children, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Alvin Johannes Nielsen Skanderup

October 10, 1930 – January 14, 2010

Alvin was born in Tilley, Alberta. He was the first Canadian of the Skanderup family. He attended school in Tilley, Redvers and New Denmark. In November 1952, Alvin travelled to Denmark. While he was there he met, Martha Jensen, they fell in love and were married on March 4, 1953 in Farsø, Denmark. Following their wedding they returned to Tilley where Alvin owned a farm ¼ of mile west of Leo's farm. There was no house on this farm so Alvin and Martha lived at the home place which was across the road from Bethany Lutheran Church.

Anton and Kristine both moved into their house in Tilley, and Martha was to prepare the meals for the boys, Clifford and Verner. It was a very hard transition for Martha because she came to an old house which had no running water or electricity. As well, she didn't speak English. Fortunately all of the family spoke Danish, so she could communicate with them and some of the other people in the church. In 1956 work started on a new house on their farm which was completed in 1957, shortly after Merlin was born. In 1968, they sold the original farm and purchased the Chrumka farm which was 3-4 miles from the town of Tilley. After moving to this farm, Alvin started driving a school bus which he continued to do for 23 years.

In 1980, a new house was built on this farm. The intention was to have it finished before Mary Ann's wedding, but they didn't quite make it. They had to postpone moving into their new house until after the wedding. They were very involved in the activities of Bethany. Alvin was always available to help whenever work needed to be done on the grounds and the buildings, and also served as deacon for a couple of terms. Martha played the organ for many years. Alvin and Martha did a lot of travelling throughout United States and Canada, both camping with a trailer and then later with a camper van which they took on their trip to Alaska. Martha and Alvin also took a number of trips to Denmark as Martha's family was still living there. In 1996 Martha and Alvin, moved to Medicine Hat allowing Brian to take over the farm. Alvin passed away on January 14, 2010. They have five children: Mary Ann, Karen, Merlin, Edward and Brian; 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. Martha continues to live in their home in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Clifford Immanuel Nielsen Skanderup

January 21, 1933 – April 16, 2008

Clifford Immanuel Nielsen Skanderup was born on January 21, 1933 in Tilley, Alberta. He was the eighth of nine children born to Pastor Anton and Kristine Skanderup. When Cliff was four years old the family moved from Tilley, Alberta, to Redvers, Saskatchewan, as Pastor Skanderup accepted a call to Dannevirke Lutheran Church. Clifford received his schooling in Redvers and in New Brunswick when the family moved to Salmonhurst, New Brunswick, to serve three years on another call at St. Peter's and Bethany. Clifford was the last of the children confirmed by his father in New Denmark, New Brunswick. In 1948, Clifford returned with his family to Tilley, Alberta. He helped operate an egg grading station in the village of Tilley for two or three years, before moving to the "home place" farm just east of Bethany Lutheran Church. After his brothers

and sisters were married he purchased the "home place" as well as 80 acres from Andrew Christensen. Clifford married Evelyn Marie Wester on March 4, 1961 at Bethany Lutheran Church.

Evelyn (Wester) Skanderup has written, "We have three children: Kaye, Brenda and Darren. Our life revolved around family, church, school, farming and many other activities. Clifford loved to sing in the Bethany Lutheran Choir and did so for many years. He spent many hours maintaining the grounds of Bethany. In 1963, Clifford visited Stewart Hatcheries in Calgary, Alberta, and became involved in the poultry business. He began with broiler hens and then hatching eggs. These were hauled to Calgary weekly. In 1970, a new home was built directly north of the original home. It came complete with running water and indoor plumbing! Clifford continued his poultry business until 1980 when he acquired 200 more acres of land and decided to just farm the land, and forego livestock. In August 1983, our family made a memorable car trip across Canada, to New Denmark, New Brunswick, and back in ten or eleven days. We also made it to Prince Edward Island. It was Clifford's dream to accomplish this for his family.



The Skanderup Family, 1979

All three of our children attended the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute in Camrose, Alberta. Our granddaughter, Karlee died on November 7, 1997 at age 12 as a result of a congenital heart defect. This was a very sad time for all of us in our otherwise happy lives. Clifford was so proud of his family and loved them dearly. In 1996, our son Darren purchased the farm and Clifford and I moved into Brooks. In retirement, Clifford continued to farm land, which he had rented from Herb Andersen. He also assisted as a staff member at Smith Funeral Home in Brooks. This was a high point in his working life in his later years. Clifford spent many hours working on the stained glass windows for Bethany Lutheran's 75th Anniversary, under the direction of his niece Carol Stedel. He farmed and worked for Smith's Funeral Home until his health prevented him from continuing. Clifford and Evelyn were married for 47 years. In April 2008, first Clifford died at age 75 of Prostate Cancer and then our daughter Kaye, at age 45 died of failing health caused by Type 1 diabetes. Clifford was always fixing something, helping someone, working on a wood project or enjoying music. He would always see someone in need or if something needed to be done. He would do it and not expect any compensation. He loved to have fun and laugh with his friends and family."

Verner Niels Jens Nielsen Skanderup

August 14, 1935 – July 3, 2009

Verner was born on August 14, 1935, one month before the death of his brother Verne. As Verner had not yet been baptized, he was baptized next to his brother's casket and was named Verner Niels Jens Nielsen Skanderup. At the age of two the family moved to Redvers, Saskatchewan. He started school there and then continued in New Denmark, New Brunswick, finishing his high school in Tilley. After high school, Verner spent three winters working in a lumber camp near Sundre and farmed with his dad during the summers.

On May 11, 1957, Verner married Ruth Sorensen at Bethany Lutheran Church. They purchased a farm in South Bantry from Harry and Margaret Nielsen in 1957. They moved to the farm in the winter of 1958. They have four children: Joyce, Stephen, Curtis and Gloria.

In 1976 they purchased the farm from Ruth's parents and moved onto that farm. Later Stephen took over the South Bantry farm. My fondest memories of Ruth and Verner were the beautiful duets that they sang. Ruth had a beautiful soprano voice and Verner sang tenor. I also remember the Christmas gatherings at their house, there were always so many wonderful cookies to eat and following the tradition of Anton we usually ended the gatherings with the singing of Christmas carols both in Danish and English.

Ruth Sorensen was born in Brooks and grew up on her parents farms ¼ of a mile west of Bethany. She attended school at the two small rural schools: Bethany and Renfrew, and then into Tilley for the higher grades.

Ruth died of stomach cancer on July 2, 1991, which left a major hole in their family, but the children have tried to keep the cookie making tradition alive as they gather every Advent to make cookies and enjoy each other's company. Verner remarried, Connie Gausman, a couple of years later and bought a house in Brooks. Stephen now farms both farms. Verner remained very involved in Bethany Lutheran Church activities until his death on July 3, 2009. Verner and Ruth's family now consists of four children, 16 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Brenda Bergum has summed up the Skanderup legacy this way, "Bethany Lutheran Church, the church founded by my grandfather, causes me to think of the heritage and legacy that we share because of this building, this land, this place and these people. I think about the precious gift, heritage and legacy of faith our parents passed on to us. Heritage and legacy are wonderful things, but they are not enough. There is so much more. There are things that cannot be obtained through heritage and legacy, but can be gained through God's grace alone. As I have seen the morning sun gleam off the white paint of Bethany and in the evening as the sun moves behind the church and casts a long shadow that often reached into our farmyard, I have thought about God's daily promises in that early morning reflection and how the evening shadow casts the promise of protection during the night. We should all be so blessed to live life in the shelter of God's shadow."

Today the Skanderup family consists of 183 direct living descendants who are spread throughout Western Canada with two families now residing in Austin, Texas. Thank you for the opportunity to share my family with you.

EXQUISITE COMFORT



SCANDESIGNS.COM

COQUITLAM
1400 United Blvd
604.524.3444

VICTORIA
661 McCallum Rd
Millstream Village
250.475.2233

NANAIMO
1711 Bowen Rd
250.753.6361

KELOWNA
1850 Springfield Rd
250.860.7603

LANGLEY
20429 Langley By-Pass
604.530.8248

RICHMOND
12551 Bridgeport Rd
604.273.2971



ScanDesigns
QUALITY HOME FURNISHINGS

Oak Trees and Acorns

The Edvard and Margaret Christensen Family

Jens Christensen

Denmark was once peopled by Vikings. They were bold vigorous people who sailed to distant lands and prospered by raiding as well as by trading. Their children and grandchildren lived the same way, but their time passed as the world became more sophisticated. There arose instead new classes of people, artisans, warriors, priests, noblemen and Kings. These people carved out a great empire in areas bordering the Baltic, the Atlantic and the North Sea, and held it for many generations. Gradually over a period of 200 years the empire slipped away. During all this time, spanning perhaps 1000 years, there lived a class of people whom history has chosen to call peasants. For many, many generations they had few rights and few opportunities for change or advancement. Their lot in life was to toil on the land and to produce food. The wealth that their labour generated belonged to their masters, who lived in relative splendor, while the peasants merely survived.



Jens and Mette Marie

My father, Edvard Mikael Christensen, was a Danish peasant, born on the 13th of October 1924 in Helstrup, Viborg County, in Jutland, Denmark. He occupied a privileged place in history as a member of the last generation to be labourers in the Danish *Herregaard* system. Danish society had evolved greatly. He had both opportunities and rights, including the right to an education. The education of the labouring class was probably the single most important factor in building a society not based on subsistence. By the mid-twentieth century, only a small percentage of the labouring class remained in food production, and the day of the peasant had almost become a footnote to history. The interdependence and mutual respect which had evolved between ruling class and labourers, was a thing of beauty. Edvard came to live a deeply satisfying life, one in which his expectations were exceeded.

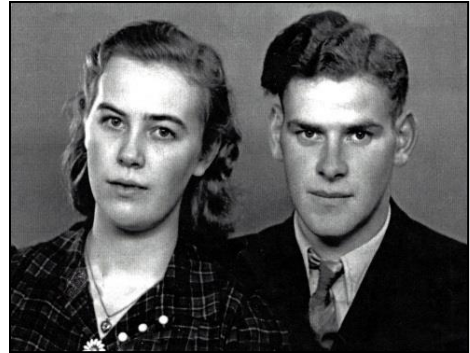
The small drafty home in which he was born almost certainly had a thatched roof. As far back as the genealogical records can be reliably traced, his ancestors were Danish peasants, who eked out a living as skilled labourers on the large farms in the district. Life was demanding for them, but it was also safe and predictable. They became a physically robust, determined, moral, and hardworking people. They earned the respect of their neighbours and social superiors. They took life as it came to them. They were not beset by revolutionary thoughts, nor were they consumed by desire for change. They were born to labour and were determined to do it well. The

BIOGRAPHIES

respect and fair treatment they received from their employers was rewarded with loyalty. Edvard's father, Jens Christensen, variously worked as a farm labourer and a "fodermester" for horses. Late in life he was a milk wagon teamster and a small land holder. Edvard's mother, Mette Marie Mikkelsen, was cut from the same cloth as her husband. She had the strength to give birth to eleven children and to raise nine of them to adulthood, all while working outside her home alongside her husband. She died at 93 in a small home she owned, in Ulstrup. Complications of diabetes had taken her husband 17 years earlier.

Peasants everywhere, who are not actively downtrodden, are a happy lot, with a lusty appetite for life. Edvard and his ancestors were no exception. Pre-marital pregnancy was common down through the generations. Invariably the young couples married and rose to the challenges created by their passions. The young peoples' desire for travel and adventure was often satisfied by employment changes, as money for leisurely travel was not available. Edvard's younger brother, Niels, travelled to "Fyn" for employment and eventually to Copenhagen. Another brother, Karl, wanted to immigrate to Canada, but was persuaded to settle for Copenhagen, when he was informed that it would break his mother's heart, if he left the country. Edvard proved to be the most venturesome. Once he had decided to immigrate to the new world, he could not be dissuaded.

Edvard learned early that his life was to be defined by hard honest labour. He also learned that he would not be praised for good work, but would be faulted for work which was short of the mark – perfection was assumed. His apprenticeship as a farm labourer began at the age of three when he accompanied his parents to the stable, and he was given the job of carrying empty milk pails. He began performing chores independently by the age of eight and entered the work force as an adult at fourteen. At twenty, he was highly skilled, strong, self-confident and in demand. He was not a man who spoke readily of his feelings. He became a Pigeon Fancier as a boy and continued with this hobby until his death in 1999. He made many friends through his interest in pigeons in both Denmark and Canada. As a young man, he and his compatriots often entertained themselves with contests of strength. One such contest was to see how many sacks of feed each man could carry at one time up a ladder and down again. Three hundred pounds or more was not uncommon. Such strength in ordinary men can barely be imagined by later generations.



Margaret and Edvard 1944

Edvard was 19 in May of 1943 and in the employ of the farmer Niels Vinter, when he made a fateful journey by wagon and team down Houmarksvej between Bjergby and Kondrup. He was spotted by Pamela, the watchful 13 year old daughter of the market gardener, Niels Møller Nielsen. She reported the sighting of an extraordinarily handsome young man to her older sister, 17 year old Margaret Frances Nielsen. She was less impressed than her younger sister, but the young man's attraction increased a few weeks later, when he became the "King" at a riding skills event in which the young men galloped their horses towards a suspended ring and tried to spear the ring. Margaret's father, who was just a little over five feet tall was convinced that the strapping young labourer was not good enough for his daughter, and challenged him to stay away. Edvard, who was six feet tall, laughed and continued to pursue the relationship despite the gardener's objections. In the summer of 1944, their happiness soared when they dismounted their

BIOGRAPHIES

bicycles half way between Randers and Bjergby and exchanged promises, rings, and embraces. Margaret fondly remembers Edvard saying, “vi må heller få de her ringe på nar vi har købt dem”. They were married August 19th, 1945 in Borup Kirke, where Margaret had been baptized and confirmed. The bride arrived by horse and buggy, while the groom arrived by bicycle, on time despite a puncture.



Lillian and Niels

Margaret’s father, Niels Nielsen, had achieved prosperity by the standards of his day. He had the first telephone in the community, number “Et Bjergby”. His lineage had been involved in business going back several generations. His maternal grandparents were the owners of the mill in Hou as well as Alstrup farm. His grandmother, Mette Marie Sørensdatter, had been the brains and the energy behind the establishment of the Landbosparekasse in 1888 in Mariager, Jutland. The local banks had refused to lend the family the money to buy Alstrup farm which her husband had committed to purchase. The lady’s response was to organize the other local farmers to establish their own bank, using livestock, crops, and household effects as security. The family is rumoured to be descended from the Danish Royal family through an illegitimate child of King Frederick VII, but that is another story.

Niels Nielsen came to adulthood just after the First World War and he wanted to travel. America beckoned, but his parents, who had lost a son to disease in Argentina, persuaded him to settle for Norway. This he did, but he also worked in England near York. There he met the refined and large hearted nurse, Lillian Marguerite March. They married in Denmark in 1924 and began their life together on a small land holding on Houmarksvej. On April 12th, 1926, their first child, Margaret, like her future husband, came into the world under a thatched roof.



Margaret 1927

Margaret’s childhood home was an exceedingly happy one. Her parents were in love. There was enough money. Family was nearby in the form of Uncle Peter (Niels’ brother) and his family. The paternal grandparents lived only a dozen kilometers distance, close enough for carefree summer holidays on the shores of Mariager Fjord. The gardener and his English wife were loved by their neighbours and deeply respected. It was a very nourishing environment. Margaret grew up surrounded by young children and other living things, and so became a care giver, loving and non-judgmental. English was her first language. She once refused a trip to England for fear of forgetting Danish, which she had just become proficient in, after beginning school. She entered the labour force around 1940 as a mother’s helper, a vocation she pursued until her own children began to arrive in 1945. Over the years, she became a lover, a mother, an accomplished chef, a baker, a nurse, a psychologist, a tailor, an expert in thrift, a wall paper hanger, a furniture refinisher, a painter, an animal trainer, an expert in food preservation, and a gardener. I believe that her life too exceeded her expectations, if not her father’s. The gardener should have moved his family to the city, if he anted his daughter to be safe from handsome young labourers. Margaret grew up loving the rich rural life she was a part of and did not see the grass as greener in other social circles.

BIOGRAPHIES

Edvard and Margaret began their married life together, working and living on the “herregaard”, Bruusgaard, just south of Randers. Edvard’s father, Jens, and his brother, Arne, also worked



there. From 1945 until 1953, the couple lived and worked on various large farms including Gjesingaard, Svalingaard, and Demstrup. My father’s final employer in Denmark was Mr. Hansen, the owner of Støvringgaard, located on the north shore of Randers Fjord. I can still see Mr. Hansen doffing his fur hat when he entered my parent’s home in Støvring to discuss farm business with my father. Association with the great farms was a source of tremendous pride to the workers, but mechanization so shrank the labour force required to run the great farms, that by the

1970s, nearly all the workers had moved on to industrial jobs. Looking back, Edvard once commented to his grandson that his own switch from horse handling teamster to tractor driver had not been a positive thing. He found that hand labour and the use of horses led to wonderful social interaction between workers, whereas the daily life of a tractor operator was one of noisy isolation.

The New World had beckoned to long suffering European peasants for hundreds of years. In 1957, although they were not suffering, it beckoned to Edvard and his brother Karl both of whom fell under the spell of an agent of the Canadian National Railroad, who held public meetings in various locations in Denmark to entice farm workers and craftsmen to immigrate to Canada. The two brothers came away from the meeting with a strong desire to immigrate to Canada. They said it was for the opportunity, but it has often been speculated amongst family members, that it was for the adventure. These were not downtrodden peasants, but union members with rights. Leaving the familiarity of one’s native land where one is a respected comfortable citizen, living in the lap of extended family and a centuries old benevolent culture, to go where one becomes a foreigner and to some degree second class, was no small thing. It seems a poor trade, unless it was for the adventure and the opportunity to see over the horizon.



Bjergby July 1957

Only Edvard was able to ignore his mother’s entreaties and make the break with his native land. By early July 1957, their house in Støvring and most of its contents had been sold. Mom and Dad had purchased a space heater on credit. Prior to leaving Støvring, Mom who was the family book keeper, paid the debt. She proudly recounts the grateful man’s comments about honesty, saying that “most people would just have run off and not paid the debt”.

Everyone had been vaccinated, passports had been acquired, goodbyes said and promises were made. At the age of seven, I promised my grandfather that I would return at the age of eighteen to find a Danish wife – I never did, although I did eventually find a Danish wife in Canada. Mom’s 15 year old sister, Elisabeth, promised to join

BIOGRAPHIES

us in Canada when she turned 18. She almost honoured that promise, when she turned up in Manitoba in 1962 with her husband of one month, at the age of 19. She lived for many years in Winnipeg and Vancouver, but is now a happy resident of Sechelt, British Columbia.

Man, wife and six children (the youngest, Niels, was just 6 weeks old) boarded a ferry in Aarhus for the 8 hour sail to Copenhagen. Margaret's father had said his goodbyes in Bjergby, but his wife was at the dockside in Aarhus waving her proud but tearful farewell. It must have been difficult to watch her eldest daughter and 6 grandchildren sail away to an uncertain future.

Once in Copenhagen, the family took side trips to say farewell to other family members, including a brief trip to Helsingborg, Sweden, to say farewell to Margaret's sister, Pamela, and her family. Post war scarcity was still gripping Europe. Twelve people slept in a one bedroom apartment that night. Pam's husband occupies that apartment to this day. Finally, on July 15, 1957 the family set sail for Canada on board the *M.S. Stockholm*.

The promise of Canada began to be fulfilled almost as soon as the family stepped on board the ship. It was huge and splendid in its coat of gleaming white. The massive, throbbing engine occupied an entire huge room and the ship seemed an unstoppable force as it sliced through the ocean. Ship, engine, voyage and family all seemed one, and the future was bright with promise. There were deck chairs, two private state rooms, a dining room which was open at all hours of the day. Best of all there was a huge self-serve table just inside the dining room door which was heaped with ripe oranges – oranges, which were only seen in Danish farm labourer's houses once each year. Edvard was not a reader, but his wife was. She must have been acutely aware of the privileged position in time that the family was occupying, compared to earlier generations of immigrants who spent up to three months traversing the ocean, and who lived in rat infested steerage accommodations on board tiny wooden ships, and who frequently died of disease before reaching their destination.

Eight days at sea brought the travelers to Halifax where they were admitted to Canada through the now famous Pier 21. In 1957 it was just a large and barely noticed administrative gateway through which thousands of Europeans passed on their way to new lives in the new world. At Pier 21, we were astonished to be given food, as my parents were certainly prepared to care for their family. I recall receiving Kellogg's Corn Flakes in small liquid proof boxes. It is unknown if this was the Kellogg's company trolling for customers or if it was a charitable organization caring for anxious immigrants? Many people were quite anxious about dealing with officials and merchants in a foreign language, but it was no problem for our family, as Margaret's first language had been English. She acted as interpreter on many occasions during the trip.

The immigrants stepped directly from Pier 21 onto a CNR passenger train bound for points west, barely setting foot on the soil of Nova Scotia. Our family's destination had been Edmonton. Here are Margaret's own words describing the trip as written in 2000: *"The train ride was wonderful; socializing with people we had just met and would never see again. Nobody knew for sure where they were going; looking at the passing landscape was really something. Everything was new to us and surprising too. Thinking back, we really enjoyed the whole trip, the boat trip as well as the train trip. Actually, our whole life was good and still is."* I recall discussions to the effect that Canada viewed from the railcar, did not look as good as it had in Halifax. There was poverty and squalor on display in some of the small communities the train passed through.

BIOGRAPHIES

As the train approached Winnipeg, we were informed that we would be de-training there. The Alberta farmer had not kept his word. There was no job near Edmonton, but a Manitoba farmer from Dugald near Winnipeg needed help. In the words of an immigration officer, Mr. Johnson was coming *“to look at you”*. The “look” must have been satisfactory, because we moved to the Johnson farm. The Johnson family had survived the dirty thirties in Saskatchewan, and by 1957 were farming three thousand acres in Manitoba. The Johnson’s five sons were a big survival advantage. Mr. Johnson bought up neighbour’s homesteads when one by one they realized that survival not prosperity was the best that could be hoped for on a quarter section of land.

The Johnson’s were good people, hardworking, honest and helpful. Our new life was a marvelous eye opening adventure, although our first Canadian home was very rudimentary. It had three rooms without complete dividing walls and no plumbing. It must have been a bunkhouse at one time. The feed sacks were moved out as we moved in. Despite this disappointment, discovering Manitoba with its wide open spaces, searing heat and crashing thunderstorms was new and wonderful for all. Prairie agriculture was much more mechanized than Danish agriculture. Edvard, whose name was promptly changed to “Ed” by the Johnson’s, was exhilarated by the abundance of equipment, which included several large John Deere tractors, a Caterpillar tractor, dump trucks, two John Deere harvesters and of course several pickup trucks. I recall only one complaint. One day in early summer of 1958, Dad was assigned the task of picking mustard plants out of a field of flax. As he stood at the entrance to a 100 acre field and contemplated walking every foot of it to pick weeds by hand, he allowed himself just this once to think that perhaps Canada had been a mistake. However, admitting defeat was not in his nature, and he quickly forgot that idea. The fact that mom refused to budge may have helped the decision to stay.

We moved into a tiny, but better quality home on the farm in September. It had proper rooms, and a kitchen counter. Running cold water was run to the kitchen sink that fall. The promise of Canada was fulfilled little by little. Mom now did laundry with her own wringer washer, whereas she had used a wash board in Denmark. While Dad learned the ways of Canadian agriculture, Mom was absorbed in caring for her large brood and in learning Canadian customs. Supplying the family by once a week shopping at a distant general store was quite a change from living in a Danish village where supplies could be had daily from nearby shops, or from travelling vendors who arrived unbidden at one’s doorstep. Cooking was done on a two burner hotplate or on the woodstove which heated the house.

Socializing in a Danish village had required little effort. There had been easy access to church, family, neighbours, vendors, festivals, dances and school. In Manitoba, the family’s social life outside of the farm consisted mainly of visiting with other far flung Danish families. My siblings and I began to become familiar with long walks to school. We attended a one room school named Meadowvale, which was located about one mile away. The better part of the first school year was spent absorbing English, but by the second school year all were assigned to grades. Karl, who had begun part time work on a farm in Denmark at the age of nine, was put to work driving tractors almost as soon as he arrived at the Johnson farm. Mom recounts how one day she saw what appeared to be a driverless dump truck leaving the farm yard. A closer look revealed a small head just managing to peak over the steering wheel. The reader should bear in mind that in 1958 trucks had neither power steering nor power brakes.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dad began his love affair with cars, in the summer of 1958, when he purchased the first of many, a 1950 Pontiac. It was purchased from a private individual for \$550 on the installment plan. The payments were sent cash via regular mail and never failed to arrive at their destination.

Edvard, who was a man of his word, did not take well to broken promises. At one point, he had been promised that the family could move to a separate farm which had a proper sized home, but the promise was not honoured. Everyone had enjoyed life at “Johnson’s”, but one day in August 1958 word of a better opportunity reached Dad and it was decided that the family would move to Searle Farm near East Selkirk.



Searle Farm 1961

Searle Farm, a branch of the Searle Grain Elevator Company, consisted of several thousand acres, a dairy operation, a beef cattle operation plus a 3,000 acre ranch some sixty miles away. Edvard was to run the farm’s expansion into the sheep and hog business. The “Pig Farm” as it became named, was separated from the main farm by three miles. This situation gave the entire family privacy, independence and also isolation. Apart from the family car, and a washing



machine, our circumstances were probably more humble than they had been in Denmark, but I believe the entire family shared in the sense that life was good and getting better. Looking back, things were a bit rough from time to time, but it would be unfair to all the Europeans who had come before us stretching back nearly 400 years, to call us pioneers. Orange crates were gradually replaced by chairs; the tiny cottage in the farmer’s yard had been replaced by our own farm with a three bedroom house. It was like heaven to have a place which felt like our own. We all treated the livestock, the buildings and machinery like it was our own. Mom and Dad saw to the development of that standard by their example and by their clear expectations. Over the next couple of years, we gained access to a stable full of riding horses; we acquired bicycles, ice skates, more furniture, more clothing, and more children in the family. Sally arrived in December of 1959 and Michael arrived in December of 1962. There was a milk cow or two, so fresh milk and whipped cream were part of our daily diet. Stray dogs came along and were adopted into the family. School attendance was a bit of a mix-up. The first year we attended Happy Thought School by bus, along with the kids from the main farm. The second year we attended Mayfield School – accessed by a two mile walk or by horseback. Finally in our third year we began to attend the proper school for the area, Highland Glen School. Unfortunately, that school was located a distance of two and a half miles, which is a long walk for short legs in January. We hoped mightily each day that Julian Obeirck’s father would be giving Julian a ride to school and that we would be allowed to ride in the back of the truck. Two and a half miles is almost as far as the outhouse seemed on a January night time visit.

The bicycles we acquired were second hand and required a lot of maintenance to keep working. With a bit of guidance from Dad, they became the beginning of independence in mechanical matters for the boys. Dad had the notion that country raised boys were more useful and better

BIOGRAPHIES

behaved than city boys. He would shame us or inspire us by asking the one who was misbehaving if he was no better than “*en by dreng*”. That concept must have been borrowed from his own father.

Dad was kept busy and happy with the growth of the farm. Two new barns were built to house the rapidly multiplying livestock, as well as a garage, to house his precious car. Searle Farm got a bargain when Ed Christensen was hired, because he came with two sons of an appropriate age for chores. The chores at six in the morning were one part of life at Searle Farm which was not appealing, as was the relative isolation. Eight or nine is probably too young to take pride in work. However, the isolation did foster in us a strong family bond, not unlike that portrayed on television years later by the fictional Waltons. Sometimes the chores seemed never ending. There was daily animal care; bringing the cows home to be milked; milking the cows; stable cleaning; hoeing the rock hard Manitoba soil in Mom’s huge vegetable garden; rock picking out in the fields; hauling wood home for the furnace in winter; and stacking hay bales. No doubt, one of the girls could recite a long list of odious house chores which they were expected to tolerate if not love, but knowledge of that did not penetrate a young boy’s mind.



13 year old Teamster Jens

Somehow there was also time for long horseback rides just for the fun of it, many hours spent with books, time to fashion homemade Christmas presents, time to make and play on our own ice rink and time to play on the glorious mountains of snow created by the farm tractor after a blizzard. Winter weather in Manitoba can be severe with extreme cold and blinding blizzards. I recall moving from barn to barn during a raging blizzard, with visibility near zero, snow stinging my eyes, and the breath sucked right out of my lungs. Only my grip on Dad’s coat tail kept me from perishing. He seemed like an unstoppable force moving strongly through the tempest. Winter evenings, Mom often read to us, as a group, with “Little House on The Prairie” an especially spell binding favourite.

Summer, when it comes to Manitoba, is splendid with blue skies and long, long days. On one occasion Dad joined our shinny baseball game and awed us all with how far he could hit the ball. It isn’t certain that the ball was ever found again. One summer when I was about 12, several of us kids camped out in the woods about a mile from home, complete with tent, groceries, horses and horse feed. For a whole week we lived the life we saw on the television westerns. It was glorious. No adults accompanied us, but Dad had brought out the wagon with all our supplies and the horse feed.

Mom and Dad were acquainted with a number of Danish families, most of whom began their lives in Canada as agricultural workers. Many made the transition to higher paid jobs in the city at the first opportunity. Dad was a good candidate for a position in the construction trades. Mom and Dad did discuss the idea of joining the others in Winnipeg, but, it was not for them. They loved country living and the life style they had been shown by their parents too much to trade it for the confines of a city. For over fifty years, they shared most of their six meals per day (including morning, afternoon and evening “*kaffe*”). Dad had the luxury of noon naps, no

BIOGRAPHIES

commute, and low vehicle expenses. Both of them had the comfort of always having the other one near.



Once we acquired a television, Roy Rogers, the Cartwrights, Daniel Boone, Walt Disney and Ed Sullivan became regular guests in our house. All these programs had a profound influence in forming the sensibilities and morals of the youngsters in the family. Roaming the nearby woods on foot and on horseback, with a hunting knife at his belt soon turned one impressionable boy into a frontiersman, in his mind. He remained a frontiersman for many years until he experienced the fear of bears on a

fateful solitary hike in the woods of Riding Mountain National Park. That taught him that he was in fact a “*by dreng*”.

Early in 1964, Ed became dissatisfied with Searle Farm. His compensation seemed inadequate for the work and the responsibility he bore. Or perhaps it was just the horizon beckoning after six years in one place. So began two years of wandering without a solid place to call home. Dad was promised the foreman’s job and more money on a mushroom farm near Winnipeg. Unfortunately, the owner made promises to Dad which he did not keep, so we remained there only three months. Unlike Dad, I loved the place, the new school, my new companions and especially Geraldine – puberty had found me. The highlight of our stay at the mushroom farm was a visit from Mom’s mother Lillian. She came from Denmark to attend the wedding of my eldest sister, Else, to the boy next door, Henry Clark. The jet age had arrived, but Mammy, as grandmother was called, would have none of that. She made the journey from Denmark to Montreal by ship, even though she was exceedingly prone to sea sickness. She must have loved us!

The grand adventure we had launched on in 1957 continued. Nine of us piled into Dad’s 1958 Chevrolet and made the journey to Southern Ontario through the fabulously beautiful Canadian Shield. Neither Denmark nor Manitoba had prepared us for such sights. Southern Ontario, at that time home to a little less than six million people seemed like paradise with her lush green hills and stately trees. Travellers, who cared to stop for a rest at the junction of Highway 69 and 400 just north of Barrie, were welcomed to Southern Ontario by a picnic area near a lovely pond and a grove of weeping willows. I had never seen anything so beautiful. Further along, as we left highway 401 to fuel the car we were awed and delighted by maple trees whose foliage met above the streets in the village of Morriston. We had not seen such a sight since leaving Denmark – we had indeed come home. We stayed at the Kirby Hotel in Brantford for a few days, at the expense of Dad’s new employer, Mr. Richard Schliessner, but once our possessions arrived via Allied Van Lines, we moved into the huge brick house at the old Douglas place on the banks of the Grand River, five miles upstream from Caledonia. The location of this farm, across the road from the Hamilton Hunt Club, would prove very significant to the future of the family. Shortly after moving in, we were all mightily impressed one Sunday, at the sight of ten riders in red coats, on finely groomed horses, riding into our yard. At the head of the group rode Mr. Bill Bermingham, the Master of the Hunt Club. He introduced himself and his companions and requested permission to continue riding on the property, as they had done for some years. Permission was

BIOGRAPHIES

granted. Thus began, the single most important connection which the Christensen family was to make in Canada.

Karl, the family's eldest son, had become a consummate horseman while working summers as a cowboy on Searle Farm. He was immediately attracted to all the comings and goings of horses next door. Separated from his Manitoba friends, he quickly became disenchanted with school and made the decision to terminate his education. Satisfied as Mom and Dad were with their own place in life, education was not regarded as a thing of particular value in life. In fact, educated people were often derided as being a little short on common sense, a commodity which was regarded as plentiful amongst members of the working class.

Karl asked for work and received an offer of employment at the Hunt Club. Mr. Bermingham, ever the gentleman, asked Mom and Dad's permission to offer employment to seventeen year old Karl. Fifty-one years later, he is still involved with the Bermingham family as Operations Manager at Bermingham Construction, which is now run by Bill Bermingham's son Patrick. All five Christensen sons and four Christensen grandsons have worked for Bermingham Construction – six of the nine still do.

Mr. Schleissner owned several farms near Jerseyville, and ran a major dairy operation, called Dunlea Farms. He was also a livestock exporter. The farm we lived on was the export hub. Dad did the field work on the farm, cared for the animals while they awaited export and also prepared the rail cars for their trip to Mexico.



Apart from Dad's periodic dissatisfaction with his employers, Mom and Dad were very satisfied with their life together. By the standards with which they grew up, they were well off. They were seeing the world, they had a large healthy growing family and they took great pleasure in seeing their children gradually mature and enter the adult world. They lived in a large solid home, the likes of which they could not have dreamed of in Denmark. I believe that all the family enjoyed life at Schleissner's, but somehow Dad was not finished with the prairies. He accepted a position with a farmer near Marengo on the Alberta/Saskatchewan border. Exactly one year after arriving in Ontario we set out on a road trip for Saskatchewan. These trips were beginning to be routine and felt like a vacation. That summer, I was working on the River's family farm near Ingersoll and was certainly welcome to remain there. But I feared that my family might all be killed in a road accident and so I chose possible death with them rather than risk living life as an orphan.

Travelling to Saskatchewan and living there was a terrific adventure. The vast nearly treeless expanse was wonderful to behold and the people were marvellously kind and welcoming. Dad's boss, Mr. Sonmor, was completely unprepared to invite a family to his farm to live. Our home was to be a two room cottage which had been deposited on the prairie just a few days prior to our arrival. It had no foundation and no running water. It brought Mom and Dad closer to the pioneer experience than they were prepared to accept. We stayed only two months. One day in late September 1965, Mr. Jacobs showed up at the Marengo High School and spirited myself and my sister Grete away, along with the family's furniture, to his large farm in Southern Saskatchewan near Trossachs. Mom had been communicating with Mr. Jacobs regarding work for Dad and one

BIOGRAPHIES

day he just showed up. Dad had previously informed Mr. Sonmor that the house he had provided made it impossible for us to remain.

A large farm can be a wonderful place to grow up. There is so much to experience, land to explore, machinery to operate, cars and trucks to drive, repair skills to learn, animals to be in charge of and the opportunity to be part of something greater than oneself. Farmers are always hungry for additional labour and often give young boys opportunity for growth, opportunity which may be premature. Mr. Jacobs had an amazing tractor which would travel 35 miles per hour, a tractor which my eight year old brother, Niels, and I used to fetch the milk cows at milking time. We used that wonderful tractor like a horse, with one of us riding on the hood while the other drove at break neck speed. Death was only a heartbeat away, but we were young and had no sense of that. God must have had other plans for us, for we are both still in this world. The following summer in 1966 I lived with the Jacobs and worked for them. Mrs. Jacobs was a genteel English lady in her sixties. Men behaved around her without being asked. It was a great pleasure to be invited to her table. It amazed me to hear the two of them reminiscing about twenty years ago, as I could barely imagine such a span of time. Now, when I speak of Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs, I speak of fifty years ago. That summer Mr. Jacobs trusted me with his 1956 Buick to drive to a distant field to work the land. The very first day I was alone with that car, I learned how very fine it felt at 95 miles per hour. Perhaps I was the only teenager to give in to reckless impulses when left alone, but somehow I suspect not.



Mohill Farm, Puslinch, Ontario 1974

Mr. Jacobs provided his hired man with a fine modern three bedroom home, and he was a pleasant, respectful employer, but I suspect that after experiencing the freedom of his own farm at Searle Farm, Dad was no longer able to be happy, sharing the farm yard with his employer and working under close supervision. In the spring of 1966 the family returned to Ontario, to the farm on the banks of the Grand River, which

was to be home until 1969. Dad's wandering was over. When he left Ontario from then on it was as a tourist. The return to Ontario proved to be the end of the beginning, of my family's life in Canada.

Dad had four more employers before his retirement in 1990, but he never again accepted a position with an ordinary farmer. He worked only for wealthy people who were not themselves struggling, and so could afford to provide well for their employees. He managed Mohill Farm near Puslinch for Mona Campbell for many years and only moved on when she decided to downsize her operation in 1975. The years on the banks of the Grand River and at Mohill Farm were marvelous years. Edward, the youngest family member had arrived in 1967, so the family now consisted of nine children ranging in age from baby to thirty two. There was a wonderful feeling of strength and security present at family gatherings which consisted of many individuals

BIOGRAPHIES

and several generations. Five grandchildren had joined the family by 1975. We were now firmly rooted in Canada and the feeling of being an immigrant had fallen away.

Dad also managed farms for Carl Corcoran, a vice-president for IBM Canada, first near Nashville, Ontario, and then near Grafton, where the Corcoran family turned the old Massey farm into the very successful St. Anne's Spa. Dad's last major employment was managing the farm of the Federal Conservative Minister Sinclair Stevens, near Aurora, Ontario.



The family continues to grow in numbers and experiences. Ed and Margaret's children all became experts in their chosen fields, thanks in no small part to the strong work ethic instilled by their parents' example. They have proven the old adage that, "the acorn does not fall far from the oak tree".

Else, Karl, Grete, Jens, Tove, Niels, Sally, Mikael, Edward

Dad continued to grow as a person until his death. He was a conservative man who always wore either heavy work boots or heavy leather dress shoes. But, one day in his mid-fifties he suddenly showed up in a pair of green running shoes! The family was thunderstruck. It seemed to be a turning point for dad. Everyone noticed that as he aged he became kinder and gentler. He became less work focused and had more time for people including grandchildren. On one occasion, after I had become a business man, Dad stood in the doorway of my office and then quietly, proudly remarked, "*You look good sitting there*". Dad was very strong and healthy his entire life, but died of cancer, at home, in May of 1999, surrounded by his family and his dog. He was bed ridden for only about a week and very near the end said, "*If it's going to be like this, I don't want to be here*".

Mom, who was known to be hot headed, calmed down as the pressures of child rearing eased and she became a kind and patient grandmother. She even became grandmother to the children of neighbours, for whom she provided day care. As the family book keeper, she saved the money to purchase a modest home in Clanbrassil, Ontario, in which she and her husband lived during their retirement. The proceeds from the sale of that house are responsible for Mom being able to enjoy living in a private room in a nursing home in Guelph, Ontario, where she will celebrate her 89th birthday on April 12, 2015. Her main pleasures in life are knitting and reading. Recently, Mom and I were discussing the long ago suicide of a family member, when she said to me, "*you don't need to worry about me; I want to be here as long as I can*".

P.S:

The author, Jens Christensen, was born in the little yellow house on the Dempstrup Herregård (Estate), Denmark, on August 5, 1950, and was christened in Raaby Church. Since 1988 he has been the owner of Two Wheel Motorsport in Guelph. He is married to Aase Christensen.

Karen and John Nielsen

Jette Storms, Kingston, and Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Karen Nielsen never forgot her transatlantic crossing from Copenhagen to Halifax. She was sea sick the whole trip, and never left her cabin. During the crossing, Karen and her family experienced a strong gale and very rough seas, as well as storms and rolling high seas. They encountered snow flurries, ice and icebergs. It was scary! It was mid-February and the Atlantic heaved and roared as the waves washed across the deck.



John, her husband, loved the voyage. He had sea legs and could walk around the ship as it swayed. It was in his genes as there had been seafarers in his family. Their two children, Ernst and Jette, took the trip as a new and exciting adventure. But Jette did find the icebergs eerie.

John and Karen Nielsen, with their two children, boarded the *SS Stavangerfjord* in Copenhagen on Sunday, February 17, 1957. They had booked a Cabin Class voyage. The *SS Stavangerfjord* could carry 652 passengers, but on this voyage there were only 235 passengers, many of them immigrants.

The old ship had just been renovated and refitted the year before, so it seemed fairly new. It had been built during the First World War and launched in May 1917, as an ocean liner for the Norwegian America Line. It plied the North Atlantic until December 1939, when it was laid up in Oslo Fjord, due to the war.

In September 1940, the *SS Stavangerfjord* was requisitioned by the Deutsche Kriegsmarine, and used first as a troop depot and later as a German hospital ship. After the war it was briefly used as a repatriation ship, but was then quickly refitted to enter passenger service on the North Atlantic run. It continued to transport passengers across the Atlantic until November 1963, when it was withdrawn from service. Due to the stiff competition from airlines, it was no longer that profitable to operate passenger ships. The ship was sold as scrap metal and scrapped in Hong Kong in 1964. Apparently, the *SS Stavangerfjord* holds the record for being the passenger ship in service the longest with one owner.

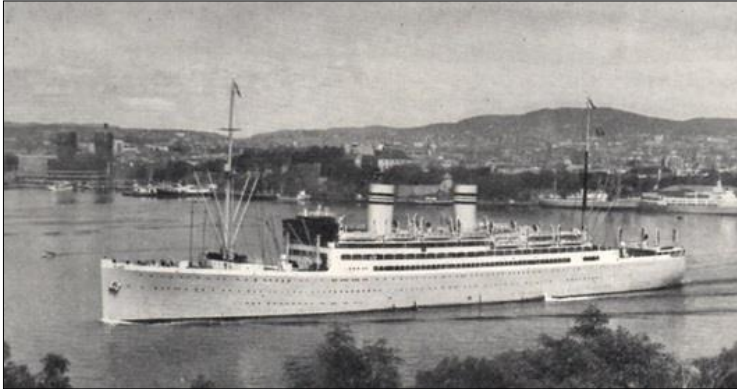
The Nielsen family arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax on Monday, February 25, 1957. They were greeted by the Salvation Army. Until they passed away, Karen and John always had a soft spot

BIOGRAPHIES

for the Salvation Army. Their daughter, Jette, was given a box of Frosted Flakes. She had no idea what they were. But they were sweet, and quickly eaten!

One of the reasons for immigrating to Canada was that John Nielsen had two sisters in Kingston, Ontario, Alice and Alfreda, both of whom were married and doing well in Canada.

John was the youngest of five children. He had also had an older brother, but he had been killed before the end of the war. Both John and his brother had been active in the underground during the war.



“SS Stavangerfjord”. Note the high funnels; before the refitting.

John was born in Vejle on December 19, 1928, as Jørn Helmuth Lindahl Nielsen. He grew up in Vejle, where he attended school and played soccer. As soon as he was of age he joined the Danish Air Force. He wanted to be a pilot, but was disqualified due to his eyesight. Instead he became a navigator.

John Nielsen married Karen Marie Larsen, who had grown up outside of Stenløse, west of Copenhagen. Karen

had been born in Stenløse in April 1928. She was one of ten children, raised on a small tract of land near Stenløse. She worked on a farm, dead-heading tulips. She also worked as a domestic. Later she was employed in a mannequin factory. Karen was also an accomplished seamstress, something she had learned from her mother who was a tailor.

After they married, John built a house just outside of Stenløse, close to some of Karen’s family. In October 1945, Ernst was born, and in November 1951, Jette was born.

After landing in Halifax, Karen, John and the kids took the train to Montreal, where they were met by Heron, husband of John’s sister, Alice. Heron worked in a garage downtown Kingston, where he was a mechanic.

John’s other sister, Alfreda, and her husband, Richard, put the four Niensens up for a short time, until lodgings could be found. Richard was a home builder, so John worked for him as an assistant carpenter, that is, he ran all the errands, cleaned up or straightened nails.

Already in 1957, the Nielsen rented the back half of a farm house on Highway 2, just outside of Westbrook, west of Kingston. It wasn’t much, but it became home. They lived there for nine years.

In September 1957, John applied for a job at the DuPont factory, a major nylon plant outside Kingston. He was hired and DuPont became his one and only employer during his career in Canada. John didn’t mind the shift work, and the money was enough, just enough, to raise a family, which was now growing. Jo-Ann and Jeanette were born in Canada. The three girls were all given the same initials, and the same middle name, Lindahl.

BIOGRAPHIES

In 1966, the Niensens bought a house in Amherstview, where they both lived for the rest of their lives. Karen looked after the house and family. She remained a home maker, which she enjoyed. She was good at it too; she was a terrific cook and baker; her layer cake was renowned. But this also meant that she continued to struggle with English. Even after a couple of English courses, she still wasn't comfortable speaking it. John had learned English in Denmark, and in Canada he quickly became fluent.

After a few years at DuPont's main plant, John applied for a position in one of the research labs. A few courses at Queen's University brought him up to the required standard and he was given the desired position. Ernst followed his father, and also worked for DuPont. Ernie, as he was called in Canada, worked in research, but added fire duties to his position, eventually becoming fire chief. Later he travelled a lot, training others.

John Nielsen was an avid collector. He started collecting stamps in the early 1960s. He had thousands upon thousands of stamps. He was a member of a club and received many stamps from friends. He could sit for hours prepping, mounting and cataloguing stamps. He also collected movies, and owned hundreds of tapes. Moreover, he collected and made music tapes. He loved music. Indeed he was an accomplished harmonica player. He made tapes of Danish songs to use at get-togethers. Everything was catalogued. He was very organized; typically Danish. Karen shared his hobbies and they would spend many hours side by side studying stamps.

Within a short time of arriving in Kingston, Karen and John met many other Danish immigrants. There seemed to be a fairly large Danish community in the Kingston area. Naturally they joined the Danish Canadian Club of Kingston. They attended dances, picnics, Christmas parties and joined in Folklore. John would often chair the Club's annual general meetings. Karen and John also attended a couple of Danish Canadian Conferences. The Conference that stands out was the one in New Denmark, when quite a few people from Kingston attended. It was a memorable conference, and Karen and John kept in touch with some of the new friends they made in New Denmark. Karen and John really enjoyed the Danish Canadian Club of Kingston. They were extremely sad when the Kingston Club was dissolved, after forty years of operation.

Karen and John would visit Denmark every year, often staying for a month, or more. They enjoyed seeing Denmark and visiting family. They usually stayed with Karen's sister, Nora, who would always have them.

Karen Marie Nielsen passed away in Kingston on October 2, 2009. John Nielsen died in Kingston on April 6, 2013. Ære være deres minde! They left behind Ernie and Linda; Jette and Rupert; Jo-Ann and Richard; and Jeanette and Richard; as well as eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Margrethe Gjørup

1927-2004

Knud Eyvin Bugge, Vedbæk, Denmark

Due to the tireless efforts of the Danish Emigration Archives in Aalborg, the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, the Danish Canadian National Museum and others, an impressive body of information exists concerning emigration from Denmark to Canada. However, very little is known about Greenlanders immigrating to Canada. From Greenland westward travels of a shorter duration have taken place from ancient times. In the post war period a few cases of emigration are known, perhaps no more than five. Considering this state of affairs, it was a stroke of pure luck that I came into contact with a Greenlander, who had immigrated permanently and successfully to Calgary in Western Canada.

Sometime during the last months of 1999 I had to deliver a parcel at our local post office in Vedbæk, north of Copenhagen. The assistant noticed my name on the parcel and asked me whether my family had lived or worked in Greenland. This I confirmed. The assistant then told me that his name was Jan Petersen, and that, his family originated from the Qaqortoq-Narssaq area, in Southern Greenland. His uncle was the renowned composer and author Henrik Lund (1875-1948). I told Jan that my parents and I had visited the very same Henrik Lund in Narssaq in the summer of 1937. In short, we had a lively conversation, and the queue behind me began to grumble. The next time I visited the post office, I gave Jan a copy of my father's childhood memoirs from the turn of the century¹.

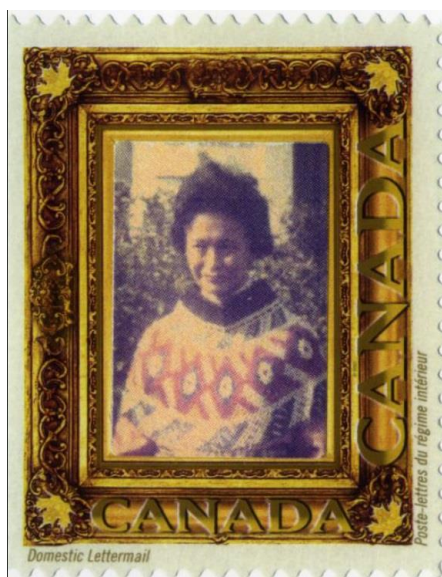


Margrethe Gjørup, Calgary

After this exchange of personal information I considered the matter closed. But that was not to be the case. A month or so later, at the turn of the century, I was surprised to receive a letter from Calgary. After having read my father's memoirs, Jan Petersen had sent the book to his aunt, Margrethe Gjørup, who, he assumed, would be interested in reading these memoirs. Her letter confirmed this assumption. She had been exceedingly happy to read this narrative, as it described the southern region of Greenland, where she was born. She expressed the wish to thank not only her nephew but also me for the donation. Furthermore, she enclosed some interesting comments, to which I replied. Her contribution to our ensuing correspondence, which continued until her death in the summer of 2004, encompass fourteen letters, two Christmas cards, three short stories, twelve printed poems written in English (of which a few are translated into Danish) and finally seven photos; undeniably quite an extensive correspondence considering the limited span of approximately four-and-a-half years.

BIOGRAPHIES

Margrethe Gjørup was born in 1927 in Qaqortoq (earlier Julianehaab), a sizable town situated near the southern tip of Greenland. As an adult she spent a few years in Denmark, from where she did some travelling to Norway, Scotland and France. In 1957 she immigrated to Canada. As the years passed, and our correspondence developed in volume and frequency, I was much impressed by learning how she had coped with the challenge of immigrating. She never mentioned a husband (dead? divorced?); which means that she had to make a living alone in a foreign country. And she had to learn a third language: English. She was brought up speaking Greenlandic. In school and during her stay in Denmark she had learned to speak and to write Danish. In Calgary, of course, she had to pick up English. She never mentioned taking language courses; she must have learned to speak the language simply by listening to what people said and gradually discovering the meaning. The material she sent me reveals an extensive range of vocabulary; but on the other hand also some uncertainty concerning spelling. This observation supports the assumption that she primarily learned English by listening and not by reading. Learning a language is, however, only one of several aspects of successful integration. It also implies (a) finding and keeping a source of income; (b) finding a home in a close personal context with positive relations to neighbours; and (c) finding a satisfactory role in the socio-cultural life of the local community and of the nation. Let's look at each in turn.



Margrethe Gjørup in Greenlandic national costume on postage stamp

(a) In her letters Margrethe mentions housework such as cleaning, which seems quite plausible. On the other hand, as a cleaning lady she would have faced tough competition from other immigrant women. She does mention working at the Children's Hospital. But otherwise she does not spend many words on this subject. In some biographical notes on her arrival in Canada, she proclaims: "I will work hard whatever comes. I have the courage". This was obviously also the case!

(b) As far as social context is concerned, her relations with neighbours and to the city of Calgary are important. In the letters her neighbours are often positively mentioned. Furthermore, she quotes conversations with her bank manager and the local grocer. In one of her letters she mentions that four other women of Greenlandic origin live in Calgary. Her contact with two of these is later lost. Nevertheless, it is no coincidence when she describes how "all my friends", colleagues

from the hospital, and neighbours, came visiting on her 75th birthday in September 2002, when she suddenly found herself in "a house full of flowers".

Concerning the city of Calgary and its opportunities, she mentions attending a Christmas Service at the Danish Lutheran Church, but only once. More significant is what she has to say about the city as such. In a short matter-of-fact statement she mentions that she has assisted in delivering aid "to the poor" of the city.

More eloquently she describes her delight at hearing the church bells of Calgary chiming at the turn of the century 1999/2000. Together with some neighbours she went out of the city at midnight in order better to hear all the bells. And she continued, "It was very beautiful, and I sang the hymn *Ring out, O church bells and herald the dawn*² in the Greenlandic language." It is noteworthy that the hymn she sings is most appropriately and accurately chosen to fit the

BIOGRAPHIES

situation; it is not one of the many other Christmas or New Year hymns from the Greenlandic hymnbook; it is precisely this one, where the chiming of bells is the main theme. In addition we here find a significant merging of her past in Greenland and her present circumstances in Canada. In a later poem she expresses a close identification with the city:

Calgary!

At night the city lights will be
like twinkling diamonds.
with Rocky Mountains simmering blue
in background fairy-like.
Great city Calgary it is
we proudly called home.

(c) Perhaps the most interesting part of her integration story is the description of how she joined an association of the Indigenous People. In the context of this association she seems not only to have been accepted, but also to have played a prominent role. Every so often she describes her participation in the Powwows that took place in the Rocky Mountains. At these meetings she was engaged in “story-telling” and in the recurring “poetry-contests”. In one of the letters she proudly announces that she has taken part in seven such contests, and that in five of these she had won a gold medal. She was also active on a more personal level. She describes how she helped a young Cree Indian with “his language”, which must be English, and which he had some difficulties learning. She adds that she finally “pushed him” to join an evening class.



Gold Medal Poetry Award

The letters contain no information describing when and how Margrethe was accepted into this community. One could have expected that she had to overcome some initial wonder, wariness or even suspicion among the members of the association towards this strange bird that spoke a never-before-heard language and on festive occasions wore clothes never seen before. On the other hand, they obviously had much in common. She was undeniably one of the “First People” of the continent. She loved storytelling, just as they did. Finally, and perhaps most important, they shared a deeply rooted love of nature, of “the great out-doors”. In her poems Margrethe often describes the impressive beauty of the shores, mountains, valleys, animals and birds of Greenland. She

seems to have acquired this love of nature at an early stage of her life. At the age of 12 she moved to the northern part of Greenland and lived for some time with her brother and his family. In the following words she describes the effect of the midnight sun radiating on the icebergs out at sea:

“Around midnight the sun will blush over the earth like a young maiden in love. The great icebergs are painted in colours, you cannot describe. It hurts you deep down like a great sorrow, so incredible. Beautiful is the sight.”

Margrethe’s poems are brimming with similar descriptions of the wonders of nature both in Greenland and in Canada. What impressed her most in her West Canadian environment was the majestic beauty of the nearby Rockies. In Denmark she missed the mountains. Now she knows that she will never forget “the beautiful sight of the Rocky Mountains”. And she

BIOGRAPHIES

concluded, “I have seen some of this world of ours, from the land of the midnight sun to some of Europe and Canada, the beautiful land of mine”. Just as she in her above quoted poem called Calgary “home”, she here identifies with Canada as her country. Similarities in the grandeur of nature in Greenland and Canada have obviously played an important role in her integration process. They have awoken and sustained deep, personal feelings. In the above quoted passage from her description of the beauty of a summer spent in Northern Greenland she said that this experience “hurts you deep down like a great sorrow”. In one of her last poems (from 2003) we find a corresponding choice of words:

The waves from the sea
licked the beach
sounding like whispered song
and touched the heart
to chase the fears away.

In the rugged beauty of the Rocky Mountains, Margrethe experienced a close similarity between the land of her birth and her new homeland. That is no coincidence. Settling in Calgary did not make her forget Greenland. She managed to maintain correspondence with her Greenlandic relatives and friends. Two of her short stories were printed in a Greenlandic magazine³. And on her 75th birthday she had the immense pleasure of receiving visitors from Greenland.



Fourth Prize Poetry Award

Margrethe’s life reveals a successful integration process. Summing up one may ask why? What were the decisive features of this process? Several components have played an important role, while others we will never know. Of the easily discernible elements, her adventurous spirit seems to have been a basic factor. She calls herself a “Child of the Wind”, in the Greenlandic language “*anorip meeraa*”⁴. Already as a child she wondered where the wind came from, where it went, and where it ended. She travelled widely, but at last she settled permanently in Canada. “The voice of the wind, I knew as a child, I find it here”. She loved adventure, but she also had the ability to settle down. Furthermore, she had a well developed sense of humour, an important faculty to have when one encounters difficulties, unforeseen conditions or adversity. In her letters she relates several situations that illustrate her sense of humour. Once when she visited a shop that was open in the evening, the grocer remarked that he had not seen her for some time. She


answered that she had been ill and furthermore that it was dangerous for a beautiful person such as her to go out at night! Another time a man asked whether she was French. She answered “*Oui Monsieur*”, and then continued in Greenlandic. The man went away baffled; “his face was totally wrong!”

Finally, we note that she possessed an outstanding openness towards other people and unfamiliar cultures, and that she was endowed with an invaluable ability to make friends. It has been interesting to make her acquaintance, because she managed to combine fond memories from her childhood with a positive appreciation and involvement in her new environment. She was privileged to have both the background and opportunity to develop a richly faceted identity.


BIOGRAPHIES

Notes:

1. Aage Bugge: *Barndomserindringer fra Sydgrønland omkring århundredskiftet* (privately Published, 1976).
2. "Kimer, I klokker" by N.F.S. Grundtvig, translated by Johannes Knudsen, in *Songs of Denmark*, ed. by Peter Balslev-Clausen (Copenhagen, 1988) Nr. 22.
3. *Kalaaleq* 2000 No. 12 and 2001 No. 7.
4. "Anoré" (here in genitive) = wind, cf. Danish "Anorak", a wind-blazer.



Granly



Danish Lutheran Church ~ Surrey, B.C.

DSUK

Address: 9243 – 152nd Street,
Surrey, B.C. V3R 4G1
CANADA

Tel. (604) 581 062
Email: granly@shaw.ca
Website: www.danishchurchgranly.ca

Sunday church services are alternately in
Danish and English
Other Activities are:
Ladies' Auxiliary,
Wednesday Club,
Bible Study and
Literature Study Group

WELCOME to
The Danish Church
in Vancouver B.C.
6010 Kincaid Street
Burnaby B.C.
V5G 4N3
Tel.: (604) 298-6112



Church Service every
Sunday morning.
The first and third Sunday
each month in Danish, the
other Sundays in English,
unless otherwise
announced.

We will be happy to send the Church Newsletter every month with information regarding Church Services, Meetings, Movie Nights and much more.
www.danishchurch.vancouver.bc.ca

Best Wishes for a successful 34th Annual Convention



1962

Celebrating 53 Years
as a British Columbia
Danish-Canadian
Organization

2015

Grundlovsfest June 7, 2015
Scandinavian Centre
6540 Thomas St., Burnaby, B.C.

Mailing Address: 1863 Lincoln Ave., Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 2J7
Tel: (604) 942-8659 E-mail: danishcanadiancc@shaw.ca



pâtisserie
salon de thé
traiteur
chocolats
confiseries
paniers cadeaux
commandes spéciales
gâteaux de mariage

Victoria Sørensen
Présidente

Cel.: 514-770-0373
Tel.: 514-731-4128
Fax.: 514-739-0855

victoria@ducdelorraine.ca

5002 Côte-des-neiges
Montréal, Qc, H3V 1G6



"A Great Place



For Lunch
or Dinner"

**Golden Rooster
Delicatessen and Catering**

Serving Canadian and Danish Cuisine

1st Class Meals at Deli Counter Prices

Catering

All Occasions

Receptions, Home & Office Service

**Specializing In:
Open Faced Danish Sandwiches
Cheese Trays
Weddings & Banquets**

111 Princess Street, Kingston, ON K7L 1A8
Deli. (613) 542-5676 Catering (613) 549-6540



VIKING
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS LTD.

Niels Hansen

Office: 780-455-0181
Fax: 780-455-0182
Cell: 780-203-1957
17524 - 105 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5S 1G4

PLUMBING • HEATING • SHEET METAL

VikingMechanical@telus.net

Frontenac
AUTO BODY SERVICE
The Machacynski Family



"Serving Kingston for 30 years"

- COMPLETE COLLISION SERVICE
- IMPORTED CAR SPECIALISTS

755 Burnett St.
Kingston
389-9888

C.P. Marker and Markerville

Rolf Buschard Christensen

Christian Peter Marker, who became Alberta's first Dairy Commissioner, was trained as a dairyman in Denmark. After receiving an excellent education in the dairy industry he immigrated to Canada in 1890. His first job in Canada was in a dairy outside Toronto, but already in 1891 he began working in the Dairy Barn at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa.

Marker conducted experiments, taught dairying and was sent out to dairies across Canada to assist them. In 1897, the Dominion government appointed him supervisor and sent him to the Calgary District in the Northwest Territories to help farmers establish dairies. As is well known, he helped the farmers and dairymen in the Icelandic settlement of Tindastoll establish a viable creamery. In appreciation for his help they changed the name of their settlement from Tindastoll to Markerville.



Tindastoll had been established in 1888 when a group of about fifty Icelanders from North Dakota settled near a bend on the Medicine River. The Icelanders established three cheese factories in the area, but the creamery became the economic hub of the community. The Dominion government played a key role in the development of the creamery by financing and supervising its initial operation. The creamery quickly became known for its high quality butter.

In 1905 Christian Marker wrote "*A report on some phases of dairying in Denmark*". He also wrote other articles, including one about the grading of creamery butter. In 1905, when Alberta became a province, Marker was asked to become Alberta's first Dairy Commissioner, a position he held until his retirement in 1934.

In 1910 Marker was named Honorary Danish Vice-Consul in Calgary, and he served on the board of the Calgary Industrial Exhibition and Stampede. In 1921 he moved to Edmonton, where he served as professor and head of the Department of Dairying at the University of Alberta until 1934. In 1922, he was knighted by the King of Denmark, and made a Ridder of Danneborg. In 1924, the University of Alberta conferred upon him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Christian Peter Marker was born on November 15, 1868 in Vium, Denmark. In Ottawa in 1901 he married Mary Elizabeth Garrett. They had two children, Valdemar and Vivian. Christian Marker passed away in Edmonton on April 18, 1949.

Eggert Boie Rasmussen

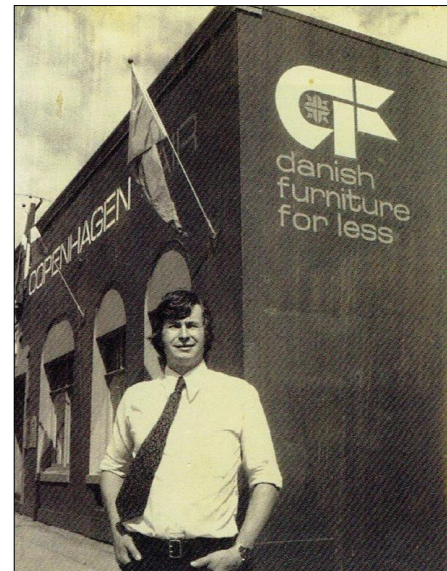
Sold furniture in Vancouver

Eggert Boie Rasmussen and Rolf Buschardt Christensen

In the 1960s and 70s there were several Danish furniture stores in Vancouver; and there still are. Some of them were started by Eggert Boie Rasmussen and his business associates, or by Eggert and his wife, even as late as the 1990s. Danish furniture was the rage after the Second World War, and it was referred to as Danish Modern.

Many of the Danish Modern concepts were developed in the 1920s and 30s. But it was really after the Second World War that Danish Modern became truly popular and sought-after. Danish Modern was all about simplicity, clean and organic lines, as well as, of course, high quality construction. Danish Modern furniture was often made of teak, a hardwood grown and imported mainly from Thailand.

Some of the Danish furniture designers became house-hold names in Denmark, and to some degree around the world. Hans Wegner designed several “famous chairs” among them the wishbone chair. Arne Jacobsen was both an architect and a furniture designer, known for his chairs which were called, “The Egg”, “The Swan”, “The Ant” etc. They were sold worldwide in the millions. Poul Henningsen produced various distinctive PH lamps. Danish furniture factories thrived and became an important industry. Over 80% of the furniture produced was exported. North America was an important market, and Danish Modern became an established brand.



*Eggert on opening day at
Copenhagen Fair, April 1973*

In the 1970s and 80s Danish furniture designers failed to make new major contributions to the design of furniture. Moreover, Danish Modern furniture was increasingly made in the Far East and not Denmark, making “Danish Modern” much more affordable. In addition, IKEA stores were cropping up and attracting customers, selling assemble-yourself furniture at very competitive prices. However, in Vancouver stores selling Danish Modern could for decades be found downtown, around False Creek, along 4th Avenue in Kitsilano and elsewhere; and they remained very successful!

BIOGRAPHIES

In Denmark Eggert Boie Rasmussen had apprenticed in the drapery business, so he knew how to measure and install drapes. But in Canada his business would be furniture and home furnishings.

Eggert arrived in Vancouver by train in the spring of 1968. At that time it was not difficult to randomly run into Danes in downtown Vancouver, and certainly not along “Robson Strasse”, where at European News you could buy quite a variety of newspapers from around the world, including Danish newspapers. It wasn't long before Eggert met Jens Søndergaard, who owned Scandinavian Travel. All Danes in Vancouver would sooner or later meet Jens Søndergaard or at least hear of him. Søndergaard put Eggert in touch with Erik Grevlund.

Erik had started Instant Furnishing Ltd. the previous year selling teak furniture imported from Holland. He was a one-man show at the time, and wanted to be able to promote his goods at the various Vancouver decorating shows. Tough to be in two places at the same time – he could use a hand! So with a little cash from his grandmother and a lot of hard work Eggert joined Instant Furnishings as a full partner a few months later.

Advertising was expensive and money was scarce, so the two partners worked their charm on the journalists at The Vancouver Sun and The Province newspapers aiming to get free write-ups, presenting themselves as the struggling immigrant entrepreneurs.

They did well and soon moved to a new and bigger location on Robson Street. However, after a couple of years as partners who worked and lived together, they decided to part ways. Grevlund bought Eggert out and continued to operate a very successful business.



This gave Eggert an opportunity to think about what he really wanted to do with his life; and where he wanted to live. Eggert put his “buy-out” money in the bank and then bought a ticket to Denmark. It was great to be home and he enjoyed seeing family and friends. However, already after six weeks in Denmark he knew where his future lay, and decided to return to Canada.

Back in Vancouver he landed a job in a Danish import store on Cordova Street called New Look Interiors. It was a step down being an employee and not the boss and owner. But it turned out to be for the best. The owner, Bent Ewald, gave Eggert many opportunities. Moreover, Soren Kornerup, the store manager, left to establish his own store, and Eggert applied for his position. Bent Ewald was willing to give Eggert a shot at being store manager. Eggert was also given the opportunity to travel and sell Danish furniture wholesale. He was in his element.

New Look was a big store and employed about fifteen people. In addition to the furniture department there was an accessories department staffed mostly by women. One of them was Barbara Main. Eggert and Barbara started dating and in 1971 they were married in Montreal.

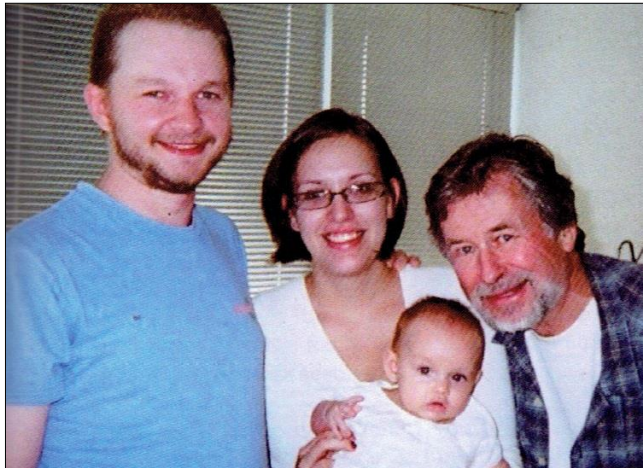
Bent Ewald knew that Eggert had ambitions and wanted to become more independent. But it could not be a business that would directly compete with New Look Interiors. They thus settled on the concept of a “cash and carry” store that would offer minimal service and goods at a much

BIOGRAPHIES

more competitive price. The merchandise that lent itself to this concept was shipped from the factories in a “knocked down” state, and they were therefore cheaper to ship. The product required less storage space in the store, was easy for the customer to pick up, as well as assemble at home. This idea was not wide-spread then; this was before IKEA had opened a store in North America.

Ewald and Eggert found a location on the corner of 4th Avenue and Cypress Street, and in April 1973, they opened Copenhagen Fair Ltd. in Kitsilano. Ewald and Eggert were equal partners in the new enterprise, but the manager was Eggert. The store was a success right away. Eggert attributes the success to hard work and good management; favourable circumstances, meeting the right people; being in the right place at the right time; as well as luck. Eggert writes in his autobiography:

“There is certainly no doubt in my mind that coming to Vancouver, meeting Erik Grevlund and seeing his entrepreneurial spirit in action, and later getting to work for and with Bent Ewald, a man that could make things happen (or not), had a great influence [on me,] and was very much what I needed to achieve my dreams. Bent was a mentor, he taught me a lot.”



Spencer, Terris, Eva and Eggert

Around 1980, Copenhagen Fair had nine employees, and was doing very well. In addition, Eggert’s wife, Barbara started a bedding shop, Down Under Ltd., also on 4th Avenue in the chic Kitsilano area.

Together Eggert and Barbara have a son, Spencer Boie Rasmussen. Furthermore, Eggert’s brother, Peter Boie Rasmussen, came to Vancouver, and started working at New Look Interiors.

While Peter was working at New Look Interiors, Eggert hired a man named Paul Rasmussen, who was of Danish and Norwegian descent. Paul and Peter became

friends and the three of them discussed starting a business together. Paul and Peter found a location on the corner of Thurlow Street and Georgia Street, an excellent location right downtown Vancouver.

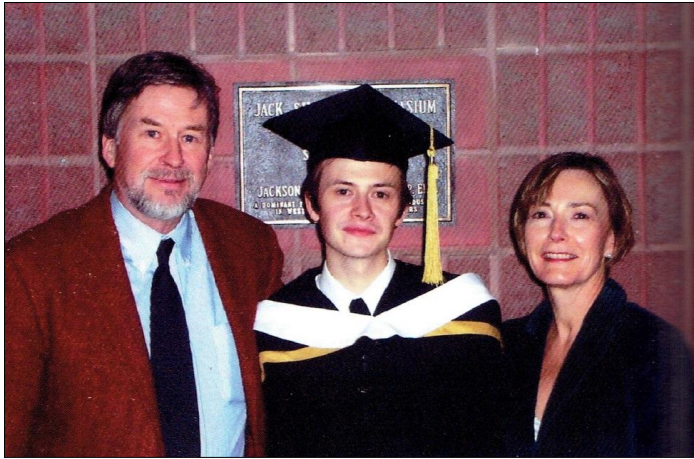
They were told the building was slated for demolition, but Georgia Interiors Ltd. existed in that location for more than a decade. To compensate for the uncertainty, the landlord agreed that they should only pay the property taxes and cover the utility bills, but not pay any rent. In 1984, they expanded Georgia Interiors with another location across from IKEA in Richmond.

Unfortunately, Eggert and Barbara did not get along as well as hoped for. They separated and divorced in 1982.

After Eggert and Barbara parted, Peter’s fiancée, Marion, introduced Eggert to her friend, Sheryl Diane Edwards. They hit it off and were married in July 1982. Sheryl was born in Winnipeg on November 13, 1954. Together they have a son, Thomas.

BIOGRAPHIES

Few partnerships last forever and Bent and Eggert fared no better. They decided to close Copenhagen Fair; sell the inventory and split the proceeds.



Eggert, Thomas and Sheryl at Thomas' convocation at the University of Calgary, 2006

Eggert was now unemployed; but felt that perhaps it was time for him to strike out on his own.

Eggert contacted Jack Leshgold, the owner of the building on 4th Avenue, inquiring if he could continue leasing the space. The answer was positive, and thus Inbo Interiors was born. Eggert was back in business, now on his own, importing and selling Danish furniture. He flew to Denmark and visited numerous furniture factories around the country. A Danish shipping agent arranged for the furniture, which Eggert had selected, was packed and sent to

Vancouver. Sheryl and Eggert worked together in the store. They made a good team. Moreover, some staff from Copenhagen Fair joined them in their new venture.

Around 1992 Eggert was getting fed up with doing pretty much the same thing he had been doing for more than thirty years. Nevertheless, Sheryl enjoyed managing Inbo Interiors. They decided that Eggert should take a break and that Sheryl would continue minding the store. She continued successfully for a few more years. Meanwhile, Eggert looked after the house, did the shopping and cooking, and drove Thomas to and from school in his dream car, a Mercedes Benz 300 CD Turbo Diesel. Eggert also bought a boat, a Ranger 21 Launch. He enjoyed cruising along the coast and around the many islands, up to Squamish and under the Lions Gate Bridge and up Indian Arm, always dragging a fishing line.

Eggert did manage during this time to expand his cultural horizons, dabbling a bit in the arts, taking oil painting classes, stone carving and a creative writing class at Capilano College.

While the Rasmussens lived at their beautiful home on Strachan Point on Howe Sound, north of Horseshoe Bay, overlooking the ocean and mountains, Eggert had invested in a large building with Scan Design Ltd. When the store was up and running, one of the store owners, Gert Knudsen, created a separate business in some extra space, specializing in upholstered goods, akin to Georgia Interiors. This new venture was to have the name Couch Potato Ltd.

Not having been involved in much of anything for a while, Eggert thought such a store on the North Shore could do well and would give him something to do. He found a building on the corner of 14th Street and Pemberton Avenue in North Vancouver. And here Eggert and Sheryl started another Couch Potato store. It struggled a bit to start with, but as it became known it did very well.

In 2009, Sheryl and Eggert decided to retire and sold Couch Potato. But it is still there and thriving.

BIOGRAPHIES

Over the years Eggert has lived in various places, starting in Vancouver's West End, where he moved five times over three years. He bought his first house in West Vancouver, followed by a house on Howe Sound, where he lived for twenty-one years. Then when Thomas was getting his driver's licence, the family decided to move away from the dangerous Squamish Highway. The family moved to a duplex in Dundarave in West Vancouver. After ten years in Dundarave they moved to a wonderful house in Oak Bay in Victoria. But the distance made it too inconvenient for Eggert to look after his business interests in Vancouver. Consequently, after six months they returned to West Vancouver, where they still live.

In 2012 Eggert published his autobiography, "Here, there, back and forth. My life as an emigrant." It was dedicated to Spencer's daughter, Eva, Eggert's granddaughter, so she would know more about her grandfather. Eggert regrets that he doesn't know more about his grandparents.

Eggert doesn't know his biological grandparents on his mother's side of the family, as his mother was adopted, something Eggert only found out about much, much later. His mother was born Karen Margrethe Villumsen in Skuldelev on September 1, 1912. She was taken in as a baby by Kristian and Emelie Andersen of Frederikssund, who Eggert always considered his grandparents. Kristian Andersen (1865-1943) owned and managed Frederikssund Shipyard, which had been founded by his father in about 1880. Eggert doesn't remember his grandfather as he passed away the year Eggert was born. But he does remember his grandmother, Emelie, who was a very kind Swedish woman. She would read stories to Eggert and his older sister, Helle, and they would complain about her Swedish accent!

Karen Andersen came to a good home and received an excellent education. She finished grade 10 which was rare in those days, even more so for a girl. She then attended the well-known Ollerup Gymnastic School. Afterwards she went to England as an au pair, working in a private home. She thus learned English, and at school she had already studied German and French. Later she would work at the hospital in Maribo on the island of Lolland. It was at a dance in the popular Bangs Have in Maribo that she met Boie Hartvig Rasmussen.



Forpagterboligen Det Gule Palæ - the Yellow Mansion

Eggert's father, Boie Hartvig Rasmussen was born in Engestofte on the island of Lolland on March 17, 1912. Unlike his wife, he only went to school for seven years, which was the norm at the time. However, he attended the prestigious agricultural school, Næsgaard, near Stubbekøbing on the island of Falster, as well as the Kollekolle agricultural school, and became a diligent and very able farmer. In 1940 Boie took over the family farm, Helgeshøj, located about eight kilometres from Maribo. It consisted of a large house and three barns forming a courtyard, situated on 125 acres of rich soil. It was on this farm that Eggert Boie Rasmussen was born on July 30, 1943, during the Second World War. Eggert attended school in the neighbouring village of Engestofte. That is to say, he attended school every second day. The younger pupils and the

BIOGRAPHIES

older pupils would alternate, one group attending Monday, Wednesday and Friday, while the others would attend school on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. There was school on Saturdays!

In 1952, Eggert's father sold the family farm. It had been in the family's possession for exactly 100 years. The Rasmussen family then moved to Mørkøv to live on the impressive Torbenfeldt Estate, which goes back to before the year 1377. Boie Rasmussen leased the farm. The Treschow family, belonging to the Danish nobility, continued to live in the castle, while the Rasmussen family lived in Forpagterboligen Det Gule Palæ, the Yellow Mansion, which had about thirty rooms. Unfortunately, the Yellow Mansion has since been torn down. Eggert was nine years old at the time and enjoyed the stately house and surroundings. He attended school, played soccer and took ballroom dancing, on the insistence of his mother.



Eggert, to the left, changing of the Guards at a Royal Summer Residence, 1965

Eggert finished grade 10, which gave him a good educational background. He was not really keen on further academic studies and he was not interested in becoming a farmer. In any case, Eggert went to England to work on a farm in Dorset. While in England he improved his English, but he was back in Denmark before Christmas. In the

meantime the family was about to move to Apperupgaard, a farm near Ålsgårde, not far from Helsingør, as the lease at Torbenfeldt had expired. For a couple of months Eggert helped out getting the Apperupgaard farm up and running. During that time he thought hard about learning a trade. The choice finally fell on the drapery trade. On April 1, 1961, Eggert started as an apprentice at Bøghs Textil in the centre of Helsingør. It was a three-year apprenticeship. He also attended evening school, learning bookkeeping, merchandizing and elementary business practices. He had found his niche and was to work in retailing the rest of his life. But Eggert would in time naturally move beyond retailing to wholesale, management, importing and investing.

After completing his apprenticeship and getting his diploma Eggert was called to serve in the Danish army; Denmark having conscription at the time. He was chosen to serve in the Royal Danish Guards, an elite regiment which also served as the bodyguard to King Frederik IX of Denmark, by standing guard at the Royal Palaces. He served from May 1964 to August 1965. While in the army Eggert was selected for Tambourkorpsset, the Pipes and Drums, which lead the Guards in the daily parade from the barracks to the Royal Palace. In this way he learned to play the flute and the bugle, which gave him a few benefits such as travelling and attending official functions where the Royal Guards were required.

BIOGRAPHIES

After completing his service with the Royal Guards, Eggert worked in a drapery shop in Hellerup, north of downtown Copenhagen. It was an affluent neighbourhood. However, his big break came some months later, before Christmas 1965, when he landed a job in the home furnishing department of Illums Bolighus in the centre of Copenhagen. Illums Bolighus was, and still is, the place where the latest in Danish Design is displayed and sold. It was the place to be for someone like Eggert!

Eggert was interested in moving up the latter, but the competition was tough. In early 1967 Illums Bolighus suggested to Eggert that he should get some foreign experience. Indeed, it could be arranged that he could work at Robert Simpson Co. on Yonge Street in Toronto. It sounded like a welcome opportunity. Eggert went to the Canadian Embassy in Copenhagen and soon had his papers for immigration to Canada.

Eggert left Copenhagen on the *MS Bergensfjord* in July 1967, a passenger ship belonging to the Norwegian America Line. He sailed second class. The meals were fabulous and the entertainment memorable. It was a fairly new ship, built only in 1956, so certainly new compared to many of the other passenger ships which plied the transatlantic run at that time.

He disembarked in New York, and stayed for a couple of days to take in some of the sights. He then took the bus to Montreal, which was in the middle of celebrating EXPO and Canada's centennial. From Montreal it was on to Toronto, where he started in the drapery department at Robert Simpson's department store.

With its continental climate, hot and humid in the summer, and freezing in the winter, Toronto was not what Eggert had in mind, despite it being a bustling city with lots of opportunities.



"MS Bergensfjord" of the Norwegian America Line

Eggert read about Vancouver – and its weather; and before long he took the train to Vancouver, where he found a job and settled down.

Eggert is a member of the Royal Danish Guards' Association, Pacific Northwest. In April 2015 he was the

featured Guard in the association's newsletter *Skråhuen*. From time to time he might also attend functions at the Danish Lutheran Church in Burnaby. Eggert also served on the board of directors of Dania Home for three years, when Poul B. Christensen was president of this senior citizen complex located adjacent to the Church.

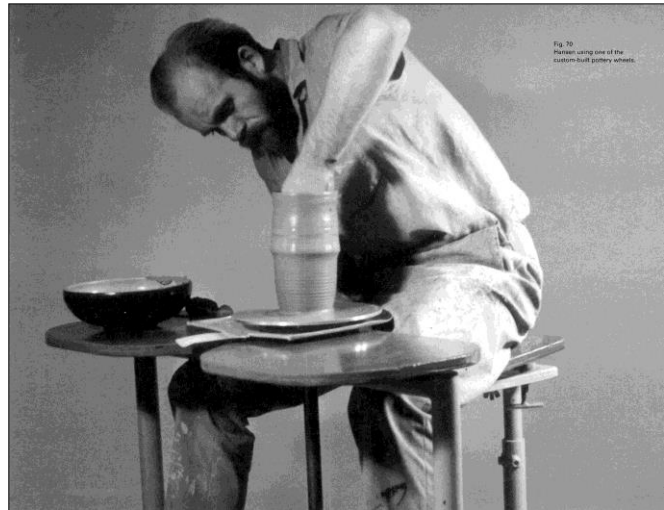
After nearly fifty years in Canada Eggert is still a Danish citizen, and faithfully renews his Danish passport when it expires. He has trouble explaining why he never took out Canadian citizenship. His life has been in Canada and he has made a significant contribution to this country, which he dearly loves. However, he is also a proud Dane and his heart is Danish; and remains Danish. There is no other way to explain it!

Folmer Hansen 1930 - 2014

Ilse and K.E. Bugge

On October 19, 2014, Folmer Hansen, the Danish-Canadian ceramic artist, died in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, aged 84. His fine art pottery has been widely exhibited not only in Canada and the USA, but also in Tokyo, Japan.

Folmer was born in Næstved, Denmark, on August 28, 1930. His father, Martin Hansen, worked at the local paper-mill and later as a tobacconist. Initially, Folmer received his basic training at the small Grimstrup Pottery and later at the renowned Kähler Factory in Næstved, from where he in 1949 graduated as a skilled ceramist. During the following eight years he further developed his skills by working in Norway and Sweden.



In 1957 Folmer immigrated to Canada. He arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax on April 25, 1957. Initially he settled down in New Brunswick. The following year he received a letter from David Ross, a young Canadian ceramist, he had met in Sweden. Ross invited Folmer to join him at a new establishment in the prairie-town of Fort Qu'Appelle in Saskatchewan. In close co-operation they managed to create a centre for ceramic art including production, sale, exhibitions and workshops.

From 1974, when David Ross died in a car accident, Folmer managed to continue and further



develop the centre. A number of talented young ceramists were invited to be taught by him and to join him in teaching at the public courses run by the centre. Men and women of all ages were invited to join pottery-making courses, where they learned to create useful and beautiful art. Over time the courses effectively contributed to make the ceramic centre at Fort Qu'Appelle widely known.

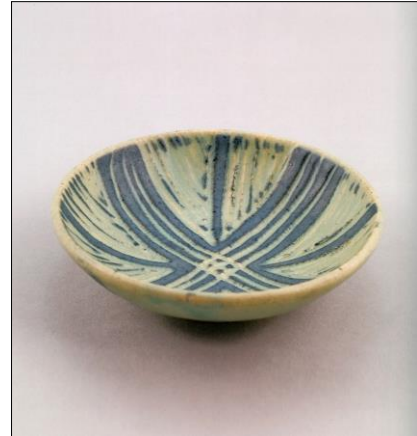
BIOGRAPHIES



During several visits with Folmer, who was Ilse's first cousin, our family had the privilege to follow the developments from 1975 and onwards. We sometimes wondered what kept him going through all these years. Every so often he dwelled on the inspiration he gained from his eager, young associates. His daily work with clay was another source of inspiration. For him this basic material had a deep, symbolic quality. Like life itself clay can be formed into works of overwhelming beauty. But life itself is also fragile, "as the clay in the potter's hand" (Jer. 18, 6).

In 2012 the Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery published an impressive, richly illustrated volume: *Hansen-Ross Pottery. Pioneering Fine Craft on the Canadian Prairies* (200 pp). The Museum has kindly permitted us not only to add a few

illustrations from this volume to the obituary, but also in conclusion to quote a few sections from the book. In his contribution to the publication Alan C. Elder dwells on the important role played by the Hansen-Ross initiative in making modern Scandinavian design known in Canada. The basic qualities of this design are, according to Elder, that the products are simple, i.e. "without fussy decorations", easy to handle, handcrafted, functional and affordable (p. 118). In the final section of her introductory contribution, Heather Smith, the curator of the Moose Jaw Museum and Art Gallery, emphasizes that "Hansen-Ross pottery is one of the reasons that ceramics is still such a strong part of Saskatchewan's art history and material culture... It is the strength of the forms, the glorious glazes and how pottery is used in one's hand that makes Hansen-Ross pottery Canadian treasures." (p. 34).






CiMa-Pak
CORPORATION

Sonja Berg

580 Meloche, Dorval, Qc H9P 2P4
Tel.: (514) 631-6222 • Fax: (514) 631-7361
www.cima-pak.com • E-mail: sonja@cima-pak.com



UPMACS
COMMUNICATIONS INC.

Peter Berg
President

714 36th Ave.
Suite 301
Lachine, QC, Canada
H8T 3L8

TEL.: 514-697-5500
FAX.: 514-637-6081
E-mail: peter@upmacs.com
Web Site: www.upmacs.com




CANFORNAV INC.
a member of the Canadian Forest Navigation Group

KNUD B. JENSEN
Executive Vice President

800 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, Suite 2300
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 1X9
Tel: (514) 284-9193 Fax: (514) 499-1030 www.canfornav.com
E-Mail: chartering@canfornav.com

*Nordic Delegation to the
International Civil Aviation Organization*



999 Robert-Bourassa Boulevard
Suite 15.25
Montréal, Quebec H3C 5J9

Tel.: 514-954-8290
KSkaar@icao.int

FOR ALBERTA REAL ESTATE CALL:
Jens Lehmann 403-540-0201
Lars Lehmann 403-228-7070
jlehmann@cirrealty.ca
llehmann@cirrealty.ca

Vi taler dansk



REALTY, CALGARY, AB

**NIAGARA
PATTERN
LTD.**


An ISO 9001 : 2000
Registered Company

Torben Rasmussen

**FOUNDRY PATTERNS • OEM TOOLING & FIXTURES
CNC MODELS & PROTOTYPES**

905-357-4121 • fax: 905-357-2097 • e-mail: torben@niapat.com
6135 Don Murie Street • Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 6X8

**Fencing, Post Hole Drilling & Setting, Decks
Serving Durham Region for over 30 Years**



PEDERSEN FENCE LTD.

45 Tyler Street
Hampton, Ont. L0B 1J0

(905) 723-5377
www.pedersenfence.com

**DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE
NIAGARA PENINSULA**
130 Main St. East Grimsby, Ontario, L3M 1N8
Telephone: 905-945-8187



Pastor Lars Skjødt-Jakobsen
Church Council President: Edith Wulff

Oct. 4-25, 2015 ciocm.org

**Canadian
International
Organ
Competition**



Full Festival Schedule
On Our Website Soon



Dr. Weber often risked his life for others.

THE CHRISTMAS DOCTOR



The True Story of Dr. J. P. Weber

.....
T O M W E B E R

Clive Cussler:

"A pity men like him aren't around anymore. He was a giant in his time."

Russell Baker:

"It makes us remember a time when the doctor was a truly heroic figure."

Hugh Sidey:

"His kind made this country great."

Judy Collins:

"Your writing is evocative of my own love of the West."

Margaret Chase Smith:

"It is certainly something that should be read by everyone."

Liv Ullmann:

"You have a wonderful father to remember. I am very moved."

Karl Malden:

"A wonderful story!"

Joan Rivers:

"If only there were doctors like him today."

Available on: amazon.com • barnesandnoble.com
and other fine online retailers



*He ran several miles to save the life of an injured
Swiss-American girl*



FYI For Your Information

The DHS and DCCC Scholarship Winners

Johan Madsen,

Chairman, DHS Scholarship Committee



2014 Scholarship Winners

*From Left to Right:
Lauren Christensen
Christine Henderson
Krista Village
Katrina Moscato
Daina Mortensen
Ayrton Bundrock
Sarah Buchsbaum*

*Absent:
Heather Bech-Hansen
Hannah Hale
Jessica Pastro*

Ten \$1,000 Scholarships were awarded for 2014 - funded equally by the Danish House Society (DHS) and the Danish Canadian Community Centre of BC (DCCC). Presentation of the scholarships were made at the June 6th Kro Aften. Each recipient (and aguest) was invited to enjoy a complimentary selection of open-faced sandwiches, dessert, and coffee or tea. Seven awards were presented by Scholarship Committee member Stan Chester. Committee chairman Johan

Madsen introduced the scholarship recipients. The missing three were given an open invitation to a future Kro Aften.

Heather Bech-Hansen – Vernon

Heather just completed her second year at Okanagan College where she is working towards a Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in accounting. After graduation she hopes to apply for the Chartered Professional Accountant Program so she can continue to work in her chosen field. Her hobbies include dirt-biking, hiking, running and kickboxing. She also volunteers with the SPCA as a dog walker. Heather says that being awarded the DHS Scholarship means a lot to her as she has found her financial burden increasingly difficult with increasing tuition fees, and she does not want to give up on school just for lack of money.

Sarah Buchsbaum – Richmond

This (2014) was the second successive year that Sarah received a DHS scholarship. She has just completed her second year of nursing studies at UBC-Okanagan University. Sarah appreciates her scholarship as with practicums (including a six week stint this summer) her ability to work outside of schooling is limited. She enjoys playing volleyball, softball, hiking, skiing, swimming and spending time with family and friends. After graduation she hopes to do international nursing in South Africa.

Ayrton Bundrock – Burnaby

Females swept the 2014 scholarship awards. Burnaby Central Secondary School graduate, Ayrton, was the sole male recipient this year. He has been accepted at the University of Lethbridge where he will pursue a major in performing arts/drama and creative writing. Ayrton enjoys Nordic skiing and aquatics - where he holds the highest level of lifeguard qualifications. Volunteering activities include helping at the Scandinavian Centre. Ayrton says that his DHS Scholarship allows him to dedicate more time and energy to theatre production and performances.

Lauren Christensen - Maple Ridge

A 2014 graduate of Maple Ridge Secondary School, Lauren plans to commence studies for a Bachelor of Arts Degree in September. Four years participation in the Sea Cadet program gave her leadership skills plus many certificates including first aid and sailing. This summer's employment was as a sail instructor at the HMCS Quadra sea cadet training facility. While working two jobs, participating in Sea Cadets and volunteering at the Jericho Sailing Centre, school has been Lauren's top priority. Completing tasks and homework on time has given Lauren the opportunity to help others and save money for post secondary education. Her long term goal is to become a teacher.

Hannah Hale – Victoria

Our top ranked applicant for 2014 graduated in June from Mount Douglas Secondary School in Victoria. Hannah has been accepted into the University of Victoria, School of Social Sciences where she plans to major in psychology. Activities include dancing for the past 15 years and more recently playing the flute in her school band - where she realized that her talent directly

correlated to how much she practised. Hannah's volunteering experience includes visiting residents in a local nursing home over the past three years. Hannah abhors the debt she will accumulate in her secondary studies, and much appreciates the DHS Scholarship helping to minimize that debt. Her grand goal in life is to help people find happiness in themselves that they thought was never there or was gone. Hannah's dream is to travel to every location that she imagines has something amazing about it.

Christine Henderson – Coquitlam

A 2014 graduate from Coquitlam's Centennial Secondary School, Christine plans to study biology this fall at Simon Fraser University. Her greatest interest is in infectious disease. When younger, Christine participated in many Danish Canadian Community Centre events. She has played soccer since four years of age and absolutely loves it. Christine works at the Cactus Club and hopes her tips will significantly help pay for her university, just as her DHS Scholarship will help with books and tuition. Christine would like to become a doctor, but also leans towards a career in environmental sciences.

Daina Mortensen – Coquitlam

For the third year in a row Daina qualified for a DHS Scholarship. She completed her SFU Bachelor of Arts with a major in Psychology and a minor in Early Learning last December. Daina is now in the SFU Professional Development Program studying to become an Elementary School teacher. After a practicum last spring teaching a grade one class, Daina has spent her summer semester working towards her second degree, a Bachelor of Education. Daina enjoys skiing, hiking, watching movies, walking her dog and hanging out with family and friends. She even found time to volunteer in the Danish Tent this June at the Midsummer Festival. After graduation Daina hopes to teach primary-aged children in the Coquitlam School District. A long term goal is to get her Master's Degree once she is established in her career.

Katrina Moscato – Burnaby

This was the second DHS Scholarship for Katrina. She is now in her fourth and final year at SFU pursuing a Bachelor's degree with a major in Psychology and a minor in Human Development and Counselling. Katrina's family was active in the Danish Church when she was growing up. When not studying, Katrina volunteers with a youth group called Revolution at the Christian Life Assembly. Her aspiration is to become a Youth Psychologist. While on the staff at Cariboo Road Fellowship, she witnessed first hand the devastating effects of mentally ill parents abusing and neglecting their children. Katrina intends to dedicate her life to helping youth affected by mental illness.

Jessica Pastro – Delta

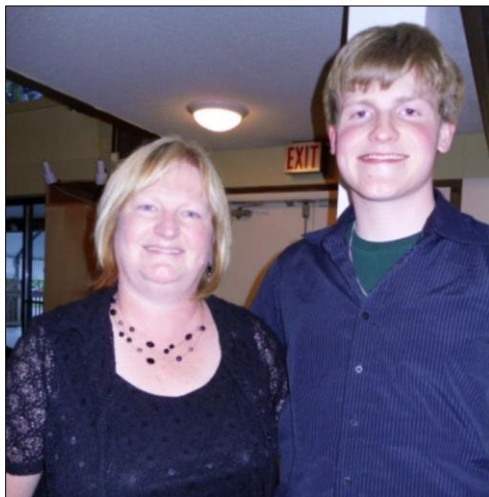
Jessica is working towards a degree in Kinesiology at Langara College in Vancouver. her interest in human kinetics is to discover the science between sport and exercise, and the prevention of sports injuries. Jessica's volunteer experience includes coaching swimming and ringette, organizing care packages for the homeless and the Special Olympics BC. Her greatest achievement was placing third at the World Ringette Championships in 2013. After graduation Jessica wishes to become a physiotherapist for a sports team. Sport is a big part of her life and she would love to incorporate it into her work.

Krista Village – Abbotsford

Krista is enrolled at the University of the Fraser Valley in the Bachelor of Arts Program. She's also had 10 years of piano lessons, and has been taken on as an apprentice by her piano teacher. She also took violin lessons. Her late grandfather, Knud Peter Nielsen, often composed music and played multiple instruments for the enjoyment of members of the DHS. Krista's dream is to one day become as great as he was; to compose her own music and ultimately make the world a little brighter with it. Her volunteer activities include the Special Olympics and Elizabeth's Wildlife Centre. She is up as early as 5am three times a week for rowing. Krista says that there is something almost magical about being on the water, with the birds waking up and singing, as you watch the first rays of the sun come up from behind the mountains.

Updates on some past DHS/DCCC Scholarship Winners

Nolan Alexander - Scholarship Recipient in 2010, 2011 and 2012



Nolan Alexander & proud mom Sandra

The DHS received a letter of appreciation from Nolan Alexander who received his Bachelor of Science in physical geography plus a certificate in GIS (geographic information systems) from the University of the Fraser Valley last June. In his early years he financed his education by working as a cook at a nearby pub. But in 2010 the work dried up, and he was laid off. Later that year Nolan received the first DHS Scholarship ever awarded. With this money he was able to concentrate on his studies without worrying about employment. He subsequently did find a good job at a fine dining restaurant. Further DHS Scholarship awards in 2011 and 2012 helped him to graduate without debt. Since graduating he still feels a strong desire to learn. Nolan

is now checking out a masters program at Simon Fraser University with a change of study from physical geography to statistics.

Natasha Berntsen – Scholarship Recipient in 2013

Proud father Larry Berntsen informed the DHS that his daughter, 2013 DHS Scholarship winner Natasha Berntsen, graduated on May 17, 2014 from the UBC Northern Medical Program (Prince George) as a Doctor of Medicine. Her earlier undergraduate degree was from UBC in Cell Biology and Genetics. From her years of schooling and volunteering Natasha developed a passion for women's health. She has now started a five year residency program in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Her goal is to specialize in women's health problems. Fortunately, Natasha enjoys winter sports. She bought a house when she moved to Saskatoon for her residency.



Dr. Natasha Berntsen

How the DHS Scholarship Program Evolved

Johan Vedel Madsen, Vice-President of the Danish House Society

The seeds for British Columbia's Danish House Society (DHS) Scholarship Program were actually planted in 1990 when my son Chris, and daughter Michelle, each received a \$1000 scholarship from the Scandinavian Business Club. In addition to personal pressures, they were both struggling financially to attend Simon Fraser University. Even more than the financial help, the award of the scholarships at a formal dinner at the Harrison Hot Springs Hotel gave them a sense of selfconfidence. Chris went on to receive the first history doctorate awarded by the University of Victoria. Michelle received a Gold Medal for the highest marks in British Columbia in the 'Chartered Accountancy' uniform final exams.

The DHS was formed in 1996 with the objective of purchasing a quarter ownership of the Scandinavian Centre in Burnaby. The founders optimistically thought they could raise the sum of \$550,000 within a few years. An instalment of \$120,000 was due 31 May 1998. In the fall of 1997 Peter Knud Nielsen asked me to assist the DHS in its fund raising activities, and implied this should be my pay back time for the scholarships awarded to Chris and Michelle. Unfortunately Peter Knud Nielsen passed away suddenly in December 1997. Subsequently, DHS Vice President Poul Moller-Hansen invited me to bring my financial and marketing experience to the DHS as a Board member. Poul had been instrumental in Chris & Michelle both receiving scholarships in 1990. I couldn't say no in good conscience!

On 31st May 1998 the DHS was unable to pay its \$120,000 instalment, and defaulted on its purchase agreement with the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Houses. After lengthy negotiations, the other Houses agreed to the DHS becoming a tenant with an option to purchase its quarter interest by 2007. The illusive ten rich Danes still had not shown up to fund our purchase. The late Niels Andersen became president of the DHS in 1999. By then our membership was down to 67, and our future didn't look too good.

Niels and I agreed on a strategy of making membership our top priority. I became the Membership Director, and received the full support of Niels and his successor as president, Jorgen Lyth. By March 2003 the DHS membership had increased to 312 thanks largely to the very popular monthly Kro Aften initiated by Lise Shearer. DHS members Margit & Heinrich Hansson offered us an unsecured short term loan of \$200,000. I got approval from the Board for the issuance of 4% Building Fund Promissory Notes to DHS members. These notes were well

supported by the members. On 4th December 2003 the DHS exercised its option to purchase a quarter ownership of the Scandinavian Centre.

After the Hansson loan was paid off in 2007, I tried to impress on the Board that scholarships were really an investment in the future. With our aging membership, the DHS needed to attract younger members, and awarding a \$1000 scholarship was a good way to reach this target market. Decreasing membership in another Danish organization, the Danish Canadian Community Centre of BC (DCCC), had forced consideration of selling their centre. Unfortunately, Aalborg had stopped supplying Akvavit in British Columbia, and any spare DHS money was committed to buying up all the existing stock of Aalborg Akvavit in BC's Liquor stores. There was simply no money left over for scholarships.

By 2009 a declining DHS membership forced the Board to accept strategies to attract younger people to the DHS. Among these, an annual scholarship of \$1000 was approved in principle. A committee of Dave Buchmann, Stan Chester and Johan Madsen was charged to look into what would be required to implement awarding the first DHS Scholarship by 2010. Johan Madsen was appointed chairman of the committee. The following recommendations of the Scholarship Committee were approved by the Board in September 2009:

1. A scholarship of \$1000 to be awarded at the June 2010 Kro Aften.
2. Applicants must be of Danish descent and/or a family member of past or present members of the DHS.
3. Be a resident of British Columbia working towards a degree or diploma in an accredited post-secondary institution, with proof of registration in such institution to be required along with a transcript of latest marks and studies.
4. Be of good character and provide written references from a school administrator and at least two others including an employer, if applicable.
5. Application should be made by a handwritten letter giving reasons for requesting the scholarship and describing personal interests, hobbies, goals and dreams.
6. Participation as a volunteer in DHS activities should be noted.
7. Deadline for application was set for 31st March 2010.

A couple of months later the DCCC expressed their wish to participate in the DHS Scholarship program. Their property had been sold and proceeds invested in a term deposit. The DCCC Board planned to disburse interest earned on grants to worthy Danish organizations. After due consideration the DHS Board welcomed DCCC participation in funding an equal share of the scholarship program. While the DHS would continue to administer the scholarship program, the DCCC would nominate one member to the Scholarship Committee. With the support of the DCCC, the DHS Board increased the 2010 scholarship offer to three of \$1000 each.

Ella Wolder joined the DHS Scholarship Committee as the DCCC nominee. The Committee met early in 2010 and set up criteria for assessing the applications. A point system based on a maximum of 100 points was adopted with the following allocation:

Academic	40
Application	10
Goals	20
Profile	20
Testimonials	10

Each of the four Committee members would assess each application independently, and then meet to average their assessments in order to determine the ranking of each applicant. Committee members would recuse themselves from assessing the application of any related person.

Twelve DHS scholarship applications were received by 31st March 2010. In view of the higher than expected number of applicants, and the high quality of these applications, the Boards of the DHS and the DCCC generously increased their funding of the 2010 program by another three \$1000 scholarships for a total of six. The DHS director responsible for the very popular monthly Kro Aften, Ebba Grey, kindly moved that the DHS Scholarship awards be made an annual Kro Aften event, and a complimentary dinner be offered to each scholarship recipient and his/her guest.

Letters were sent to each successful applicant inviting him/her plus a guest to enjoy a complimentary selection of openfaced sandwiches, dessert, tea and coffee when they received their award at the 4th June Kro Aften. Scholarship Committee Chairman, Johan Madsen, gave a brief introduction to each recipient as they were presented with their cheques. Committee member Dave Buchmann made the awards on behalf of the DHS and Ed Kuhlman on behalf of the DCCC.

Scholarship Committee members felt that the Kro Aften turned out to be an ideal format for awarding the scholarships. In addition to the families of local recipients, family members travelled from Vancouver Island, the Fraser Valley and Kamloops to attend the awards. A full house of Kro Aften attendees warmly welcomed the recipients and seemed very interested in their goals and achievements.

Ed Kuhlman indicated the DCCC was pleased with their participation in the first ever scholarship awards presented by the DHS. They were glad that both academic and trades students received awards. He said the DCCC would continue to support the program by committing \$5000 to the 2011 scholarship. The DHS Board also approved \$5000 for the 2011 awards. The DHS also gave their commitment to future scholarship awards by committing 50% of each Kro Aften's raffle proceeds to the scholarship program. Up to ten \$1000 scholarships would be awarded on 3rd June 2011.

Seventeen applications for the ten DHS Scholarships were received by the 31st March 2011 deadline. The DHS Scholarship Committee very much appreciated Burnaby's Danish Lutheran Church publicizing the program in their monthly newsletter. Again, the Committee was very impressed by the achievements and goals of all the applicants. A member of both the DHS and DCCC, Leo Pedersen, suggested that Committee Chairman Johan Madsen publish his introduction to each recipient in the Autumn DHS Newsletter so all DHS members could appreciate their goals and achievements. This has been done every year since 2011. Annual Membership & Donation Forms were also changed to allow donors to indicate, what portion if any, should be allocated to the DHS Scholarship Fund.

Twenty-two applications for the ten \$1000 DHS Scholarships were received by 31 March 2012. Points were deducted for missing contact information. The DHS Scholarship Committee publicly stated that their policy is to contact applicants only if necessary to clarify information received, but not to obtain missing information as this would be unfair to those who submitted

their applications with full information by the deadline. The Burnaby Danish Lutheran Church again publicized the DHS Scholarship Program in their monthly newsletter. Abbotsford's Nolan Alexander and Kamloops' Doug Christensen were the first applicants to receive three scholarship awards in a row.

In November 2012, the DHS paid off the final balance owing on the Promissory Notes used to fund the DHS purchase of a quarter share of the Scandinavian Centre. With this drain on cash eliminated, the DHS Board approved 100% of Kro Aften "Raffle" proceeds being committed to fund DHS Scholarships. The monthly Kro Aften "Raffle" is rather unique. Attendees bring gifts anonymously and place them on a display table. "Raffle" tickets are sold before the sandwiches are delivered to the tables. The draw is the last event of the evening. The most valued draw prize is the large loaf of rye bread homebaked by DHS member Heinrich Hansson. Usually there are at least a dozen contributions including wine, Cuban rum, sweets and much more. Proceeds from the "Raffle" are about \$600 from each Kro Aften.

A major change mandated by the DHS Board for 2013, and subsequent years, was that applicants be awarded no more than three DHS Scholarships each. The DHS Board also approved the award of a DHS Lifetime Membership to the highest ranked applicant each year commencing with 2013. Lifetime Memberships were also retroactively awarded to Bruce Lyth for 2010, Andrew Stevenson for 2011, and Karin Chaffe for 2012. DHS President, Ed Kuhlman, also designed a prestigious DHS Scholarship Award of Excellence Certificate to be presented to each recipient along with their cheque.

Twenty-three applications were received for DHS Scholarships by 31st March 2013. The Committee was pleased that applications were received from such a wide cross section of British Columbians with a Danish connection. The advertisement in the Burnaby Danish Lutheran Church paper certainly helped spread the word far and wide. Four independent assessments for each applicant were then averaged to determine the rankings of the twenty-three applicants. Gabriella Parent was awarded a Lifetime Membership in the DHS as the highest ranked 2013 applicant. Committee Chairman Johan Madsen again provided an introduction, and Committee Member Ella Wolder made the award of a certificate and cheque to each recipient.

With the continuing success of the DHS Scholarship Program, concern was expressed by the DHS Board as to the advanced age of the four Committee members. The decision was made to have two "alternates" available to replace any Committee members unable to carry out their assessment of scholarship applications in the month following 31st of March in each year. DHS member, Michelle Madsen, accepted being an alternate for the DHS. Another DHS member, Annette Lauridsen, later volunteered to become "alternate" #2.

Having an "alternate" turned out to be invaluable when our youngest Committee member, Dave Buchmann, stood down due to heart surgery scheduled for April 2014. Alternate Michelle Madsen stepped in to replace Dave in independently assessing each 2014 application. Ayrton Bundrock was the single male among the ten 2014 recipients. Daina Mortensen received her 3rd award in a row. Victoria's Hannah Hale was the highest ranked applicant in 2014, but was unable to attend the June Kro Aften. Committee Chairman, Johan Madsen, introduced seven of the ten recipients at the 6th June Kro Aften. Committee member, Stan Chester, presented each of the seven with their cheque and certificate. An invitation was sent to the missing three to attend a complimentary future Kro Aften along with a guest.

Our 1st alternate, Michelle Madsen, gained experience when she stepped in to replace Dave Buchmann in assessing the 2014 applications along with Committee members Stan Chester, Johan Madsen and Ella Wolder. Michelle, however, deferred to alternate #2 Annette Lauridsen on becoming a Committee member as her current job required too much travel. Annette was a teacher by profession, and brings much welcome experience to the Committee. Annette was replaced as alternate #2 by Sandra Alexander representing the DCCC. Sandra was familiar with DHS Scholarships as her son Nolan received scholarships in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

In addition to her younger eyes, Michelle Madsen brought some thought provoking observations to the Committee. After due consideration, the DHS Board agreed to:

1. Require better evidence of an applicant's Danish heritage.
2. Publicize the significance of past, present and planned participation in the Danish community in awarding the 40 points for profile and goals.
3. Have the DHS maintain a contact list of scholarship applicants, and actively involve them in DHS activities.
4. Recognize ever increasing tuition fees by raising the annual scholarship award to \$1,200 each.
5. Enhance the prestige of the highest ranked recipient's resume for future academic and job opportunities with an award of excellence, and by accepting the Madsen family's offer to fund an annual \$500 "Vedel Madsen Award of Excellence" in honour of their learned 16th century ancestor, Anders Sorensen Vedel.

Another layer of complexity in administering the DHS Scholarship Program was added when DHS treasurer, Margit Hansson, reported that as a registered Canadian Charity the DHS must pay its 2015 cheque of \$600 to the institution rather than the applicant. As the DCCC is not a registered charity, its \$600 can still be paid directly to the applicant. Commencing 2015, the DHS cheques will only be mailed to the recipient, in the name of the institution, after receiving confirmation of the recipient's registration.

Since being viewed somewhat skeptically by a number of DHS members six years ago, the DHS Scholarship Program has evolved into an annual event enthusiastically embraced by British Columbia's Danish community. Scholarships have become an embedded facet of the DHS. Its members increasingly accept and support the scholarship program as a necessary investment in the future of the DHS. Activities such as "The Midsummer Festival", the "Family BBQ" and "Christmas by the Fireside" have already benefited from the volunteering activities of scholarship recipients. Perhaps it's that indefinable Danish *hygge* at work.

Those seeds planted 25 years ago began to flourish in 2015. Daughter Michelle Madsen stepped up to take over as the DHS treasurer as long term treasurer Margit Hansson ends her term at the March DHS Annual General Meeting. When questioned by her non Scandinavian partner as to why she would add another commitment to her already busy life, her reply was "Hey, it's my community and its payback time. Besides I've got three kids I hope will be looking for scholarships." Hopefully, many of the more than 40 recipients of DHS scholarships will share the same sentiments 25 years from now in 2040.

Best Wishes
For a successful
Conference in
Vancouver.



Visit us at danishclubottawa.com

Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto

72 Finch Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario - M2N 2H4

Tel. and Fax 416-222-2494
e-mail: dlctoronto@rogers.on.ca
Home page: www.dlctoronto.on.ca



Congregation established in 1957.
Our own Church built in 1966.
In addition to Sunday services in
Danish and English our Church is
home to the Golden Age Club,
the Danish Folkdancers of Toronto,
and the Tuesday Church Cafe.

*From 1957 to 2003 a Church of Dansk Kirke i Udlandet (Danish Church Abroad)
From January 1, 2004 a Church of Danske Sømands- og Udlandskirker
(Danish Church Abroad / Danish Seamen's Church)*



DANISH CANADIAN SOCIETY INC.

DANSK CANADISK SAMFUND

MONTREAL

Danish Canadians in "La Belle Province" wish participants
and organizers a successful Conference



Danish ship first bulk carrier through Northwest Passage

Rolf Buschardt Christensen, with files from CP & the Globe and Mail

The Danish ship *MS Nordic Orion* became the first loaded bulk carrier to sail north of North America through the Northwest Passage since global warming opened the legendary route. In September 2013 the *MS Nordic Orion* carried a cargo of 73,500 tons of coking coal from Vancouver, Canada, to the port of Pori in Finland.

The *MS Nordic Orion* left Vancouver on September 6, 2013. She stopped at Nuuk, Greenland, on September 27th, and reached her destination in Pori, Finland, on October 9, 2013. Sailing through the Northwest Passage shortened the distance between Vancouver and Pori by 1,000 nautical miles, compared to sailing via the Panama Canal. Fuel savings were about \$80,000. Moreover, the *Nordic Orion* was able to load 15,000 tons more cargo due to the depth limits of the Panama Canal. In total the ship owners saved about \$200,000.

The *MS Nordic Orion* is owned by the Danish shipping company Nordic Bulk Carriers A/S of Copenhagen. The *Nordic Orion* is a 225-metre Danish bulk carrier registered in Panama City. With a capacity of 75,603 metric tons deadweight she transports either coal or ore. Built in 2011 by Oshima Shipbuilding, she has an ice-strengthened hull.

Before setting out on her historic voyage executives of Nordic Bulk Carriers met with Canadian Coast Guard and Transport Canada representatives to discuss the route and possible icebreaker assistance. One potential hurdle was getting insurance for the unprecedented voyage. The multinational insurer RSA Group ended up underwriting the voyage. Before reaching an agreement, RSA flew a Canadian representative to Denmark to review the route with the ship's owners, and to assess the company's management and expertise. RSA was satisfied with their inspection and provided hull coverage, which insures the physical ship. Other companies provided protection and indemnity insurance, in case the ship's owners were sued in the event of a spill of fuel or cargo. The RSA insured the passage on an "unescorted" basis, although the *Nordic Orion* was accompanied by the *Louis S. St. Laurent*, a Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker. Throughout, Transport Canada monitored the sailing and required the *Nordic Orion* to check in daily with Nordreg, the Coast Guard agency, while it was in the Northwest Passage.



There are challenges to navigating the Northwest Passage. In short, the Passage lacks adequate nautical charts, ports, search and rescue stations, and ice-breakers available to commercial ships. For the time being, using the Northwest Passage will remain a niche for certain ships, for certain commodities and for a certain time of year. The Northwest Passage will likely only be open for transit for about two months of the year, depending on weather and ice conditions.

In 2010, Nordic Bulk Carriers A/S set another record. It was the first shipping company to use the Northern Sea route. It shipped iron ore from Northern Norway to China, north of Russia across the Russian Sea, on a historic voyage that opened a new sea route for the future.

After the *Nordic Orion's* successful voyage in 2013, Mr. Christian Bonfils of Nordic Bulk Carriers said he plans to increase shipments through the Northwest Passage. Nevertheless, Christian Bonfils doesn't expect a building boom in ice-class bulk carriers all of a sudden, just because you can sail through the Northwest Passage. He believes it is more of an addition to already existing routes.



The Quebec Bridge

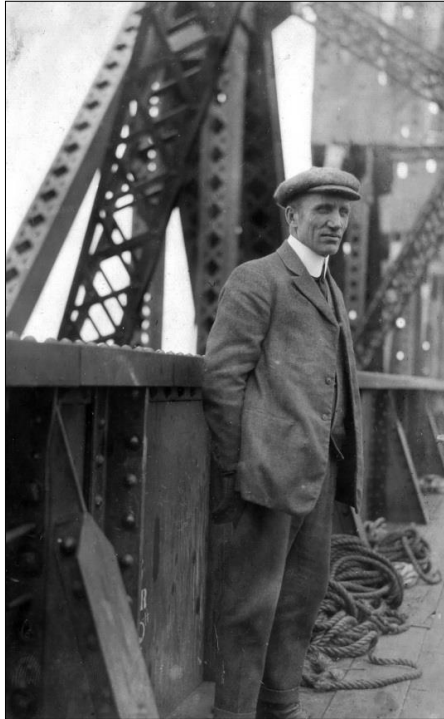
Frants Lichtenberg

This is the story of the building and second collapse of the Quebec Bridge, told by Danish civil engineer Frants Lichtenberg, who worked on the bridge – and saw the suspension span fall into the river. Le Pont de Québec (The Quebec Bridge) has left its mark on the history of transportation and engineering in Canada. It is a road, rail and pedestrian bridge across the lower Saint Lawrence River, to the west of Quebec City. At 3,239 feet, it is the world's longest cantilever bridge. This enormous steel bridge fell down twice, at the cost of 89 lives.

The Quebec Bridge is a cantilever bridge, which means that it is built using cantilevers, structures that project horizontally into space, supported on only one end. The construction of the Quebec Bridge began in 1903. It was completed in 1917 and officially inaugurated in 1919. The promoters of the Quebec Bridge described the project as the future eighth wonder of the world. Indeed, it is now considered a world-class engineering masterpiece. It has been designated an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark and a National Historic Site of Canada.

Frants Lichtenberg was born in Copenhagen in 1875. He attended Polyteknisk Lærestalt (Technical University of Denmark) in Copenhagen, becoming a civil engineer. He married Asta Hoffmeyer (1877-1954) from Århus and they had three children. Asta's father, Julius Hoffmeyer, was co-founder and the first editor of *Jyllands Posten*. Frants Lichtenberg came to Canada with his family in 1911. He first worked at the Dominion Steel Company in Montreal, which supplied steel for the Quebec Bridge. Six months later he was working as an inspector for the federal government at the bridge site. With the completion of the bridge in 1917, Frants Lichtenberg left for the United States and settled in Bronxville, a suburb of New York City. The description of building the bridge which follows was written by hand in Danish to his oldest grandson, Steen Lichtenberg, in 1956, shortly before he died in 1957. Frants Lichtenberg never spoke about the centre span falling into the river killing fourteen people, until he wrote the letter

below. He tried to prevent the accident, but his superiors would not listen to him. Here is his story which has been transcribed and edited from the original Danish:



Senior Inspector Frants Lichtenberg

For some time now it has been my intention to present to you [Steen Lichtenberg] my collection of photos, which were taken during the five-and-a-half years I worked on the construction of the Quebec Bridge. But it would hardly be satisfactory merely to send you the photographs. You need some kind of description of what the work consisted of, and of what kind of river the Saint Lawrence really is. The Quebec Bridge is the biggest railroad bridge in the world; it set the record for the longest distance between the main piers, 1,800 feet, and it embraces the heaviest live load ever applied to any railroad bridge of its kind.

You can therefore appreciate the many problems which confronted the engineers in charge, which were huge and often new. At the time of planning, designing and constructing the bridge, Canada was a small country, not in size, but in population and wealth. I think there were less than five million people in the country, so not much more than Denmark has today. Canadian engineers, beside the experts hired in the United States, were very skillful and industrious as well as level-headed.

Nevertheless, a lack of experience with regard to problems of this size and kind, caused the calculations of these engineers to fail, where by the bridge collapsed twice. The first time was in 1907, when the anchor arm on the south side of the river failed, and the whole anchor arm fell into the water; and then in 1916, when the suspended span plunged into the river. In both cases it was small details that were dismissed by the experts, which caused the losses, and which could have been corrected in time, if the people involved had been more diligent. I tell you these things to give you an idea of how different and interesting the job was, where I worked for so long as a Calculator of Stresses, Designer and Senior Inspector. Prior to that, I had worked for the Dominion Bridge Company, the steel contractor, as a calculator and designer.



At this project I never had a dull moment. Every day I had to contend with new problems. I liked the men and I liked the work, up to the minute they dropped the 10,000 ton suspended span. It could have been avoided, if the big fellows would have listened to me. I had warned them during a long talk with the chief engineers of the Bridge Company about six weeks

before the accident. I attribute to myself a certain amount of engineering sense, but apparently at the time, I did not have enough courage to stand up firmly and defend my views. I was new to the country at the time, and I did not quite manage the English language. On a few other occasions during my career I did have the courage to fight for my views. On two occasions I did save the day, saving life and valuable property. Knowing that brings some satisfaction.

I hope that these few pages will give you some idea of the Quebec Bridge project. Let me tell you about the Saint Lawrence River. It really is a mighty river. One of the biggest in the world! It originates near Lake Winnipeg in the centre of Canada, and flows east through the Great Lakes and out into the Atlantic Ocean at Newfoundland, some 1,900 miles from its source. Its main feature is that it carries the water from the immense Great Lakes watershed, through the country



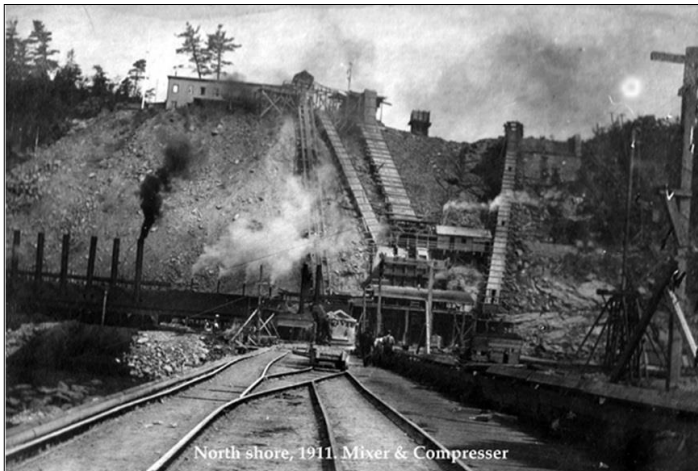
The Resident Engineers Launch July 18 1915

to the ocean. The force of the water is tremendous by the time it reaches Quebec City. Besides the power of the water flow, we also had to fight the power of the tides. Every day of the year the tide rises and falls between 18 to 20 feet. The speed of the outgoing tide is about 8 miles/h and of the up-going tide it is nearly 6 miles/h.

We engineers had a big motor launch for our convenience and use. You may wonder, when I tell you, that it was often a very hazardous thing to steer

that boat through the waters of the Saint Lawrence, particularly when the wind was strong and the current went against the wind. Many of us made our last will and testament, after a harrowing experience in the turbulent river.

Each year toward the end of November the river would freeze solid and it would stay frozen until April 25 – or perhaps one day before, or one day after. We made good use of the old experienced river men, a bunch of hardboiled men, who had lived in the area for half a century. They told us that ever since the Canadian Railway had extended the tracks to Quebec City, they had laid a railway track on the ice every winter. All the heavy freight trains would run across the river on top of the frozen ice, which naturally was raised and lowered twice a day by 18 to 22 feet, due to the tide. But each year on April 25th the Lord would break up the ice. Indeed, this happened every year on April 25th when we were there. The river men said the ice had broken up on that date for the last thirty to fifty years. It then took about ten days for the ice to disappear, because

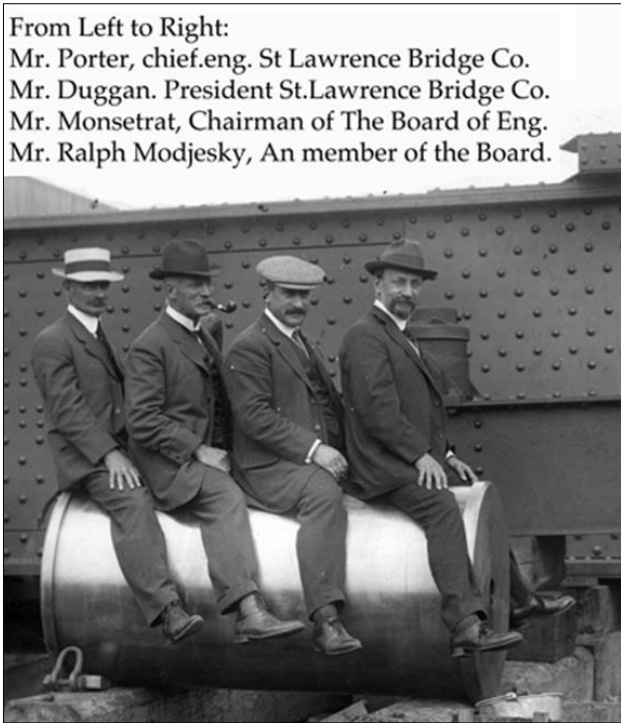


North shore, 1911. Mixer & Compressor

the incoming tide brought back the previous day's ice flows, big and small, before they finally stopped coming. During these ten days we engineers would cross the river in boats, but only with the help of the river men, who knew how to navigate and how to save lives. Quite an important job!

The river was about 5,000 feet wide at the building site and at other places it was two miles, five miles and then up to fifty miles wide at the mouth. At our site the depth of the water in the middle of

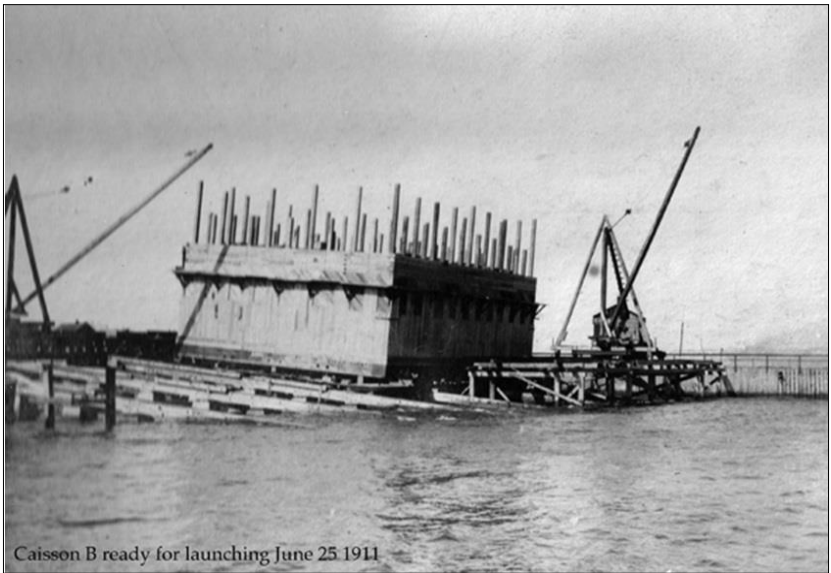
the river was about 250 feet, so in spite of two large bridge parts at the bottom of the river, there was still room for a lot more down there! As well, we found other things, especially on the northern slope, where we had to excavate through a layer of thirty feet thickness of iron-boulders, resting on top of other layers of stone, from the size of pebbles to the size of 100 ton



pieces, all of which the ice had carried with it from above and deposited on top of mighty tree trunks, which we found about 70 feet below the surface. This mass of tree trunks had most likely been carried there by ice one-hundred-thousand years ago, and the wood was just as sound and fresh as when it was deposited there.

The ice could also do other mischief; one of the first winters it shifted a 100 ton granite block, which had on it one of our benchmarks for the triangulation. It compelled us to make a new benchmark somewhere else and the whole triangulation had to be made over, which was several months work. The banks on the two sides of the river are about 200 feet high, as you see on the pictures, for several miles both up and down the river.

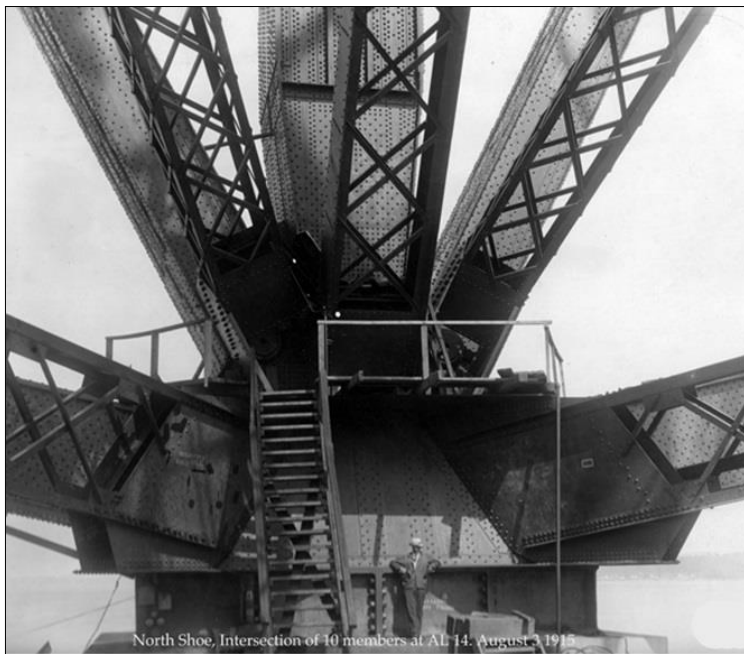
This in conjunction with the narrowness of the river at the building site made it the only place, where a bridge could be built between Montreal and the mouth of the river. I hope you now have a good idea of what the Saint Lawrence River is like. I will now tell you about the actual construction of the bridge. I won't go into details; otherwise I would never finish the story.



The bridge structure consists of the substructure, the two piers built in the water plus two sand-abutments, all made of concrete with an 18 inch granite facing above the lowest water line; and of the superstructure, consisting of a Cantilever Steel Bridge with extensions toward the shores, of a total length of about 5,000 feet and consisting of about 100,000 tons of structural steel. Both the substructure and the superstructure were designed and built under the

supervision of the board of engineers, with head office in Montreal. The chairman and chief engineer was Mr. C.N. Monserrat (Canadian) and Messrs. C.C. Schneider and Ralph Mojesky, two American expert bridge builders.

Caissons are watertight retaining structures used in underwater construction to provide a dry protected area for workers and materials. In the case of the Quebec Bridge, caissons A and B together formed the main pier on the north side, and below it you see a floating caisson C of double size, to carry the main pier on the south side. Caissons A and B were both 45 feet wide and 85 feet long, to form one piece of 45 feet by 185 feet with a 15 foot space between the caissons. They were launched and the sinking was started in June 1911, the month I came from the Engineers head office in Montreal to the bridge site. They were then sunk to a depth of 80 feet below high water, where we found solid bottom. Caisson C was launched in June 1912, had overall dimensions of 45 feet by 185 feet, but it had to be taken back to the dock to be reinforced, because it was mischievous enough to bend down in the middle by 15 to 20 feet, when it first was launched. This pier was then sunk to a depth of 105 feet, before we found the bottom solid enough. These 105 feet are very near the limit, to which the workers, sand boys, could go down and work in compressed air. Every day I inspected the work down there on my daily tour.



In the beginning the sand boys worked in eight hour shifts, for which they obtained a full day's pay. After the caissons had been sunk to about 15 to 20 feet, the men worked only four hours a day for a full day's pay, until it reached a depth of 30 to 35 feet, when they worked only two hours a day for full pay. Due to the greater depths on the south side of the river, the sand boys only worked one hour a day at a full day's pay when they reached the bottom.

This arrangement called for a maximum force of about 600 sand boys in several shifts, who at the start were nearly all American, who all belonged to the American Sand

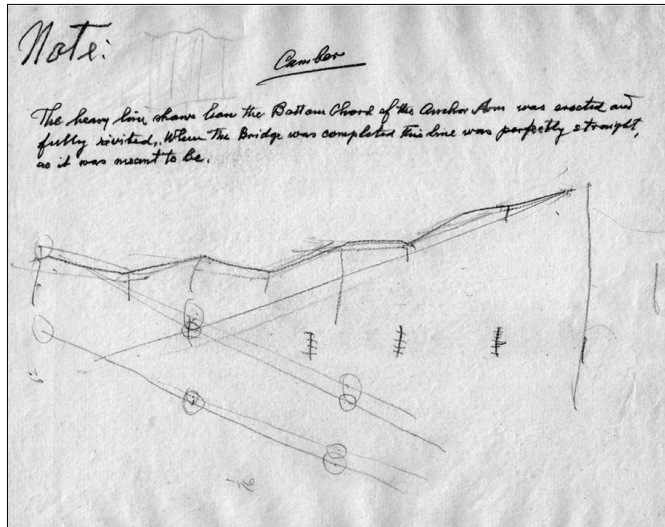
Boys Union. These men, nearly all of them being tough guys, placed themselves on the gangways to the caissons and prevented any Canadian from going aboard, unless he joined the American Union, which they quickly did.

The lowest part of the caisson was a working chamber, with a ceiling height of about 8 to 9 feet. The ceiling of these chambers were strongly built in order to take the load of the concrete from above and to provide enough weight to sink the caisson as it went down, in the process overcoming the increased buoyancy of the structure. Ultimately, when the caisson reached the desired depth, the whole working chamber was filled with concrete thus forming a solid concrete pier from top to bottom.

Along the whole length of the outside walls of the working chamber was a cutting edge built up of solid oak timbers, one of them 24 by 24 feet. The conditions we met, as we went down were quite difficult. I mentioned in a previous paragraph that we had to go down about 30 feet through

a layer of iron boulders, which had to be blasted away with dynamite all along the cutting edge, which made it look like a broom.

Under these conditions the water could come into the chamber from below due to the high pressure. When this happened, all 30 men had to flee for their lives, up through the passenger shafts. There were two such shafts in each chamber, ending high above the river. Naturally you had to have experienced men to guide you under emergency conditions, which really existed all the time due to the constant dynamiting. Besides the two passenger shafts, there were two material shafts, through which the excavated material was brought to daylight.



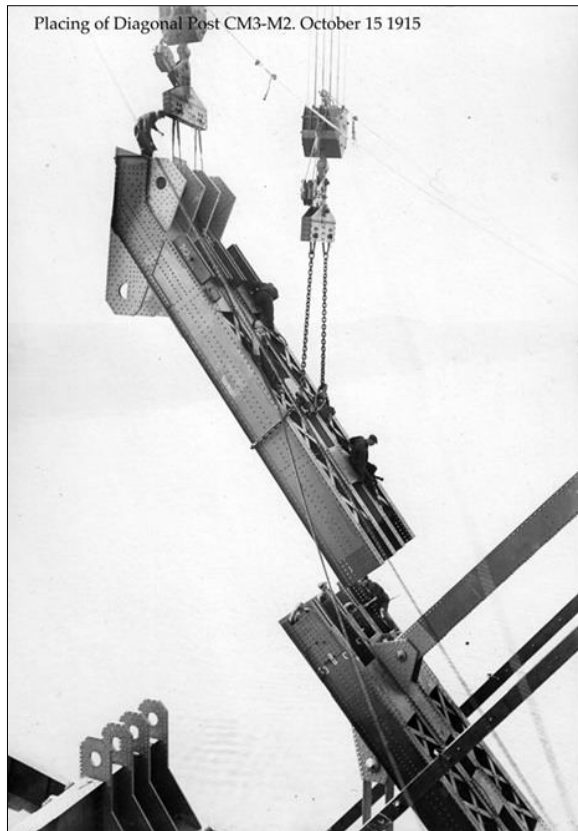
The air valves in these material shafts were working so fast that a bucket full of a couple of cubic yards of dirt or stone could come up at full speed in one run, while the passenger shaft had to be operated according to certain rules which would permit men to pass through the air chamber without being hurt or killed. Our maximum increase in pressure was 45 lbs. per square inch on the south side. On some of the pictures you can clearly see the two kinds of shafts in use.

The sand boys did not have a very good reputation in our community. While the sale, storage and consumption of liquor were not prohibited in Quebec, as in other jurisdictions, there was a police station right on our pier. Strong liquor was drunk freely, and the police seemed not to dare to enforce anything. In town the police would pick up one or two dozen sand boys every week, as the sand boys would come to town and commit some sin against some city ordinance. All this only resulted in giving the city a weekly income for two summers of half a hundred dollars which these men paid to get out of jail.

Otherwise the highways and the surrounding country did not suffer by their presence. During the summers of 1911 and 1912, the sand boys actually finished the two main piers for the bridge in a highly satisfactory manner. Nevertheless, the caisson work did cause dozens of accidents, but with only a few men killed by the action of the air. Fortunately, due to the auxiliary apparatus, and due to the skill of many of the old sand boys, many serious accidents were avoided.

I think that I mentioned that the steel contractor, the Dominion Bridge Company, made all the detailed drawings and submitted them to the board of engineers, who had a staff of about twenty engineers and draftsmen to check the work of the contractor. All the stresses in the bridge members, chords, diagonals, verticals etc. were recalculated time and again for the various positions of the heaviest live load, applicable to each member, for all the odd effects which the wind may have, and the strangest effects which the changes in temperature may show. Many of these stresses added up to formidable figures in the individual members, calling for large steel sections to be used, that is, 8 inches by 8 inches by 1.5 inches steel angles and 1.5 inch plate thick in most of the panel paints.

The company furnished about 1,400 detailed drawings, which all measured 36 by 72 inches. On all the drawing the presence of every rivet was challenged by the checkers, in order to eventually save weight. The size of the rivets throughout was chosen to be 1 1/8 inch and the longest rivets,



at all the large intersections of the heavy plate, measured 13.5 inches. At ordinary bridgework the erector has a certain amount of freedom to use drift pins to fit the pieces together during erection. With this kind of plate and rivet thickness we used, no human hand would be strong enough to use a drift pin for the mentioned purpose, so the erector had to rely upon the manufacturer, that each piece was the exact length.

The steel contractor spent a million dollars to build a new ship that would be spacey enough to handle the long members, up to 175 feet in length. The shop had to acquire new machines, to be able to take care of details and the size of this work. When you consider that all the main members, chords, diagonals, verticals etc. had a cross-section of seven feet one way and ten feet the other way you can imagine that it took days for each joint to be linked. The shops had to have a constant temperature summer and winter, day and night, to ensure that the machines faced the members to the proper size and to the same length.

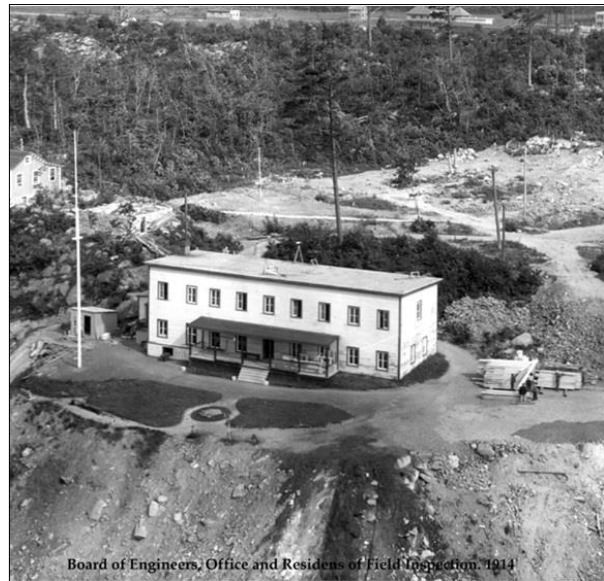
Most of the heavy pieces were manufactured in two halves, one right and one left, and they were then shipped on single railway cars. Ordinarily they were only about 50 feet long and weighed 70 to 80 tons a section. The top links on top of the main pier weighed 100 tons half a section and had to be lifted to a height of about 400 feet above the water. Several of the longer diagonals had to be shipped on four railway cars during the night, when the railway company would clear the tracks all the way from Montreal to Quebec City for the special train to pass.

The main traveling crane had its beam more than 400 feet above the water. It was designed for lifting two sections at a time, one section for the right hand truss and one for the left hand truss, the two trusses being 88 feet apart, and the average load about 120 tons each time. The sections were carried horizontally on railway cars to the end of the erection jigger. Railway tracks being about 40 feet from each other and when the traveling crane picked up the two sections from the car, a derrick at centre held the two pieces together until they cleared the structure already erected. Then the derrick spread the two pieces apart until they were each in line with the bridge trusses. The operation of picking up two sections from the railway cars and to fully secure their connection to the already erected part, usually took 35 minutes, for the whole job. There was a photostat print for each individual lift, detailing every little and big move to be made, hardly allowing the foreman of erection time to blow his nose. In this way the whole erection job went on schedule.

FYI

As you can see, that the framework of the main trusses was designed after the K truss system, in which two diagonal beams support one vertical beam, forming a K shape. This is a statically determined system, by which you can theoretically calculate the stress in every part. Of course this could not be carried through, because at some places the wind and temperature stresses called for some extra members, mostly horizontal, introduced to carry odd stresses. Generally all the compression members were manufactured longer than the final length when under stress, and the tension members were made shorter, for the same reason, so you can easily see what kind of trouble you could encounter in erecting just one triangle to fit in connection with the next triangle.

As shown on a white sheet of paper, you will notice that the chords were laid in broken (not straight) lines, to take care of the discrepancies just mentioned above. The chords were 100% riveted in broken position, but after the bridge was completed with near maximum load put on it, all the chords were perfectly straight. This was not accidental; the engineers had figured it out before the erection started, and the elevation of the chord pieces were known for each position of the traveling crane, as it marched toward the centre of the river.



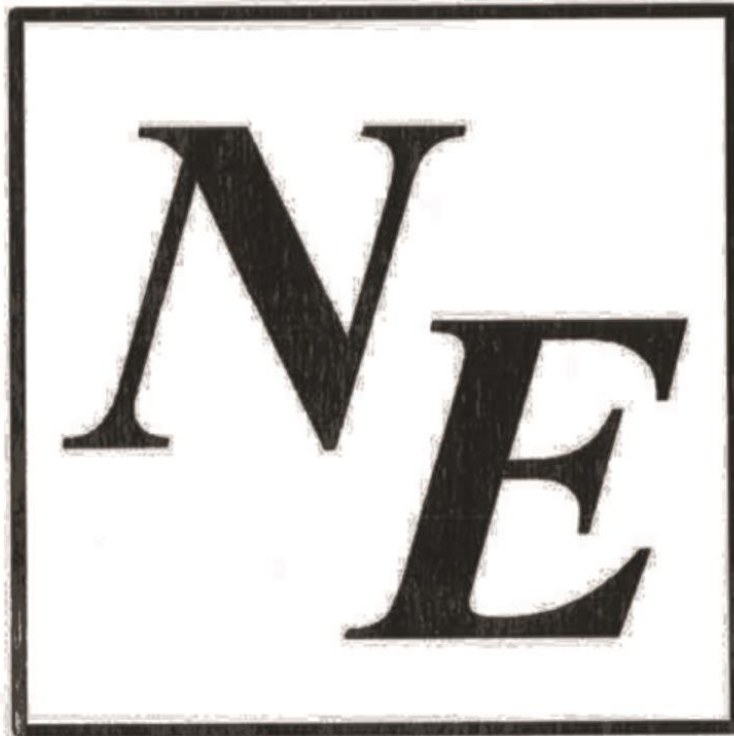
The suspended span was erected during the summer of 1916 on a site three miles from the bridge, and finally lifted on six big barges by the rising tide and floated to the bridge site, towed by six powerful tugboats. I had been in charge of this erection prior to the floating, and stayed on the suspended span until ten minutes before it plunged into the river on Monday, September 11, 1916 at 10:40 a.m. All others, who stayed on the span the ten minutes more, 14 machinists, went down with it and not a single one was ever found, dead or alive. The mighty current in the river took care of that.

It seems to me that I have given you a lot of information, which may interest a civil engineer. But I should mention that we in the engineers boarding house (picture dated 1914), had a large room on the second floor with six or eight automatic-electric registering machines, which for five years prior to the erection of the bridge had given us graphical records of: (1) Direction of the current and speed of the water in the river; (2) Direction and speed of the wind at several places in the river; (3) Variations in the water levels day by day; (4) Registering of electrical storms; and (5) Registering of airplanes within 25 to 50 miles of the Bridge.

So you can see that we knew quite a lot of what could be expected, naturally barring exceptional behaviour from the side of Mother Nature.

I shall refrain from describing what actually happened when the suspension span fell, because it will only cause more pain in my heart. As well, the description would take several pages of this size. So here we are. This letter is the best I can do with a reasonable effort. Some years ago it might have been much easier.

Net Electric Limited



“At your service since 1976”

**Your provider of Electrical, Communication,
Green Energy & Automation solutions in the
Greater Toronto Area**



Tel: (905) 737-7760
Fax: (905) 737-7765
www.net-electric.com



The Iron Ring

A Danish initiative for Canadian engineers

Frans Lichtenberg

The Quebec Bridge across the Saint Lawrence River, built between 1904 and 1917, collapsed twice during construction, first in 1907 and then again in 1916. In both cases it was due to the engineers' poor ethical standards and lack of diligence.

These tragic events have led to the establishment in Canada of an "Engineering Ring" similar to the doctors' Hippocratic Oath. Young Canadian engineers can under a voluntary ceremony receive a ring, originally made from the fallen bridge spans, but later made of stainless steel. This special Canadian tradition is almost a hundred years old, and is still going strong. Well over one-hundred-thousand Canadian engineers have worn, and are still wearing, this ring.

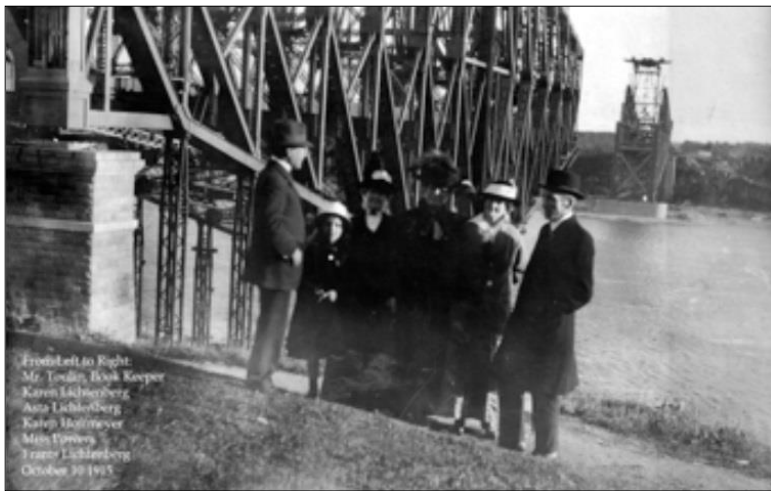
During a dinner of the Engineering Institute of Canada in 1922, the institute's president, Professor Herbert Haultain of the University of Toronto, suggested, in light of the Quebec Bridge disasters, that there needed to be a ceremony and standard of ethics developed for graduating engineers. This ceremony is called 'The Iron Ring' ceremony.

The ceremony and ring can be traced back to an idea by Frans Lichtenberg, a graduate of the Technical University of Denmark in Copenhagen. Frans Lichtenberg immigrated to Canada in 1911 with his wife and small child. From 1911 to 1917 he worked on the Quebec Bridge as an engineer and inspector, employed by the Canadian government. In fact, he had the responsibility of installing the crucial centre span.

In 1956 in a letter to his grandson, Steen Lichtenberg (also an engineer), Frans Lichtenberg writes that six weeks before the centre span was hoisted into place he had an hour long conversation with the chief engineer, where he drew attention to a potential problem, due to the

way the cranes were situated. The centre span was scheduled to be hoisted up by four cranes. They were, however, way too close to each other, as can be seen in the photographs of the hoisting. The risk was that the slightest disturbance or error would cause an overbalance and the risk of the span toppling. However, the chief engineer relied on his own calculations and felt that there were many tons per metre as collateral, to which Frants Lichtenberg replied that this was very little, compared to the sections large weight of 10,000 tons.

The chief engineer did not listen to Frants Lichtenberg, and as Frants had predicted the suspension span toppled. Frants Lichtenberg was expected to be on the centre span as it was being hoisted. However, he had promised his wife that he would jump onto the fixed portion of the bridge as soon as he could. He did, and ten minutes later the accident happened. The remaining 14 people on the centre section were thrown into the water below. They drowned and their bodies were never recovered.



Frants and Asta Lichtenberg visit building site

wear as a constant reminder to be diligent and responsible as engineers. The ring became known as the “Lichtenberg Ring” after the man that took the initiative to create it.

We grandchildren were told about the Quebec Bridge by our father. It was only in Grandfather’s advanced years that he was able and willing to talk about the disaster. He never told us about the Ring. We are only able to tell the story, because of a chance conversation with an American engineer, who was acquainted with our grandfather.

A grandson of Frants Lichtenberg, Frans Lichtenberg, was many years ago told the story by an elderly American engineer who lived next door to our mother’s family in Palo Alto, California. When she heard the name Lichtenberg, she asked Frans if he was related to Frants Lichtenberg. “Yes, that was my grandfather,” he replied. She then proceeded to tell him about the Lichtenberg Ring (one of which she also wore).

We have no reason to believe that her story is not true. The fact that our grandfather was unable to tell us about the Ring is certainly due to his lifelong psychological trauma.

That he failed to prevent the accident created a serious psychological trauma for Frants Lichtenberg. The tragedy could have been prevented if the others had listened to him. The trauma followed him for the rest of his life.

Frants Lichtenberg took the initiative to recover some of the steel in the river. He then had rings made from the salvaged wreckage. The rings were made for his Canadian colleagues – to

The Advantage of a ‘Dyne’

Bendix Andersen

A recent trip again brought home to me the issue of the way we enjoy our bed rest, whether in North America or Europe. I recently returned to Canada from Italy, via Denmark, and spent the night of my arrival in Denmark in a Bed and Breakfast.

In Italy I experienced the usual discomfort in the bedding provided, which was no different from what we are presented with in North America. The bedding consisted mainly of a top sheet folded to cover the blanket and tucked in at the foot, presenting a neat and tidy looking bed.

Generally, sleeping arrangements should be inviting to a tired traveller. And I have learned to accept the bed, without complaining, and to re-arrange the bed in a manner that would give me more comfort. My problem is that the foot-end tuck-in restricts the space required for comfortable foot movement. Lying on my back, my toes are restricted to the space allowed by the tuck and it



can be numbing! If I lie on my side, there still isn't enough room for foot movement. Actually, I don't wait for these constraining symptoms to emerge; before going to bed I will loosen the tuck sufficiently to allow for full foot movement.

Foot comfort is not the only problem with a blanket and sheet. If I feel the need to shuffle the sheet and blanket to better cover my shoulder or envelop my head the blanket will resist any attempt to re-position it. In other words, I have a choice of either inadequate cover or a restless night!

The Danish B&B offered a large room, but colder weather had set in and the heating had not yet been turned on. Nevertheless, I crawled into bed, and pulled the dyne (duvet) up to my chin! No strain on my toes! And, moreover, I was warm in seconds! During the night I manipulated the dyne several times, and each time I was filled with a feeling of warmth and comfort!

A dyne is traditionally sown in a pattern that provides channels which are stuffed with down, or feathers, or artificial insulating material. The dyne is then covered in a dynebetræk (a cover, like a pillow case), a device made to fit its shape. The dynebetræk serves the same sanitary purpose as does the top sheet in a typical hotel bed; it is removed and washed after use.

Ah, for the comfort of a Danish dyne! Do Danes have a special sense of comfort when it comes to beds?

Prof. Natalie van Duesen

Scandinavian Studies at the University of Alberta

In 2012, I joined the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta as the inaugural Henry Cabot and Linnea Lodge Scandinavian Professor.



I came to the University of Alberta from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I received my PhD in Scandinavian Studies. My area of research expertise is Old Norse and early modern Icelandic literature and manuscript studies, and I wrote my doctoral dissertation on the Old Norse-Icelandic legend of Martha and Mary Magdalen. I have published several articles related to this legend, and have also written on Icelandic literature. I am currently working on turning my dissertation into a book, and am collaborating with Prof. Kirsten Wolf of the University of Wisconsin-Madison on a guide to the saints in Old Norse and early modern Icelandic poetry.

Since coming to Alberta, I have had the opportunity to teach several interesting courses, which have drawn students from a variety of backgrounds and academic disciplines. In the Fall 2012, I taught SCAND 341: Old Norse Mythology and Legends, and in Winter 2013, SCAND 342: Vikings and Sagas and SCAND 356: Women in Scandinavian Literature and Popular Culture. I taught SCAND 341 again in Fall 2014, as well as a new course, SCAND 399: Scandinavian Crime Fiction. All of these courses had excellent enrollments, which speak to the general appeal of our program's courses. I am currently teaching SCAND 342 and SCAND 356, and will teach courses on Old Norse, Scandinavian folklore, and Scandinavian children's literature next year.

We are pleased to have welcomed Dr. John Eason as the new instructor of Norwegian and Swedish. This year, John is teaching first-year Norwegian and first- and second-year Swedish, as well as two content courses—one on August Strindberg (SCAND 354), and another on ABBA (SCAND 299). John received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011, and lived and worked in Stockholm, Sweden before coming to the University of Alberta. He has been an excellent addition to the program, and brings with him a great deal of experience and enthusiasm for modern Scandinavian language, literature, and culture. Despite the financial difficulties facing Canadian universities in recent years, the Scandinavian program at the University of Alberta continues to grow and thrive. This is due in no small part to the tremendous support we have received from the Scandinavian community in Edmonton and elsewhere in Alberta. The position I occupy was made possible by the many generous donations to the Scandinavian Professorship Endowment Fund established by the Scandinavian Studies Association—and in particular, the contribution made by its president, Mrs. Linnea Lodge. The association's continued successful efforts to raise money for the fund demonstrates a commitment by individuals beyond the university to the academic discipline of Scandinavian Studies, and ensures its continued existence at the University of Alberta.

Some Lingering Memories

Larry Jacobsen

When I set out to put “*My Story: A Matriarch's Memoirs*” into print I assumed that the book would interest family members only, and perhaps a handful of friends. Such does not appear to be the case for a few other Danes as well as some public libraries, a few book stores, and my regular book fans appear to want it as well.



Edgewater

My earliest memories are of course rooted in Edgewater, BC, where we lived during my first 8 years after leaving Denmark aged five months. One of those recollections is of our neighbors attending Gud's Tjeneste (Sunday Service) in our living room where they sang Danish hymns, and with Dad reading from the bible while we children played outside the house so as not to disrupt the service.

I do not remember what time we children were sent to bed, but Gerda and Ester, being older had greater privileges and could of course stay up later. Once we younger ones were under the covers, Mother would sit beside our bed, sing an evening song and then recite the "Lord's Prayer." I have completely forgotten what the song was, but I believe it was always the same one.

I can never remember Mother ever relaxing without a pair of knitting needles or crochet hooks in her hands, and busily at work on some garment, unless it was embroidery work on a fancy table cloth. We children learned to darn socks at an early age, and I progressed to knitting socks and mitts by the time I was in my early teens. At "Ladies Aid" meetings, all Mother's friends were similarly engaged until the coffee and cake was served.

Dad was a big man and I have one memory of him placing me on his shoulders to ride piggy-back and I, terrified of falling off, was clutching his head with all my might.

I vaguely remember Dad plowing the field in Edgewater. He walked behind a team of horses pulling a single-bottom plow and somehow controlled the team with the reins at the same time as keeping the plow on an even keel. I suspect that the right-hand horse was trained to walk in the furrow and did not need guidance except when it came to the field's end. I also recall him carrying an open bag of grain, with straps slung over one shoulder, from which he dipped his hand, filled it with grain and then with a right-to-left motion strewed that grain in an arc in front of him. I presume that he would spread one handful for each step or two he took. Just the same I am sure it required some considerable skill to spread that seed uniformly.

Tilley

Of all the mental images I have of Mother, the predominant one is of her working at the sewing machine late at night. A lesser one is of her sitting on a milk stool while plucking black currants from one of the two bushes we had brought from Edgewater. Still another is of Mother steering, and Dad pulling, the seeding machine in the vegetable garden. Yet another is of mother hanging out the clothes on wash day. In winter despite brutal cold, she never wore mitts while thus engaged. The washing, being still warm, may have mitigated the cold, but I, whose small fingers chilled easily, could not have done it.

Still another memory is of Mother milking the cows. As youngsters, we could hardly wait until we were old enough to learn this skill, only to regret it, when it became an obligatory chore. One of my first chores was to clean the droppings from the chest-high floor that sat beneath the poles on which the chickens roosted. Manure is by definition foul smelling, but chicken droppings seemed much worse than cow manure.

Mother must have been patient, for how else could she cope with so many children who sometimes taxed that patience? One example is when I tried to attack a skunk during my walk home from school. I had taken a shortcut by following a small canal across our neighbor's field and said skunk, in self defense nailed me squarely in the eyes with its obnoxious spray. I still remember sitting in a galvanized washtub and mother futilely scrubbing my face and hair (Yes, I did once have hair). By burying my clothes for a week they again became useable. I have sometimes wondered if she might not have liked to decontaminate me in like manner.

Being practical must have been just one part of Mother's personality for without it we could not have survived. We arrived in Tilley in April of 1938 and rented 13 acres of land from a neighbor for whom Dad worked that summer. Dad raised seed peas on that land and those peas came in heavy cottons sacks. Mother quickly found good use for those sacks for she made excellent trousers from them. We purchased flour and sugar in 100 pound bags, and after first dyeing these bags, she made dresses for the girls from them. When we discovered a local ditch full of fish (Suckers) it was not long before Dad, with the help of a couple other men scooped them out by hand. Mother with Gerda and Ester's help was soon preserving them in one and two-quart glass canning jars. Our acquaintances turned up their noses at the thought of eating these bony fish, but we could not afford that luxury.

Dad had learned how to butcher while attending Agricultural College in Denmark. Not surprisingly, he was called on by his friends to do their butchering. When they discovered he loved head cheese, they usually rewarded his labours with the pig's head. Mother finally demanded that he ask for something more substantial.

During winter, when the chickens stayed inside, they always became infested with mites — small reddish insects — that sucked blood from their hosts. If memory serves correctly, we painted the roosting poles with used crankcase oil to kill those mites.

The chickens were not safe inside the chicken coop, for on at least one or two occasions before we had a dog, they fell as prey to either a weasel or a skunk.

Feeding the pigs and cleaning the sty became my early chore as well. If it was done regularly, and some bedding straw thrown into one corner, the pigs would sleep on that and defecate in a

different corner. We think of pigs as dirty, but I learned early that they were clean, given half a chance. I also cleaned the manure from behind the cows every day with the help of a wheelbarrow.

Neither Dad nor Mother was slow in giving their children responsibility at an early age. As you will read in “*My Story: A Matriarch's Memoirs*”, Mother gave both Esther and Gerda responsibility for looking after their younger siblings when the occasion arose. That would not be possible in today's world without Social Services apprehending the children. I recall having to walk 4.5 miles to Tilley with butter and eggs for our grocer before returning home that same distance and then proceeding to my classes at Renfrew School. Those errands helped keep our grocery bill at a manageable level.

In my opinion, the greatest gift my parents gave us was the habit of reading. We were slow in acquiring a radio, but we did get two newspapers, the *Family Herald* and the *Free Press and Prairie Farmer*. One of them carried serialized stories which we took turns reading out loud during winter evenings while other family members sewed, darned, or knitted. Our home had a good library which contained both Danish and English books as well as a handful of Swedish and Norwegian ones. I learned to read them all (including the West Jutland dialect) at the same time as I was learning to read English. One of my favorites was *Across Greenland on Skis* by Fridtjof Nansen, the Norwegian explorer. Even our Christmas and birthday presents usually came in the form of books. In my own case it was my broad range of reading that allowed me at age 43 to pass the tests that got me admitted into graduate school with a Grade Ten education.

© Larry G. Jacobsen, March 2015

Synopsis of “*My Story: A Matriarch's Memoirs*”

This book is the end-result of transcribing my mother's memoirs which she wrote during her late 70's after enrolling in a course in creative writing, designed for seniors, at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. When she showed me some of her writing, I remember wondering if anything would ever come of it. Little did I know that it would be left up to me, to 39 years later, transcribe and publish it.

Mother begins her story by writing about daily life on her father's farm that she remembered from her early childhood. She goes on to describe her schooling, and eventually her romance and marriage, but not before recounting her three-month experience at the Danish Folk High School, a Grundvig institution designed to impart an appreciation of God and country.

Their social life was centred on church and family. As a child she was surrounded by both of her maternal grandparents as well as paternal aunts and uncles and their families. She had vivid memories of farm life for she spent much more time with her father in the fields than with her mother in the house.

After her older sister had married Hans Jacobsen she got to know, and later marry, his younger brother, Peter. They purchased a farm while prices were high, and lost it when the depression descended on Denmark four years later in 1926. This sparked their move to Canada where they

settled in Edgewater, near Radium Hot Springs among other Danish immigrants after an arduous sea voyage and a long train trip in a "settler's car."

Mother's knack for story telling manifests itself in her attention to detail. I had wondered how she could remember so much, minutiae until I discovered that she had kept all her correspondence over the years.

Her stories, together with scores of old photos, makes for a fascinating read, even for me. I learned much I had been oblivious of, especially about her life as a young girl in Denmark.

ISBN 978-09781640-4-1 198 pages - 9" x 7" landscape, soft cover (Perfect bound), contains scores of enhanced/restored family photographs; some over 100 years old. Retail price: \$18.95 plus GST. Published and distributed by Larry Jacobsen.

Larry Jacobsen is the author of:

- A Way to Live: Poetry and Musings*, c. 1993-2000, (Cerloc bound but not formally published)
- Leaning Into The Wind: Memoirs of an Immigrant Prairie Farm Boy*, 2004 (Authorhouse)
- Jewel of the Kootenays: The Emerald Mine*, 2008 (Published by the author and the Salmo Museum)
- Salmo Stories: Memories of a Place in the Kootenays*, 2014 (Published by the author)
- Walhachin: Birth of a Legend*, 2014, (Published by the author)

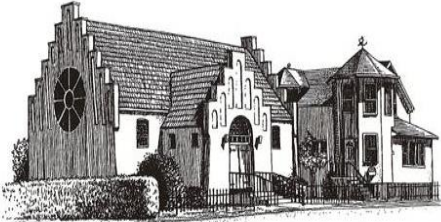
Larry Jacobsen@gmail.com
75 – 2450 Hawthorne Avenue
Port Coquitlam. BC V3C 6B3

Tel: 604-552-0004 or Cell: 604-353-2709

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 Carl-Gustav Christensen.



daniadown
HOME

15 Locations to Serve You

2709 Granville St.	Vancouver	(604) 266-5308
City Square	Vancouver	(604) 874-3481
Coquitlam Centre	Coquitlam	(604) 941-7770
Ironwood Plaza	Richmond	(604) 270-4919
Brentwood Mall	Burnaby	(604) 299-1344
Lougheed Mall	Burnaby	(604) 422-0171
Semiahmoo Mall	White Rock	(604) 536-4516
Park Royal North	W. Vancouver	(604) 925-2510
Willowbrook Park	Langley	(604) 530-6605
Market Place Crossing	Burnaby	(604) 438-1076
West Edmonton Mall	Edmonton	(780) 444-1102
Westhills Towne Center	Calgary	(403) 253-0866
North Hill Centre	Calgary	(403) 210-3035
Kenaston Common	Winnipeg	(204) 779-7359
Kildonan Mall	Winnipeg	(204) 668-9994

Canadian Made Down Quilts, Pillows,
and Huge Selection of Bed Linens

www.daniadown.com

Danmark's Best, In Furniture Design

Raija Leskinen

Brief history and social kinship

The Scandinavians, particularly the Danes, are hardy as well as creative, and have a light-hearted approach in both social interaction and relations. They love the outdoors; have a healthy modesty in the arts and in their social traditions call for action when something needs to-be-done. Yet it has been questioned how this small country could make such a major impact on an industrially growing world. Having gone through fires, political turmoil, and economic adversities in the 1800s, the theologian Hans Olrick and the philosopher C. N. Starcke point to some factors: “the development as a homogeneous national state since the catastrophe of 1864”, (*Danmarks Kultur ved Aar 1900: Som Slutning Af Et Hundredaars Udvikling*). The chapter titled “The Danish National Characteristics” depicts “a people in harmony with their surroundings, a homogeneous society, and self-restrained phlegmatic individuals light hearted with certain melancholy”. “An idealization of the banal everyday and the mediocre which is elevated to the quality of dependability and steadfastness”, (Norman Berdichevsky: “*An Introduction to Danish Culture*” p.186). Such characteristics mark the point whereby a society establishes its own values and therefore the need for its own essentialities.

Rooted in the Danish character, a consideration for the arts grew in most all areas from 1700 - 1800 as did social conformity. In the 1950s slightly more than five percent of the foreign population in Denmark pared the socio-political integration and promising political stability. Improved health care, lower mortality rates and healthy agricultural practises put Denmark on the list of the most desirable countries for artistic expression and home designs. “The first design colleges were workshop schools or continuations of traditional apprenticeships at carpentry”, (*Denmark Special/2*). Internationally recognised products and new business models eventually adapted to a scale of marketing not know before. Denmark embraced a need to show the world it could move idealism into practical results, and that the outcome based on dependable educational programs and good health care could produce high standards in furniture design.

Adopted furniture styles in the 1700s – 1900s

In the 1700s, well-to-do Danish society acquired the French Empirical style of furniture, large in size and often imbedded with bronze inlays and hardware. Expensive to obtain, the golden and classical motifs, such as palm trees, lion heads, and fantasy beings with a woman's head, were long featured in Pompeian art. The designs were often veneered with mahogany, originally meant to replace the bronze inlays. Distinctions in the furniture were carved from the same pieces of wood to match with the other pieces of furniture. During the Napoleonic design period, 1899 – 1915, sphinxes and other Egyptian ornaments were added to glamourize the furniture, exuberance only a few could afford. As the poor had less money, expensive furniture gave way to modesty in both price and function. Soon the straight lines of English furniture took over, and “became a design hallmark for the Danish Empire” (*Dansk Design-fra kirke til café*, translation from Danish to English).

During the early 1800s, the spark of war ignited the depressed economy. The less fortunate, and well-to-do alike, shifted away from elaborate and expensive furniture styles due to the onset of a poverty stricken period. The furniture now was made of veneered wood more suitable and less expensive, and this came to fill people's everyday living space. In the midst of the Napoleonic wars, the “English overpowered the Danish fleet at sea causing the State bankruptcy in 1813,” and this was soon followed by “agricultural crises in 1818 – 1828”. As a result, the Danish government regulated that everyone had to save expensive imported mahogany. Beechwood, birch, ash, and other local woods became valued raw materials for furniture, and the seat upholstery was often made out of horse hair and waxed cotton known as ‘voksdug.’ “The cotton was sunk into beeswax, black or dark olive oil, or in boiled linseed oil” to make the fabric water resistant. (Wikipedia) Once productive in agriculture and commerce, the country now was in survival mode and so: “Frugality became necessary for the well-to-do along with the royalty”, (*Dansk Design-fra kirke til café* - translation from Danish to English).

Postmodernism versus Functionalism

Postmodernism started in the 1920s. It seems, in the place of functionality one occasionally uses the term modernism. The use of the term modernism depends on how one uses it in an expression, as if in the art of writing a poem. Therefore, it is good to define functionalism and categorize modernism versus functionalism in a separate expression. Functionalism is used to describe a piece of furniture whose function is more important than its looks. As importantly, when one addresses the 1980s, most remarkable for using streaming in creating form, i.e. postmodernism, it is also necessary to mention the specific expression describing postmodernism (“post” meaning “after”). In other words, the term functionalism brakes away from the functionalistic stream that was dominant within design form in the last years of the last century. The form ‘postmodernism’ in architecture may use functionalism as a base, but it must break-down the term by using “‘borrowed’ visions and symbols attaching and applying them to a new form”.... “In many respects, the word postmodern architecture reminds us also of a mass-production”, (*Dansk Design-fra kirke til café* - translation from Danish to English).

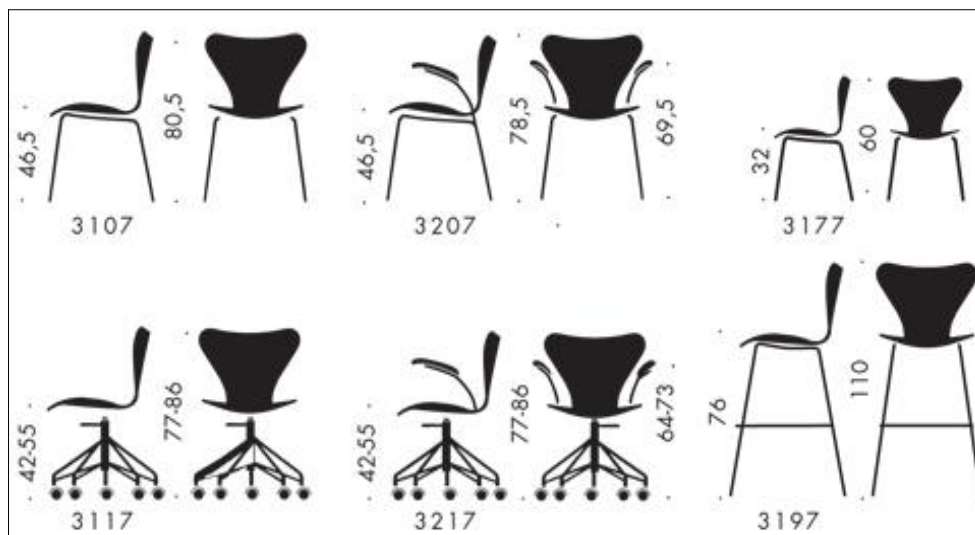
Commerce on the upbeat

The postmodern furniture design characterized by the bent metal used in airplanes near the end of the First World War first became extensively used in European (Bauhaus) furniture from the

1930s onward. The premise for this postmodern architecture took shape in the complex pursuit of the post war technology that was later used in home fashions in Europe. It challenged the Danish architects and designers to gain footing in corporate standards. The lines began to show brighter colors with more durable materials. While styling and design often are seen as a singular element of a design, they are distinctly different disciplines. “Styling is concerned with surface treatment and appearance – the expressive qualities of a product. Design, on the other hand, is primarily concerned with problem solving – it tends to be holistic in its scope and generally seeks simplification and essentiality”, (*Design of the 20th Century, Charlotte & Peter Fiell, p. 5*). This very principal freed artistic choices for more personal and innovative applications in Western Europe and for future markets in North America, and it also reaffirmed the originality of Danish style and design.

Growing Postmodern Identity

The Art Deco movement began in Paris in the 1920s representing elegance and luxury, and it still represented elegance and luxury in the 1930s and 40s. Perceived from the austerities of the war in the mid 1940s, the furniture and other accessories alike were seen in Denmark as a false imagery of luxury. But the period also offered a chance for an artisan to become a creator and designer in what were highly competitive art forms. People welcomed the new materials. Laminated plywood, plastic, fibreglass, and steel piping proved to be practical solutions for stylish elements in the smaller homes and apartments. The “moulded plywood and plastic also took hold in new practical, even shocking styles”, (Wikipedia). The moulded plywood seats, steamed and shaped to perfection with the steel legs, may not have bared great importance in style, but the proportions were fundamental, (please see A. Jacobsen’s Model 3107). The demand for markets became clear. In smaller homes steel and brushed metal were embraced, particularly when coupled with the laminated plywood or plastic. The Danish designers saw the future regardless of the times and established a platform based on their vision. It became alive and sharp, and this furniture platform stemming from what came before, now had a strong future as Danish postmodern furniture.



Model 3107, A. Jacobsen, more than 5.000.000 copies sold

The Masters of Their Time

Particularly in the 1930s, the new industrial manufacturing processes and divisions of labour enabled markets to expand, and mass marketing therefore became better understood. At the time, furniture was minimalistic and practical, and both its traditional and modern features reflected Danish life and culture. That said; it is the modern design that left a more lasting imprint. After World War II, diverse furniture designs with glass, glass tabletops, plastic, wood, and textiles began to earn universal exclusivity.



The Ant Chair:
Arne Jacobsen,
1951-52

Among many talented designers one particularly stood out, Arne Jacobsen, (1902 – 1971), who “more than any other architect or designer of his time has come to be regarded as an innovator associated with the term ‘Danish modern’”, (*An Introduction to Danish Culture*). He worked as a bricklayer till age 22 when he started architectural studies. Eventually his works gave him the well earned public acceptance of both his colleagues and the tabloid press. Pleased with his results, he went ahead full speed and around 1930 established himself as an independent architect and designer. He also taught architecture at the Royal Academy of Arts in Copenhagen from 1956 onwards.

In the early 1950s, the American Charles Eames designed and manufactured chairs of moulded wood and steel pipe. This encouraged Arne Jacobsen to work on his world-famous Ant Chair, Denmark’s first industrially manufactured chair. The feminine curvature styles were dramatically different from those of the previous decade.



The Ant Chair as today’s home décor choice

Having a direct bearing on his enormous international success, he soon was back at the drawing table. The ‘Egg Chair,’ 1958, and the ‘Swan Chair,’ 1957 – 1958, both are seen as “organic sculptures” with a pattern cut out from one piece of hide. For some time this delicate procedure was closely supervised by Jacobsen himself. Only the perfect color and texture was used for each chair, and each was produced in a secure enclosure.

FYI



The Egg Chair:
A. Jacobsen,
1957-58



The Swan Chair:
A. Jacobsen,
1957-58

As early as the 1920s, the Bauhaus principals of design, with solid pure line and a fresh form, were adopted by one of the master carpenters of his time, Kaare Klint. “The Professor of the Fine Arts Furniture School in Copenhagen, 1924 – 1954, taught a renewal of Danish furniture design.” (Internet) His teachings and designs were radical at the time, as he focused heavily on functional analysis, the best materials, and the best craftsmanship. Today he is best known for the famous Safari Chair, (1937, stained ash and leather), and the Faarborg Chair, (1914, mahogany, cane and leather). The lines show clean and defined design as: “every piece must fulfill its purpose, be absolutely clarified in its construction, have proportions which correspond to those of the human body, and display materials and craftsmanship of the highest quality”, (danish-furniture.com). The design of Klint’s furniture was always based on relentless research.



Safari Chair: *K. Klint, 1937;*
stained ash and leather



Faarborg Chair: *K. Klint, 1914;*
mahogany, cane and leather

Postmodern Today

During Arne Jacobsen's most successful years, the new technology took a turn. As mentioned before, in the early 1900s the workshops produced functional furniture, but the mass production of it was looked upon as a part of a somewhat strange relationship between the two man-made but different worlds of functional design and mass-production. Today Skovby furniture, founded by Thorvald Rasmussen in 1933, produces sustainable and functional furniture. Years of experience formulated solid and strong opinions about raw materials, production and design. The Rasmussen family, son Villy and grandsons Preben and Jorgen, value integrity combined with a highly qualified work force to promote a belief in technology as the strongest weapon in an intense world-wide competition with multi-million dollar companies. Skovby was among the frontrunners developing functional extension systems for tables, and today the company is world renowned for its special talent in combining design and functionality.

"Skovby design always aims at a long-lasting expression," says Master Architect, Per Hånsbæk. "This means that some of our products are designed 25 and even 40 years ago." Per has personally designed various household pieces including the flexible module system known as MODO that extends the table. With ease, the system slides in and out one or more leaves. It is suitable for a smaller dining room or for a living room use.



*The A. Jacobsen Egg Chair:
Tradition in Postmodernism
2012*



*Skovby Furniture:
Model # 37 Table / Board / Model # 57
Chair
Table: Oak with White Oil Finish*

FYI



*Skovby Furniture: Model #72 Table with Synchronous Extension System
Both halves of the tabletop slide to the side and the leaves slide to cover the center when slight pressure is applied.*



Skovby Furniture: Model #39 Table (patented). The sliding center leaf function is unique; this six seat dining table can accommodate 12 chairs.

To understand the makings of this Danish strength of mind and will that inspired and nurtured artistic abilities during prior centuries, we must respect the confidence of the people. The preserved mathematical formulas built in realism and the “cultured heritage, artistic expression and education of artists” has influenced the artistic adventure for decades if not centuries. “The Danish population [itself] has contributed considerably to development of the cultural policy in a fruitful interaction between citizens and society” as they now share the cultural and economic success of one of the most celebrated countries in the world, (*Denmark Special/2*).

Keld Jensen co-owner of ScanDesigns, in the Richmond, B.C. store with a Skovby Furniture #72 Table

The Tabletop consists of seamlessly glued together strips of wood with the grain highlighted in all areas of the table including the base.

The leg opens to reveal two leaves that cover the center when slight pressure is applied.



For more Information:

<http://blog.danishdesignstore.com/2011/07/authentic-egg-chair-how-to-tell-its-not-a-fake/>

Egg and Swan chair, Europadesign:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VSMrIfkJENc>

A video about the making of wooden furniture:
<http://www.pp.dk/index.php?page=gallery&cat=14&id=173;>

Materials used in the 18th century in Denmark:
<https://books.google.ca/books?id=uh1vBQAAQBAJ&pg=PA158&lpg=PA158&dq=sample+of+danish+fabric/cotton+from+1800s&source=bl&ots=aKFdBYX2uo&sig=f-8uUIIMB6La5hETTONyqmOooHw&hl=en&sa=X&ei=9mkUVcejGoz5yQTb9oL4Dw&ved=0C CIQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=sample%20of%20danish%20fabric%20cotton%20from%201800s&f=false>

Great site for globally found hardwoods used in furniture making:
http://www.finefurnituremaker.com/beautiful_hardwoods.htm

Many thanks to: Keld Jensen, Erik Rasmussen, Pia Christensen in the Library, and Ed Kuhlman for helping with this article.



The Scandinavian Business Club of B.C.

A Piece of Western Canadian History

Henrik Laursen, Club Historian & Past President

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members and Friends of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada, it is my privilege on behalf of the Scandinavian Business Club of B.C. (SBC) to welcome all of you to this very important tradition (Conference), now in its' 34th year.

Our Club was founded in 1946, and is one of the oldest Scandinavian Clubs in British Columbia. Originally known as the Scandinavian Businessmen's Club, the seeds were sown during a luncheon meeting in early 1946 at the Hotel Vancouver. This momentous luncheon was hosted by the Danish Consul at the time, Mr. L.L. Jessen, the Norwegian Consul Mr. Herculles Worsoe, the Swedish Consul Karl A. Stahl and Captain Kaare Sylling.

All of those attending were involved in various business endeavours, as well as their consular appointments.

Captain Sylling was very much a key participant in the Club for years to come, including being the President in 1951. He and his wife were also very active on the dance floor at the annual Christmas party.

At that time, it was felt that there was a need for a Club comprising Scandinavian Businessmen that could provide a forum for not only socializing but also promoting business opportunities among the members and companies in B.C.

Invitations to become members were at the discretion of the members of the Club's executive board, and needed board approval. As applications were received, Mr. Jessen would call a meeting to review them.

FYI

It was determined that there was enough interest in a general forum and so the Scandinavian Businessmen`s Club was established in June, 1946. Further, it was decided that the Presidency of the newly-founded Club should rotate annually between the different Scandinavian nationalities.

At this time the Consuls of Finland and Iceland also joined, thereby involving all five Nordic countries as the SBC set sail. (It`s still sailing and celebrates 70 years of existence on June 11, 2016.)

The first meeting was well attended at Hotel Georgia, and thus it all started with various executive positions being filled. Also, the founders set out a schedule for upcoming monthly meetings.

Another tradition was established with Executive meetings being held at the homes of Board Members, naturally including a nice Scandinavian bill of fare.

In the day, the ladies attending annual events would wear beautiful evening gowns, while the gentlemen wore black tie - very classy! Formal attire was an expectation from all participants.

Over the last 69 years, the SBC has evolved hosting their monthly meetings at various venues, then becoming a full, Associate Member when the Scandinavian Community Centre Society was founded.

The original objectives are still followed, with three standing out:

- * Invite speakers from many walks of life and promote business within the SBC;
- * Award an annual Scholarship to a deserving student;
- * Offer a Scandinavian food menu and fellowship.

The annual Scholarship award celebration has been held at various locations over the years, including Harrison Hot Springs and Bridge House by the Capilano suspension bridge. This award was established to recognize sons and daughters of Scandinavian members, as they pursued post-secondary education.

The SBC has made cash donations on many occasions to the Scandinavian Community Centre and remains a strong supporter of and participant in the annual Mid-Summer Festival at the Centre. The Club hosts its monthly meetings at the Centre as well and has done so for many years.

Some years back, the SBC became the Scandinavian Business Club, and women now make up around 15% of the overall Membership. This important change required an update to the SBC`s Constitution.

Our most important, annual event is the Christmas Dinner and Dance at the Centre. A Choir opens the festivities with Scandinavian carols and Glogg (of course). Music is provided by a live band and is accompanied by a lot of dancing.

Monthly dinners continue to be well attended, with interesting speakers and well prepared Scandinavian meals.

FYI

Our 60th celebration was very well attended, including four past presidents. Ms. Karin Larsen did a first class job as our M.C. We also enjoyed superb music from the legendary Dal Richards and his Band with a very lively dance floor. We are looking forward to celebrating our 70th next year and hope so see many of you in attendance.

The photo from our archives is from the Club`s 10th anniversary and it shows a very formal evening to say the least. The Scandinavian Business Club welcomes all of you to Vancouver and Burnaby and we sincerely hope that you will have a successful conference.

THE DANISH CANADIAN SOCIETY "DANIA"

Our objectives are to promote friendly social and cultural activities
Providing suitable meeting places for various cultural functions.
To keep in contact with Danish and Scandinavian Clubs in the
Edmonton area, Alberta, across Canada and in Denmark.

WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Heritage Director
Heritage Director
Commodities Director



Lisa Christensen
Elene Hartman
Kristina DeGagne
Lis Walker
Steven Woller
Nicolas Mickelsen
Eric Skoubol

Best Wishes
for a
Successful Conference



CVS Consulting

➤ Strategy and Communication

Carl V. Sorensen

#303, 10721 – Saskatchewan Drive NW
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 6J5
780 439-7883 (cell 780 901 4828)

sorensn1@telusplanet.net

Obituaries

Poul Berg Sundgaard

1942-2014

Pastor Kenneth Berg and Edith Wulff

Like his twin sister Else, Poul Berg Sundgaard was born January 30, 1942 in Herning in the Western part of Jutland. His parents, Mads and Emma Pedersen, owned a farm near Videbæk, twenty kilometres west of Herning. Poul was originally trained as a barber, but while he was still in his thirties he realized that he would like to be a minister in the Danish Church. He took his qualifying exams in Rønne near Århus, and then studied theology at the University of Århus.



Poul was ordained in Ribe cathedral in 1981. His first vocation was as a minister in Kvaglund on the outskirts of Esbjerg. There was a brand new church waiting for him, actually so new that it was not quite finished when he started. In 1986 he moved across the Atlantic to Grimsby, where he served as a minister for six years at the Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula. Edith Wulff, the current president of the Church Council, has written about his time in Canada:

Pastor Poul Berg Sundgaard came to Grimsby to serve as minister of our Danish congregation, after our previous minister, Rev. Olaf Poulsen, retired in 1986. Poul soon became family. Moreover, he brought new life and fresh energy to the congregation. He had many new ideas that he wanted to try, and had the ability to get the rest of us involved.

For instance, our little 27-year old electric organ was no longer a very uplifting or energizing part of our Sunday Church Service. So Poul suggested we search for a used pipe organ in Denmark. We would never have known such a thing existed, but through his connections in Denmark we learned about a decommissioned pipe organ from Vorgod Church near Ribe. It was for sale through the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs, and at a very favourable price. With a loan from DKU and the possibilities of grants from different Danish funds and foundations, the organ was purchased, dismantled, packed and shipped to Grimsby, where organ builder C.A. Bruhn and his son from Røde Kro rebuilt it. Thus on October 9, 1988, our congregation was able to enjoy the powerful music from the restored organ during the Sunday morning service. Today we would be sadly lost without it! Already in October 1988 we were able to host a group of DKU

OBITUARIES

members from Denmark, for whom we arranged a special music church service while they were here.

Poul did not stop there; already in March 1989 he arranged and led us through a very successful and exciting Danish Cultural Heritage Week. It was a chance for the congregation to show our neighbours what Danish culture is all about. It turned out so well that we repeated it in 1990 and in 1991, with the addition of artists from Denmark performing at the weekend concerts. The exhibition in 1991 included art work and pieces of handmade embroidery by Queen Margrethe II. It was part of a traveling exhibition on loan to us from Danes Worldwide and Håndarbejdet Fremme. It was very impressive and well received. Word got back to Denmark so that when the Queen visited Canada in 1992, Poul and several members of the congregation involved with the heritage event, were invited to the Queen's reception at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, where we had a chance to thank her Majesty for her generosity.



DKU Pastors in Toronto, Poul furthest right 2nd row

It goes without saying, Poul was primarily our minister and as such his first duty was to attend to our spiritual needs, and this he did very well. We loved his powerful voice when he led the singing of the hymns during Sunday services and other social events.

Poul, along with members of the congregation, had a chance for renewal and inspiration when attending the DKU conferences at other Danish churches, held every three years at different locations across Canada, and when interacting with ministers from neighbouring churches. The first conference he participated in was the one hosted by the congregations in Surrey and Vancouver in 1989. It was a wonderful

experience which was repeated in 1992, when we visited the congregation in Edmonton. They were very special events where ideas and issues were discussed and long term friendships created.

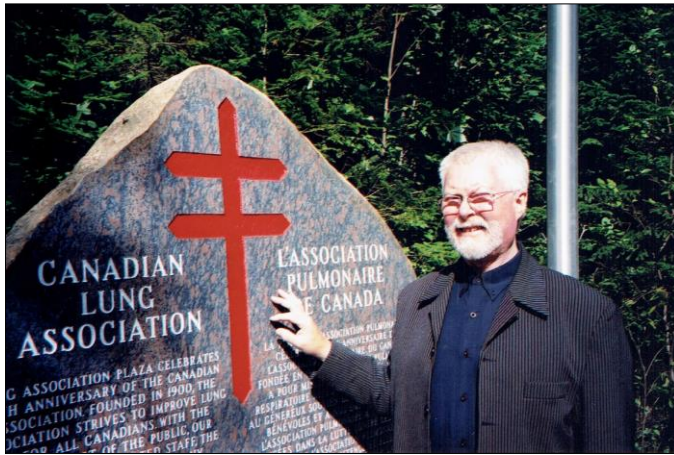
When Poul became our minister, our congregation joined the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada. In the summer of 1989 the Danish Federation arranged its first Danish Heritage Seminar. It was held at Geneva Park, the YMCA Conference Centre just outside Orillia. It was organized like Danish "Højskole" with lots of singing and interesting lectures and workshops. It was a great success and was repeated again in 1990, both years with Poul as one of the teachers. Poul worked closely with Pastor Emilie Esbjørn of Toronto and Martha Larsen of our congregation, who were the driving forces in getting the Heritage Seminar off the ground. It was a great start to a wonderful tradition that is still carried on in different locations every year to the great enjoyment of Danes from all over Canada. In 1998 Poul came back to Canada and was headmaster at the Danish Heritage Seminar held at Gimli, Manitoba.

In June 1991, Poul was invited to Cape Merry in Churchill, Manitoba, to represent the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark in a ceremony to unveil a commemorative plaque for

OBITUARIES

the Rev. Rasmus Jensen, the first Lutheran minister to conduct, in 1619, a Lutheran service on North American soil. Pastor Jensen died shortly thereafter, as did most of the others on Jens Munk's expedition to find the Northwest Passage.

Poul's own artistic creations can be found in our Church in Grimsby today. The outline of the cross behind the altar shows the aerial view of the foundation or footprint of one of the oldest village churches in Denmark, Gjellerup Church in Hammerum near Herning. That was the inspiration for Poul to draw the totally asymmetric cross. The baptismal piece represents the Roman style window from the same church. Both were crafted by Carl Nielsen, a member of the congregation; while the symbolic artwork was done by Poul. The cross has been made so the artwork can be changed to correspond with the changing seasons, and these four different pieces were made by church members. Our beautiful antependium and the carpet under the baptismal font were also designed by Poul, and embroidered by three women from the congregation.



Poul was a busy and engaged leader. His duties while here also included having monthly services for the Danish congregation in Waterloo; plus Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas services in Ottawa and Kingston. He arranged visits with billeting for several groups from Denmark such as the Danish Boys Choir, the Boy Scouts and more; even members of his new congregation in Als in Denmark came to visit. He kept the cultural bonds to Denmark strong, and he certainly left his mark on the Danes in Canada.

He returned to Denmark in 1992. His first position was on the small peninsula of Kegnæs, south of Als. He served there until he became pastor at Nørrevang parish in Slagelse on the island of Zealand in February 1995. In Denmark he sometimes gave lectures about Canada, and always described his years in Canada as among the happiest in his life. In Slagelse he was always willing to reach out to people who had personal problems or problems in dealing with the authorities. Many of these people were refugees from Third World countries.

Sunset Mindepark became possible in 1989 when Sunset Villa Association made one acre of its 54 acres available for an urn cemetery. Poul was very supportive of the idea of an urn cemetery and provided some of the preliminary hand-drawn sketches for the Memorial Wall. Sunset Mindepark was consecrated on Saturday, October 17, 1992, by Pastor Poul Berg Sundgaard, to create a place where Danish immigrants and their descendants can be laid to rest in beautiful park-like surroundings.

But that was not the end of Poul's involvement with the Mindepark. After he left Canada and returned to Denmark he thought that the Danish Memorial Park should have something really Danish. When he spotted a large rock in a gravel pit in Jutland, he had an artist shape it into a beautiful symbolic monument. With the help of Anders Fisker and others it was transported to Sunset Mindepark and on October 26, 1994, Poul came back to Canada to unveil the monument.

OBITUARIES

Present on this occasion was also The Very Rev. Poul Overgaard-Thomsen, Pastor Jens Bach Nielsen of Toronto, Pastor Martin Woller of Grimsby, as well as a crowd of nearly 150 people.

Ten years later, Poul was back in Canada. On Saturday, August 23, 2003, a four-tonne stone monument was unveiled in Saint John. The grand opening of the Canadian Lung Association Plaza in Rockwood Park took place at the entrance to the Clean Air Trail in Rockwood Park, a large park in Saint John, New Brunswick. The centre piece of the Canadian Lung Association Plaza is the four-tonne stone from Denmark, donated by the Danish Federation. The inscription is in English, French and Danish. The Mayor of Saint John, Lung Association members and the Danish Federation participated in the ceremony, including Pastor Poul Berg Sundgaard, who had found the four-tonne stone in Denmark. The monument also commemorates Einar Holbøll, the creator of the Christmas Seal.

Poul retired from the Nørrevang Church in Slagelse in 2007 when he turned 65. After his retirement, he moved back to Videbæk, in order to be close to his sister. Moreover, he had certain health issues which he had to deal with.

Poul could sing, play the guitar and entertain. He had many interests, one of which was travelling. He spent long periods of time in India, becoming a bit of an authority on Eastern Religions. He often said that coming to Canada was one of the greatest things to happen in his life. He built many friendships and saw much of the country before returning to Denmark. That he loved Canada could certainly be seen on the walls of his apartment: they were filled with paintings he had painted, often of landscapes he had seen or places where he had lived; paintings of Niagara Falls, the Rocky Mountains, the Hudson's Bay etc. The only things that might truly distract a visitor to his home, however, would be the tick-tock sound of dozens of clocks, big and small, including the numerous grandfather clocks that he had either built or restored.

Poul is fondly remembered by many of the Danes in Ontario. He was planning a visit to Canada when he died on February 4, 2014.

Pastor Oscar Filtenborg

1934 – 2014

Rolf Buschardt Christensen, with contributions from Kaj Nicolajsen and Kris Kristensen

Pastor Oscar Filtenborg, who was a DKU minister in Canada from 1963 to 1973, passed away in Vejen, Denmark, on November 4, 2014.

In October 1963, Pastor Oscar Filtenborg was sent to Canada by DKU (Dansk Kirke i Udlandet/ The Danish Church Abroad) to serve as an assistant pastor in Toronto. At that time there was a need for two pastors, due to the large number of Danish immigrants who had arrived in Canada in the 1950s. Pastor Filtenborg arrived in Toronto with his wife and young daughter. He worked with the Church's Youth Group and during the summer he led the Summer Camp at Sunset Villa. It was an exciting time to be at the Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto as the new church on Finch Avenue was being built. It was inaugurated on April 24, 1966, when Eric Thure was chairman of the Church Council.



In 1966 Ansgar Lutheran Church in Edmonton sent out a call for a pastor. The minister in Toronto, Pastor Poul Overgaard-Thomsen, who Oscar Filtenborg helped, recommended that Filtenborg put forward his name. Pastor Overgaard-Thomsen had himself earlier been the pastor at the DKU congregation in Edmonton. But Filtenborg had some conditions; he wanted a house with three bedrooms and no stairs, as they now had two children and a third child was on the way. Naturally, the congregation quickly found a suitable home for the Filtenborg family.

The Filtenborg family arrived in Edmonton at a church picnic on a bright summer day and was well received. With their experience from the Danish Canadian congregation in Toronto, Pastor Filtenborg and Hanne set out to serve Ansgar Lutheran Church, for them a new parish where he was alone for the first time.

Moving to Edmonton was also a challenge in that English was much more used in Edmonton than it had been in Toronto. Pastor Filtenborg met the challenges, and often went above the call of duty. He helped newcomers from Denmark to establish contacts as well as find jobs and accommodation. He was unselfish and worked hard. One day he was nowhere to be found, as he had checked himself into hospital for an emergency operation. He recovered and got back to what he liked best, to spread God's word from the pulpit. He could fill the sanctuary almost to capacity on ordinary Sundays; you had to scramble to find a seat!

He also held Sunday afternoon church services in Danish for Danes who lived in Camrose and Ponoka. As well, Filtenborg would sometimes travel around Alberta to visit elderly Danish immigrants living in remote areas. Yes, he got to know the Prairies and Rocky Mountains!

OBITUARIES

Hanne Filtenborg also took an interest in the congregation, but with more children she was near exhaustion and had health issues, part of the reason why they decided to return to Denmark by the end of his term. They stayed for seven years. By the time they left they had five children.

Oscar and Hanne made many friends in Edmonton. They came back several times to visit, and had members of the congregation visit them in Denmark. Christmas letters always came on time, with a personal message about God's love or with a copy of Pastor Filtenborg's newest hymn.

Pastor Filtenborg tendered his resignation in February 1973, effective in September. The family returned to Denmark, where he became a pastor at Andst near Vejen, a very small community in Southern Jutland. He served the congregation in Andst for 28 years, retiring in 2001.

He was born Oscar Arent Wilhelm Sicard Filtenborg in Fole, Southern Jutland, on June 14, 1934, as the son of Mikkel and Ruth Filtenborg. His mother, Ruth Linda von Sicard, had been born in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1896. Ruth married Mikkel Peter Vilhelm Søndergaard Filtenborg, a pastor, in 1926 in Berlin. They settled in Fole.

Oscar Filtenborg studied theology at the University of Copenhagen and obtained his degree in divinity in 1960. He married Johanne Holm, usually called Hanne, in 1961. Hanne was born and grew up on the island of Rømø in the North Sea, where her parents farmed.

From 1961, until he left for Canada in 1963, Filtenborg was an assistant pastor at Hellig Kors Church in the Nørrebro district of Copenhagen. This was a working class neighbourhood, the church being surrounded by four or five storey apartment blocks.

On his return to Denmark in 1973, Pastor Filtenborg chose a very small rural community in Southern Jutland, close to where he had grown up. Here he would often give lectures. His favourite topics were the Bible, his years in Canada, a Church Service on board the Swedish ship *MV Gripsholm* during a terrible storm, and "Min Mor", a lecture about his mother, who had belonged to the German minority in Russia, in today's Georgia. Pastor Filtenborg was also a poet and he has written more than 120 hymns and songs, as well as several stories.

"De 10 år i Canada blev den rigeste og oplevelsesrigeste tid af mit liv, ikke mindst fordi man virkelig blev brugt som præst. Så selvom der er gået så mange år siden dengang, står oplevelser og mødet med de mange spændende mennesker så levende i min erindring, som var det igår."

In 2011, Oscar and Johanne celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary, and could at that time count five children, fifteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The oldest daughter, Lisbeth Filtenborg, is also a pastor, so she is carrying on the family tradition.

Pastor Filtenborg was also active in Indre Mission (the Inner Mission revival movement) in both the local mission house as well as in the movement's council Indre Missions Samfundsråd. He was also involved with Kirkefondet, in addition to Det Danske Missionselskab, a society which supports and carries on missionary work outside Denmark. On occasion he had been invited to participate in the program *DR Kirken* on Danish TV. Later in life, Pastor Oscar Filtenborg would look back at his time in Canada and say that those ten years were the most exciting in his life. Ære være hans minde!

Pastor Holger Madsen

1930-2015

It was with both sadness and the joy of entering eternal life with the Lord, that the family of the Reverend Holger Madsen announced his death on March 11, 2015.



Holger will be greatly missed by his wife of 58 years, Helga; his three children and their respective spouses: Esther (Troy), Stephen (Catherine) and Jeffrey (Eloise) and ten grandchildren Ariadne, Danika, and Astrid Deibert; Hannah, Justin, Maud, Maura, and Fiona Madsen; and Cassidy and Lee Madsen. He also leaves behind his dear sister, Elisabeth, in Prince George, B.C., and many beloved nieces, nephews, family and friends throughout Canada and Denmark. He was predeceased by his father Johannes, his mother Emmy, his sister Esther, and his brother Bent.

Holger Nielsen Madsen was born in Edgewater, British Columbia on June 17, 1930. His parents Johannes and Emmy had emigrated from Denmark in the late 1920s to homestead in the mountains of British Columbia. Holger spent the first part of his life helping on the family farm and enjoying many adventures with his brother and sister and assorted cousins and friends. At the age of sixteen he was sent to complete his confirmation in New Westminster, and shortly afterward started working in the area and on the West Coast as a carpenter.

After leaving his thriving construction company to answer the Lord's call, Holger married in 1956 a prairie girl, Helga Bidstrup Bovbjerg from Dalum, Alberta. Together Holger and Helga would move a number of times as their family grew and Holger pursued higher education and ministerial training. Holger graduated from Dana College, Blair, Nebraska, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1964. His thesis was entitled "A History of the West Canada District of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in America". Later he obtained a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Holger also studied the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, and found much inspiration there.

Holger served at Christ Lutheran Church in Terrace, B.C., and at Olivet Lutheran Church in Sherwood Park, Alberta, before being called to Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church in Edmonton, where he served the congregation from 1973 to 1986. Unlike his predecessor, Pastor Oscar Filtenborg, Holger had not been trained in Denmark, but the DKU congregation in Edmonton wanted him. His foresight was to service the congregation in English, mostly in order for second generation Danes to integrate into Canadian society. A phenomenon he himself had overcome fully, and was willing to help out with.

Holger was, above all, a storyteller. He was an inspired and dedicated wordsmith, and relished writing his weekly homily. His stories resonated with all of his listeners, making the Gospel

OBITUARIES

tangible and real. He was a good listener, and always had time for members of his congregation. As well, conversations over coffee were always pastoral opportunities for him.

Pastor Madsen was dynamic and outgoing. He was instrumental in founding and establishing the Ansgar Villa Foundation, a senior citizen residence in Edmonton. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. Later, in 2004-2005, he was active in the founding of Glory Lutheran Church in Sherwood Park, Alberta. For a number of years he also wrote articles for the Danish Federation's Heritage Book.

While he was involved in the community, he also made time for his family and friends. He had a craft and woodworking business with Helga for several years, and hosted a yearly craft show at their acreage in Sherwood Park. He also provided his much-needed and respected insight and guidance to the Glory congregation during its inception and establishment. In perhaps one of his most favourite roles, "Morfar", "Farfar" and "Granddad", he always looked forward to spending time with his grandchildren and telling them about his adventures growing up in the mountains in the interior of British Columbia.

A celebration of Holger's life was held at Glory Lutheran Church, 53163 Highway 21, Sherwood Park, Alberta, on Saturday, March 21 at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made directly to: The Danish Canadian National Museum, Range Road 31, Dickson, Alberta, T0M 1V0. Website: www.danishcanadians.com. Phone: (403)728-0019.

The family would like to thank all the wonderful and caring staff in the Palliative Care Unit at Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital, as well as the staff with Home Care and Summerwood.

"Well done, good and faithful!" (Mt.25:23)

Yrsa Jorgensen Thure

May 5, 1924, Fyn, Denmark - March 5, 2013, Guelph, Ontario



Yrsa Margrethe Jorgensen Thure died peacefully at the Guelph General Hospital, on Tuesday, March 5, 2013. Yrsa, in her 89th year, was the beloved wife of the late Gunnar Jorgensen (1961), and the late Eric Thure (1970). She was the loving mother of Kathryn and her husband Raymond Wells of Rockwood. Yrsa was the proud Mormor of Terry Devellano (Melissa) of Hamilton. She is survived by her niece Inga of Toronto, and also by many nieces and nephews in Denmark. Private cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service for Yrsa was held at the Danish Lutheran Church 72 Finch Avenue West, Toronto, on Monday, March 11, 2013 at 11a.m. Her ashes were interred at York Cemetery, Toronto. Ære være hendes minde.

Fred Ejvind Jensen Pagh

1924 – 2014

Susanne Pagh Chaffe

Fred Ejvind Jensen Pagh was born on December 23, 1924, the youngest of nine children. He was born on the private Island of Taero near Vordingborg on Sjælland, Denmark. The Island was very small and they lived in a thatch roofed house while his father rowed to the mainland to be a postman. This was probably a poor household but rich in the experiences of roaming the coastlines and paddling on the water in boyhood. Today no one is living on this island though it is inhabited by Emor ponies that were introduced in the 1960s.



After completing school at the age of fourteen, Fred started work on a farm. Later on he followed in his father's footsteps and also became a postman. He enjoyed cycling around the countryside and cycling up to some of the grander homes. After the deaths of his parents, he was ready for adventure and decided to immigrate to Canada. He arrived in Quebec on the Greek Ship the *Columbia* on July 2, 1955. Fred first went to work on a Turkey farm in Brampton, Ontario. After finishing his obligation there he headed west to Vancouver. After a little time in Vancouver, he met Anne, another Dane who was in Vancouver, but was trying to make her way down to California. They were married on June 27, 1959 and they decided to make Vancouver their home.

They bought a tiny house in Richmond in 1960 for \$7500.00 and he renovated and raised that house with some of his closest friends help. After some time he traded up and renovated two more houses and continued to do small renos well into his 80's. In fact, he constructed a complete bathroom on the main floor of his house before Anne's hip surgery in 2009. He worked at various greenhouses and out at UBC. Fred always had a love for being outdoors and agriculture; this was evidenced in his final job working for the city of Richmond in the parks department and also in his beautiful flower and vegetable garden where he got the bulk of his

OBITUARIES

vegetables. For years he donated plants and vegetables and would also sell them at the Church Bazaar. The family was always active in the church.



Anette was born in 1960 and Susanne followed three years later. Fred was so proud of his little girls. He was a gentle father always ready to do anything for his family and friends.

He was always proud to be Danish and sacrificed to take his family back to Denmark on several occasions. There was a car trip every summer! As much as he loved Denmark, he reluctantly gave up his Danish citizenship to become a Canadian in 1981 because he knew that Canada was where he wanted his family to be. Anne and Fred enjoyed trips and cruises even travelling through the Panama Canal. A highlight

for Fred was travelling through the rainforest canopy in Costa Rica.



He proudly walked his daughters down the aisle in the Danish Church in Vancouver. Annette married Joe O'Brien and Susanne, Niel Chaffe. And then the grandchildren arrived, Kristy and Vicky to Joe and Annette, and Eric and Karin to Susanne and Niel. Sadly Annette passed away suddenly in 1990 before reaching her 30th birthday.... a terrible blow.



Even though Fred suffered a stroke in early 2008, he still enjoyed life and his flowers, and gave a wonderful welcome without the benefit of speech to the guests at His and Anne's 50th Anniversary. Life became more difficult when Anne died in 2010. That fall he moved in with Susanne and Niel and their family, where he continued to oversee the roses and garden, and enjoy dinner and evening TV with them and wonderful Bella the family dog who was such a great companion for him. Fred passed away on December 6, 2014 after a short illness.

This humble man had a good life until the end but was ready to join Anne in Heaven.

Niels Skaarup Andersen

Sept. 6, 1937 – Nov. 28, 2014

Ebba Grey and Johan Madsen

Niels passed away peacefully in Richmond, BC with his family by his side, after a courageous battle against adenocarcinoma.



Born in Denmark, Niels immigrated to Canada at the age of 23 and became a proud Canadian citizen in 1966. He was an active volunteer with a lifelong commitment to community involvement. He was a Big Brother and a Past President of the Vancouver Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Scandinavian Community Centre, Danish House Society, the Danish Brotherhood, and Scandinavian Businessmen's Club of BC, the Vancouver Chopin Society, and the Oakridge Seniors' Centre, Tivoli Singers among many others. He was also a Board member of the BC Humanist Association. He loved to travel the world and even became a travel agent to share his passion. His favourite destination was India, where he visited three times and made many friends. Niels was a larger than life individual who was a friend to everyone at the

Scandinavian Community Centre and he played a huge part in the early days of the Danish House serving as its President in 2000, 2001 and 2002.

In April 1999 Niels Andersen became the first member of the Danish House Society (DHS) to become President of the Scandinavian Community Centre. Niels initiated the Midsummer Festival raffle which included 2 SAS airline tickets to Scandinavia and other prizes donated by the Houses (Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland). The first raffle lottery raised \$19,000 in income which went towards paying the annual property taxes.

Niels had the most difficult year of any DHS nominated president of the Scandinavian Centre. On May 31, 1998 the DHS was unable to make its payment of \$120,000 to the other Houses, and defaulted on debt owing of \$420,000 from its purchase of a quarter- interest in the Scandinavian Community Centre (SCC). Niels drive and likeable personality helped the DHS maintain its dignity after the default. Without Niels support at the SCC Board over the next year this could well have been the end of the Danish House Society. Fortunately Niels was able to have DHS director Johan Madsen's "rent with purchase option" suggestion accepted by the other three Houses.

OBITUARIES

In March 2000 Niels became President of the DHS. Now the problem was to raise enough money to exercise the DHS purchase option before 2007. Niels agreed that expanded membership was likely the best way to raise these funds. With Niels full support membership was increased from 67 to 230 by March 2003, when his presidential term ended. These new members largely provided the funds required to exercise the DHS purchase option on the Scandinavian Centre by the end of 2003. Without Niels dynamic leadership, the DHS might just have been a blurb in history rather than the amazing success it is today.

Niels is survived by his devoted wife of 51 years, Vera, his daughter, Lena (Stuart), son Ken (Karen) and his five beloved grandchildren, Reid, Lia, Erin, Ian and Odin, who will miss Granddad very much. A celebration of Niels' life was held at the Scandinavian Community Centre in Burnaby, BC, on Monday, Dec. 8th and was attended by members of the Danish Brotherhood who carried in flags. Although Niels was not connected to the church, his friend Pastor Birgitte Saltorp, minister of the Danish Church, led the ceremony. As Niels was a long time member of the Tivoli Singers, conductor Janet Mowatt played Niels' favourite Chopin music in his honour. The large hall at the Scandinavian Centre was filled to over capacity with close to 300 people in attendance.

Kirsten Friesen

1919 – 2014

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Ottawa Club member Kirsten Friesen passed away peacefully on October 3, 2014 at the age of 95. Kirsten was born Kirsten Alice Hooe Larsen on a farm near Ulstrup on the Røsnæs peninsula, the most westerly point on the island of Zealand, on March 14, 1919.



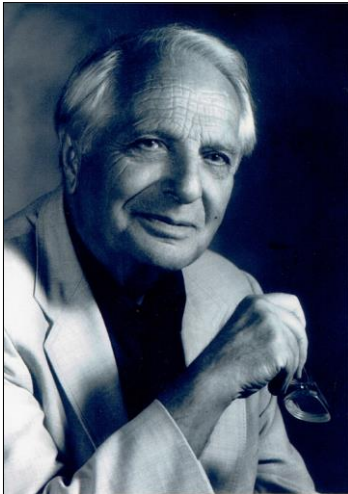
She attended school in Kalundborg. In 1946 she went to Germany to work as a translator for the British government. In Germany she met John Friesen, who had served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the war. In April 1948, Kirsten sailed to Canada on the *MV Batory*. After Kirsten and John were married, they settled in Ottawa. They were married for 56 years. John died in 2004. Kirsten is the mother of Elizabeth Metz (married to William) and grandmother of Victoria and Alexander. Kirsten is sister of the late Johanne Magrethe Klausen (the late Gunnar Klausen), the late Gunhild Pedersen (the late Arne Pedersen), the late Knud Larsen (Letty), the late Jonna Holck (Henning), the late Emmy Stenkjær (Emmanuel) and Lis Sørensen (Gunnar). Her lively intelligence, artistic sensibility, loyalty and devotion will be greatly missed by family and friends in both Canada and Denmark. Ære være hendes minde.

Edgar Ziegler

1920-2015

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Edgar Ziegler passed away at the Alta Vista Retirement Community in Ottawa on January 20, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Elise, and their five children, Anette, Marianne, Ulla, Mark and Tina, as well as their families, including nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



After he obtained his degree from the University of Copenhagen, he was not able to get a job in the Danish civil service, as he did not have Danish citizenship. So in 1956 he and his family immigrated to Canada, where at first he worked as an economist for a large chemical company in Montreal. In 1960 the family moved to Ottawa where he was hired as an economist at the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Then in 1967 he moved to the new Department of Immigration and Manpower. Edgar dealt with immigration matters in different capacities for the rest of his career, in many cases working closely with the Minister of Immigration at the time.

In 1975 he was a founding member of The Danish Club of Ottawa. In fact, Edgar and his wife, Elise, were on the Steering Committee which established the Club. In 1976-77 Edgar served on the Constitution Committee which drew up the Bylaws of The Danish Club of Ottawa.

Edgar Ziegler was born in Müglitz, Czechoslovakia, on July 14, 1920, as the son of Erwin and Louise Ziegler. Müglitz was a German-speaking town. After the Second World War, it was cleansed of its German-speaking population. It became a ghost town, until the Czechs moved in. It is now Mohelnice in the Czech Republic. For centuries it was part of the Habsburg Empire.

In 1939 Edgar lived in Bratislava, Slovakia, which had become a vassal state of Nazi Germany. In April 1939 Edgar was selected by the Zionist Youth Organization for agricultural training in Denmark, before settling in Israel. With the German occupation of Denmark in April 1940, Edgar had few options but to stay in Denmark. In August 1943, there were rumours about a Nazi round-up of Jews. Elise Jensen had helped others escape to Sweden and in August the two of them escaped together to Sweden. In 1944 they were married in Sweden. They returned to Denmark after the war. A biography of Edgar can be found in the 2008 Heritage Book.

In their home they mostly spoke Danish, and the children called Edgar “Far” (Dad in Danish). Edgar seldom spoke about his childhood. His oldest daughter Anette has said, “It was as if Far’s life started in Denmark”. Edgar was also a proud Canadian, serving Canada with distinction. He was a gentleman and a solid citizen, as well as a linguist and scholar. Ære være hans minde!

Henny Berg Nielsen

1924 – 2015

Henny Berg Nielsen passed away in her 91st year at St. Peter's Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario, on March 18, 2015.

Henny Berg Nielsen was born Henny Edel Pedersen in Dronninglund, Northern Jutland, on August 12, 1924. She was twenty years old when she married Carl Aage Berg Nielsen on September 17, 1944, during the war. Their daughter, Gyrithe, was born on February 11, 1945. With their daughter, Carl Aage and Henny immigrated to Canada in 1957, sailing from Copenhagen on March 23, on board the *MS Stockholm*, and landing in Halifax. They settled in the Hamilton area.



Henny owned and managed, for over 40 years, her store “Coiffure de Paris” on King Street West in Dundas. At one point her very successful business had five operators. Carl Aage and Henny had the building renovated and it received Heritage designation. In the 1990s Henny changed the front of her beauty salon into an attractive gift shop with upper-scale items from Georg Jensen and Royal Copenhagen. She retired in 2000.

She was a most kind, generous and hospitable person. She had a great sense of humour. In her beautiful home she could cook, set an elegant table, arrange flowers, converse and entertain, while playing classical music in the background. It was a joy to visit her.

Henny leaves Gyrithe and her husband Jim Harrison; Cherished Mormor (grandmother) of Jennifer (Rick) and James (Jacqueline); much loved Mormor (great-grandmother) of Richard, Meghan and Hayden. Henny was predeceased by her husband, Carl Aage, who died in July 1991 after a lengthy illness. Henny spent the last eight months of her life at St. Peter's Hospital in Hamilton. Her 90th birthday was celebrated at an Open House at St. Peter's on August 12, 2014.

Henny was very active and she was involved in many organizations throughout her extraordinary and remarkable long life. Henny was president of the church council of the Danish Lutheran Church of the Niagara Peninsula in Grimsby for ten years, from 1996 to 2005. She would keep in contact with the various pastors who served the congregation, usually by e-mail, or by visiting them. She and a friend even went to India with a former pastor from her congregation. She was a member of the Dundas Downtown Business Association. She was a long-time member of the Garden Club of Dundas, and served as president for two years. Henny served as director of the Ontario Region of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada for eleven years, from 1994 to 2002 and then again for two years in 2008 and 2009. She attended Danish Federation conferences across Canada and she participated in many of the Danish Heritage Seminars also held in various locations across Canada. An article about Henny, written by her friend Martha Larsen, appeared in the 1998 Heritage Book. [Compiled by Rolf Buschardt Christensen]

Erik Spicer 1926 - 2014

Rolf Buschardt Christensen

Erik Spicer could trace his Danish roots back to Georg Gundersen, one of the first Danes to settle in Ottawa. George Gundersen was from Horsens and came to Ottawa in 1886. Gundersen was a baker, and for many years he worked for a baker on Rideau Street. Then in about 1920, Gundersen started his own bakery on Pinhey Street. Georg Gundersen and Anna Margrethe, née Nielsen, had eight children. One of them was Violet, Erik's mother.

Erik Spicer was born in Ottawa on April 9, 1926, and passed away in Ottawa on September 27, 2014. Erik is son of the late Violet Manhart and Clifford Spicer. Among many others, Erik is survived by Helen, his beloved wife of 61 years, as well as his daughter Erika and son John. Erik was proud of his Danish heritage. His Danish family included his mother, his aunt Anna and their siblings, and the cousins with whom he grew up. He called his grandmother Bedste.



Erik Spicer was a graduate of Lisgar Collegiate, and obtained degrees at both the University of Toronto and the University of Michigan. Erik began his career as a librarian at the public libraries of Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa, and the university libraries of Victoria and Michigan before becoming Assistant Librarian and Deputy Librarian at the Library of the City of Ottawa, continuing there until his appointment as Parliamentary Librarian of Canada by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker in 1960, the first professionally trained librarian to hold the position. Erik remained Parliamentary Librarian until his retirement in 1994, at which time he was honoured, in recognition for his long and distinguished service, by being named Parliamentary Librarian Emeritus and Honorary Officer of both Houses by resolution of the Senate and the House of Commons. He had the distinction of being Canada's longest continually serving Parliamentary official with the rank of Deputy Minister, serving under eight Prime Ministers and reporting to twelve Speakers of the Senate and ten Speakers of the House of Commons.

Erik received numerous honours, including appointment as a Member of the Order of Canada (1994). He was a life member of the Canadian Library Association (President 1979-80) and Ontario Library Association (President 1962-63). Erik was member of the Governor General's Foot Guards in Ottawa, retiring in 1962 with the rank of Major. He was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration for this and his wartime service with the Royal Canadian Air Force and with the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps.

While Erik worked to introduce computer technology at the library, he was not personally adept with electronic devices. However, he kept well-occupied with bookstore browsing and wrangling an ever-growing collection of books, periodicals and clippings, (for which he was endlessly inventive in finding places to store), in the pursuit of his intense interest in military history and politics. Erik was an enthusiastic cottager, gardener, skier, and a fan of all things chocolate.

Kurt Tage Olsen 1932 – 2014

Soren Sondergaard

Kurt Olsen passed away peacefully at Peterborough Regional Health Centre, on Sunday, November 2, 2014 in his 83 year. He was the beloved husband of Anna Birgit Olsen (née Mikkelsen) and the late Grethe Olsen (née Madsen). He is the loving father of Erik Olsen of Toronto and Kenneth Olsen (Joanna) of Ottawa. He is the proud grandfather of Isabelle and dear brother of Jytte Thomsen of Denmark.

As a long time friend of Kurt it is with a sad heart that I extend, together with my wife, Lis, and our children, the most sincere condolences to Anna Birgit, Erik, Kenneth, Joanna and Isabelle for their loss.

Kurt was born in the town of Haslev, half way between Køge and Næstved on the island of Zealand, on May 22, 1932. His father worked with the area hydro system, his mother, Kathrine, a kind and very capable housewife, made do with very little, as times were hard during the Great Depression.

Kurt went to work after school at the age of 9 and brought his earnings home to help sustain the family. He attended high school and apprenticed as an electrician in Haslev until drafted for service in the Danish Air Force Search and Rescue wing, where with the rank of Sergeant, he served in Greenland at the end of his term.

After his honourable discharge Kurt studied electrical engineering and obtained his certificate as engineer. Then in 1962 he immigrated to Canada, and found work in Toronto with an electrical consulting firm which provided designs for the lighting of highway cloverleaves all over Ontario.

As many young Danes immigrating to Toronto, he joined the Young Peoples' Club at the Danish Lutheran Church, then at College and Bathurst, where he meet Grethe Madsen, the daughter of Danish immigrants. They were married in 1964. They had two sons, Erik and Kenneth. The family lived in Ajax until Kurt went to work for an engineering consulting firm in Peterborough, where after the family moved to Roper Drive in Peterborough in 1982.

Unfortunately, in February 1997 Grethe was killed in a winter time auto accident. Late that summer Kurt went to Denmark to visit his mother. At the same time he attended a course at a Danish Folk High School, there he meet Anna Birgit, who like him had recently lost her husband. They became friends and later they married in December 1998. Anna Birgit



OBITUARIES

immigrated to Canada and together they established their beautiful home in the Ravenwood enclave. Kurt and Anna Birgit loved to travel in Canada and abroad, and went on many memorable trips together. Their travels included going on many interesting ocean sea cruises around the world.

Kurt also enjoyed attending Northminster United Church in Peterborough, and participating in its many activities. Kurt and Anna Birgit also found time to visit the Golden Age Club at The Danish Lutheran Church in Toronto, where they had many friends.

A great pride and joy for Kurt was the birth of his beautiful granddaughter Isabelle in Ottawa, daughter of Kenneth and Joanna, making him a grandfather.

Kurt was a member of the Kawartha Nordic Ski Club at Apsley for many years. I had the pleasure to participate with Kurt in a couple of the very large ski races held back in the 70s, when up to 900 people participated. Kurt was very fond of the club and spent many hours together with other members and good friends to maintain and keep the trails in good order.

As electrical engineer, his work was carried out with detail and accuracy. Many of the projects he was involved with are still serving drivers in the Province of Ontario.

Kurt had a keen interest in world history; particularly biographies of families or exceptional individuals, as well as stories from the two world wars. He loved to ferret out a story of heroism or discovering little-known details. And not least, he had a life-long interest in the versatile Catalina amphibious aircraft, a maritime patrol and search-and-rescue seaplane, in which he flew when he was stationed in Greenland.

He was also a member and supporter of the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada and the Danish Canadian National Museum in Dickson, Alberta. Over the years he attended many of the annual meetings of these organizations, held in different cities across Canada. As well, he participated in many Heritage Seminars and regional Ontario meetings.

In sum, Kurt was a young man who emigrated from Denmark to Canada, found it a beautiful country, settled, raised two fine sons, did important engineering work for the public good, participated in the community and made Canada proud.

I will conclude by saying we are going to miss a Great Canadian and a Great Dane! I am certain the Lord will greet him saying, "Job Well Done. Come home and Rest".

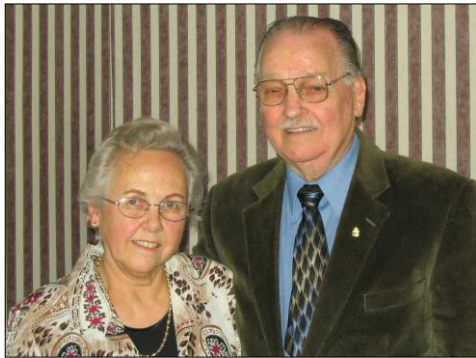
PS: It was on a cruise in 2012 with Holland America Line's *MS Veendam* out of Buenos Aires that Kurt and Anna Birgit met Jan Clausen from Denmark, who for nearly a life-time had been searching for his biological father in Canada. It was due to their meeting on this cruise that the last piece of the puzzle would eventually fall into place for Jan Clausen in his search for his biological father. The usually modest Kurt was rather proud of the fact that he had helped Jan discover who his biological father was, due to this chance meeting and an article about the Sorensen family in the 2012 Heritage Book, published by the Federation of Danish Associations in Canada.

Aage Gade Jensen

1926 – 2015

Jørgen Birk Andersen, 170226 November 1953

It is with sadness that the Eastern Canada Royal Danish Guards' Association said goodbye to Aage Gade Jensen. Aage was one of our seven founding members who helped found ØKG/ECG in 1958. His Army number was 265/2. Komp. 1947-II.



Aage Gade Jensen, the beloved husband of Inge for 53 years, was born at Frederiksberg on December 24, 1926. He passed away in Grimsby on January 11, 2015.

Aage came to Canada in 1957 as a full-fledged auto mechanic. He had learned his trade in Copenhagen. His first job in Canada was at Sheridan Nursery in Oakville, but not in his field. However, it did not take him long to find a job in his trade.

Aage was a member of the local YMCA in Oakville and went on frequent camping trips; that is, until March 18, 1961, when he married Inge Sørensen and started a family. They have one daughter and two sons, and now nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. One of Aage's hobbies was refereeing minor soccer games in the Golden Horseshoe.

In his later working years Aage was hired by the Shell Oakville Refinery in Bronte, where he worked for many years as a machinist and millwright. In his semi-retirement Aage took on the responsibility of being the superintendent for an apartment complex in Burlington. Aage and Inge retired to Stony Creek where they had an apartment.

In later years Aage was diagnosed with symptoms of the dreaded Alzheimer's disease which he eventually died from.

Aage was a long-time member of the Danish Lutheran Church in Grimsby. A memorial service was held in Grimsby on February 14, 2015 at 2 p.m. Ære være hans minde!

Tove Bording 1935 – 2014

Mike Molloy

About six months before she passed away, Tove Bording wrote, “I was born on September 28, 1935, in Standard, Alberta; a Danish colony. Danish was the first language for many of us.

I attended the University of Alberta, Edmonton, where I received my B.A. and later my LL.B. After articling and bar admission, I moved to Toronto where I wrote the civil service exams. I started work in the overseas service of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in 1965 and retired in 1995 after 30 years of service. Postings included Copenhagen, Port of Spain, Singapore, Bonn, Seattle and Los Angeles. I retired to Victoria, B.C. where I have lived ever since.”



Tove Bording passed away in Victoria on September 28, 2014. Mike Molloy, the President of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society, wrote in the October 2014 Bulletin of the CIHS, “I never served with Tove and only got to know her through lunches, every year or so, with the immigration retirees in Victoria and during a long talk when I visited her in hospital last year. However, as our upcoming book on the Indochinese refugee movement will show, she was a tough and determined woman who made an impact on our perceptions of the Indochinese refugees at a time when Canada was doing very little.

It was Tove who first used the term “boat people”, in a report in which she had to distinguish them from the “land people” (mainly refugees from Laos and Cambodia) who came over land and over the Mekong River to Thailand. Her second contribution was the fact that, whenever she went to a refugee camp, she took photographs and attached them to her trip reports. Those photos were the first images we at HQ saw of the camps in Malaysia and Thailand, and they were always rushed up the chain of command to the minister. Her reporting itself was amazingly descriptive.

Her reports also told us a great deal about Tove herself. In one case, she reported arriving at a camp that seemed to be close to the mainland but was cut off by a shallow body of water. She described her revulsion at the state of the water but said there was nothing for it but to roll up her pant legs, put her shoes and her briefcase on her head and wade through the muck to the island so that she could get on with her interviews—a stalwart colleague indeed!”

Tove Bording wrote about her posting to Copenhagen and about the immigrant ship *MV Batory* in the 2014 Heritage Book.

Aase Jensen

August 12, 1931 - December 28, 2014

Aase Jensen was born in 1931 in Kirke Stillinge, Denmark to Richard and Ida Bjerrestrand, the second of four daughters, and grew up in Gørlev. After finishing school, Aase worked as a maid and then as a telephone operator in Copenhagen. At age 18, she met Kaj Jensen at a dance; they married in 1951 and immigrated to Toronto. Five years and two daughters later, they bought a VW van and headed west to British Columbia. They found a piece of forest overlooking the Coquitlam River and built a house there with their own hands, creating the best possible childhood for their girls.



In 1967, the Jensens bought a house in West Vancouver. Aase worked at Kaj's side in the family business and through many DIY renovations. She served with the Ladies Auxiliary to the Dania Home for 29 years. She also enjoyed her bridge clubs and needlework groups, and she baked wonderful bread and buns. Over the years Aase made numerous trips to Denmark and hosted visits from many Danish relatives.

Aase was healthy and fit most of her life. She went to yoga and other exercise classes and loved walking on the Ambleside Seawall. In her later years, she beat breast cancer and other ailments while caring for Kaj at home. It was a massive stroke that took her from us so unexpectedly.

Aase is predeceased by her younger sisters Lydia and Hanne and is survived by her older sister Elly. She will be deeply missed by her husband Kaj; their daughters Ann McPherson (John) and Janet Marshall (Peter), grandchildren Dan McPherson (Lindsay), Julia Green (Zane), Tara Bertrand (Josh), Ian McPherson (Kristen) and Ryan Marshall; great-grandchildren Oskar, Sadie, Ivan, Ramona, Matilda, Atticus and Ruben; and many other relatives and friends.

In accordance with Aase's wishes, no funeral was held. Those wishing to make a donation in Aase's memory might consider the Heart & Stroke Foundation, the Canadian Cancer Society or the Dania Home Residents Foundation. Condolences can be given at the family's online obituary at <http://www.myalternatives.ca/aldergrove/obituaries/2014-jensen-aase>

Harry Evald Vestergaard

1935 – 2014

Ebba Grey

Harry Evald Vestergaard was born on January 4, 1935 in the small town of Lydum, Denmark, population 330 and died on June 15, 2014 in Surrey, British Columbia.

Harry left the small farm and school in Lydum and began an apprenticeship as a shipwright (finishing carpenter) and plied his trade in Denmark for several years which was followed by a colourful life as a merchant sailor for 12 years. He visited many interesting and exotic places in the world and managed to learn to speak 5 languages along the way.



Harry's brother Vagn recalls a story from their childhood, and says that, "when we were 9-10 years old we were given the task of feeding and milking the cows. Grandma was looking after little brother Lauge. Harry and I walked to the neighboring farm for a visit. The hired hand, whom we knew, gave us a big cigar. We cut it in half and starting smoking it. We got very sick and barely made it home. Our parents came home late from a family visit and had to feed and milk the cows very late in the evening. We were not very popular that evening."

Harry immigrated to Canada in the late 60's where he met the love of his life, his soul mate and wife to be, Carolann, at a dance in Burnaby, B.C. A quick proposal of marriage followed two weeks later, and they were married 7 months later when his parents came for the wedding. Harry and Carolann spent 39 wonderful years together, with daughters Michele and Renee and their spouses and children. Family meant everything to Harry.

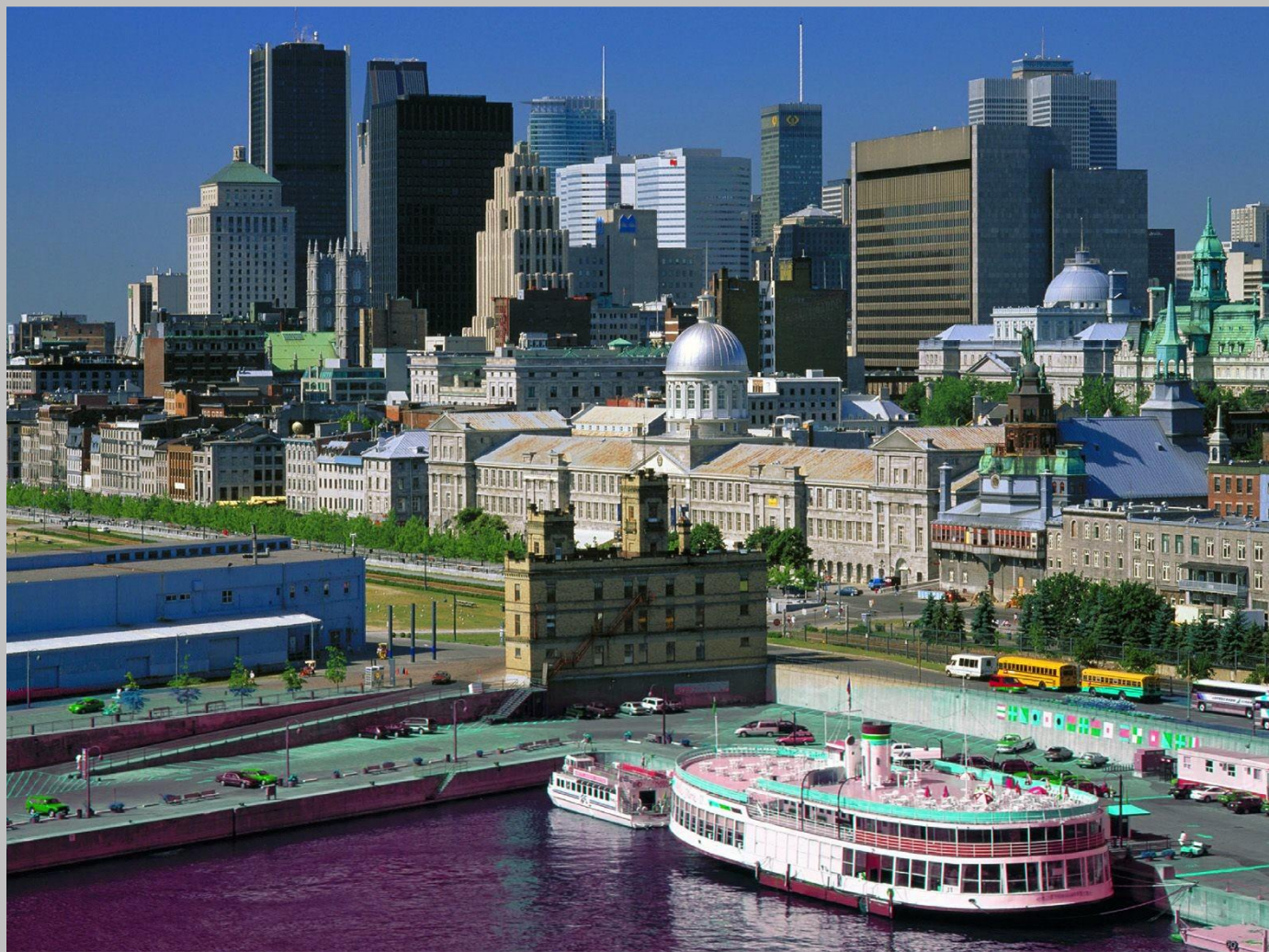
For years, Harry coached many soccer teams in Langley. He was a talented soccer player, a tough, even-tempered player, but solid as a rock if you ran into him.

Harry was 64 years old when disaster struck in 1999. He suffered an aneurism and was unconscious for almost a month. His daughter Renee said that the doctors were ready to let him go. But then, suddenly, one day Harry opened his eyes. The long slow rehabilitation began at G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre in Vancouver.

Harry was a happy, positive person. He always had a big smile for everyone and was ready to help those who needed it. He is missed by many.

Harry was predeceased by his brother Lauge and grandson Conor. Left to mourn are his loving wife Carolann, daughters Michele (Tim) and Renee (Clayton) and 6 grandchildren, also brother Vagn (Bente) and nieces and nephews in Denmark.

DANISH FEDERATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016
HOSTED BY THE DANISH CLUB OF MONTREAL



MAY 26 - 29
2016

DANISHCLUBMONTREAL.COM

We look forward to seeing you in marvellous Montreal, a vibrant city, rich in history and culture.

Kren Clausen, President
Danish Club of Montreal



Advertisers Index

Allegra	206
Ansgar Danish Lutheran Church, Edmonton	195
Björg and Svend Berg	111
Canadian International Organ Competition	165
Can-Dan Rehatec Ltd.....	33
Canfornav	165
Carl Sorensen	206
Christmas Doctor	33, 166
Cima-Pak	164
Clover Towing	55
Coloplast.....	51
Dan's Welding & Fabricating	89
Dania Campus of Care	104
Dania Down.....	195
Danish Brotherhood, Lodge 328.....	105
Danish Canadian Community Center, BC	153
Danish Canadian Society 'Dania', Edmonton	206
Danish Canadian Society, Montreal.....	176
Danish Church of the Niagara Peninsula, Grimsby.....	165
Danish Club, Montreal.....	192
Danish Club of Ottawa.....	176
Danish House Society, Kroaften	74
Danish Lutheran Church, Burnaby, BC	153
Danish Lutheran Church, Granly.....	153
Danish Lutheran Church, Toronto.....	176
Danish Pastry House	34
Danish Place, Sunset Villa Restaurant	96
Danish Sisterhood Lodge 179, Vancouver	33
DCNMS Dickson, Alberta	27
Duc de Lorraine	154
Dutch Greenhouses	50
Europcar	80
Frontenac Auto Body Service	154

Advertisers Index

Golden Rooster	154
Jens Lehman	165
Konrad Hansen, Masonry.....	112
Little Denmark Flower Shop	50
Mermaid Inn, Calgary Club.....	56
Net Electric.	187
Niagara Pattern Ltd.	165
Nordicao	165
Novo Nordisk	Back Cover
Ole Larsen.....	111
Ontario Region.....	80
Pacific Region.....	105
Pedersen Fence	165
Planterra	50
Roxul Insulation	85
Royal Danish Guards	112
ScanDesigns	133
Sunset Villa Association	96
Sunset Villa Mindepark	96
TORP INCORPORATED.....	97
UPMACS Communications Inc.	164
Vancouver Island Danish Canadian Club.....	55
Viking Mechanical.....	154



Index

Symbols

no entries

A

Aagesen, John W., 113, 115
Abrahamsen, Ambassador
 Niels Boel, 25, 28, 30, 38
Abrahamsen, Eva, 30
Alexander, Nolan, 170, 174-175
Alexander, Sandra, 170, 175
Andersen, Bendix, 49, 190
Andersen, Bernice, 90
Andersen, Emilie, 160
Andersen, Erik, 61
Andersen, Fred, 90-91
Andersen, Gert M. 22, 25, 29, 31,
 38, 39
Andersen, Henny, 22, 49
Andersen, Herb, 131
Andersen, Jørgen Birk, 224
Andersen, Karen, 90-93, 160, 218
Andersen, Ken, 218
Andersen, Kristian, 160
Andersen, Niels, 57, 64-67, 69, 72,
 171, 217-218
Andersen, Vera, 67, 218
Andersen, Viggo, 90-94

B

Baines, Thyra, 86
Bakgaard, Birgit, 54-55
Basbol, Liselotte, 41
Balslev-Clausen, Peter, 153
Beall, Elin, 58-69
Beall, Ron, 64
Bech-Hansen, Heather, 167-168
Beck, Pastor Vilhelm, 117
Bengtsson, Jonas, 36
Bentsen, Pastor N., 91
Berdichevsky, Norman, 196
Berg, Pastor Charlotte, 41, 43
Berg, Pastor Kenneth, 36, 39
Berg, Mette, 36
Berg, Svend, 22

INDEX

Bergum, Brenda (Skanderup),
 120, 132
Berrialsen, Ted, 128
Bermingham, Bill, 142-143
Bermingham, Patrick, 143
Berntsen, Larry, 170
Berntsen, Natasha, 170
Bertrand, Josh, 226
Bertrand, Tara, 226
Bissett, Joe, 29, 33
Bjerrestrand, Ida, 226
Bjerrestrand, Richard, 226
Bonfils, Christian, 178
Boone, Daniel, 142
Bording, Tove, 225
Borge, Victor, 66
Botel, Ruth, 106-108
Bovbjerg, Helga Bidstrup, 213
Branstad, Iowa Governor Terry, 49
Bruhn, C.A, 207
Buchmann, Dave, 172-173, 175
Bugge, Aage, 153
Bugge, Ilse, 163-164
Bugge, Knud Eyvin, 149, 163
Bundrock, Ayrton, 167-168, 174
Buschbaum, Sarah, 167-168

C

Campbell, Mona, 144
Carlile, Janet, 52
Chaffe, Eric, 216
Chaffe, Karen, 174
Chaffe, Karin, 216
Chaffe, Niel, 216
Chaffe, Susanne (Pagh), 215-216
Chester, Margaret, 22
Chester, Stan, 172, 174-175
Christensen, Aase, 22, 25, 29, 52, 145
Christensen, Andrew, 113, 115, 131
Christensen, Arne, 137
Christensen, Carl Brink, 108
Christensen, Pastor Christian, 122
Christensen, Doug, 174
Christensen, Edvard Mikael, 134-141
Christensen, Edward, 144-145
Christensen, Grete, 143, 145
Christensen, Hanne, 54
Christensen, Jarl, 70
Christensen, Jens, 52, 134-135,
 137, 145
Christensen, Karl, 135, 137, 139,
 143, 145
Christensen, Kjeld, 46, 75
Christensen, Lauren, 167-168
Christensen, Margaret, 134-141
Christensen, Michael, 140
Christensen, Mikael, 145

Christensen, Niels, 135, 138, 145
Christensen, Pastor M, 41
Christensen, Pia, 58-59, 61, 203
Christensen, Poul B., 162
Christensen, Rolf Buschardt, 22, 25,
 28-29, 52, 90, 146, 155-156, 177,
 211, 218-221
Christensen, Sally, 140, 145
Christensen, Tove, 145
Christensen, Vita, 25, 28, 32, 36
Christiansen, David, 113-115
Christophersen, Bente, 64-65
Clark, Else, 142, 145
Clark, Henry, 142
Clarke, Robert, 70
Clarke, Tove, 61, 70
Clausen, Jan, 223
Colbens, Ben Oliver, 129-130
Colbens, Clark, 129
Colbens, Edith, 129
Colbens, Keith, 129
Colbens, Lloyd, 129-130
Colbens, Lois, 129
Colbens, Mark, 129
Corcoran, Carl, 145
Cramer, Bernie, 59-62
Cramer, Ruth, 60
Creskey, Jim, 29, 33

D

Dalberg, Bente, 40
Deibert, Ariadne, 213
Deibert, Astrid, 213
Deibert, Danika, 213
Deibert, Esther, 213
Deibert, Troy, 213
Devellano, Terry, 214
Devellano, Melissa, 214
Diefenbaker, Prime Minister
 John, 221
Disney, Walt, 142

E

Eames, Charles, 199
Eason, Prof. John, 191
Edlund, Thomas, 72
Edwards, Sheryl Diane, 158
Elder, Alan C., 164
Elliott, Cherise, 83
Elliott, Paul, 83
Elmer, Ole, 67-68
Esbjørn, Pastor Emilie, 208
Eskesen, Darlene, 127
Eskesen, David, 127
Eskesen, Lyle, 127
Eskesen, Niels Christian, 127-128

INDEX

Eskesen, Sharon, 127
 Eskesen, Shirley, 127-128
 Ewald, Bent, 60, 157-159

F

Fiedler, Dr. Erik Sponon, 106-108
 Fiedler, Erik Sponon, 106
 Fiedler, Grete, 111
 Fiedler, Dr. Otto, 107
 Fiedler, Svend Gunnarsen, 109-110
 Fiedler, Thora, 111
 Fiell, Charlotte, 198
 Fiell, Peter, 198
 Filtenborg, Hanne, 212
 Filtenborg, Pastor Lisbeth, 212
 Filtenborg, Mikkel Peter Vilhelm, 212
 Filtenborg, Pastor Oscar, 211-213
 Filtenborg, Ruth, 212
 Fisker, Anders, 209
 Flauer, Dorthe, 82
 Franck, Pastor Claus, 47
 Franck, Merete, 47
 Friesen, Kirsten, 218
 Friesen, John, 218

G

Garrett, Mary Elizabeth, 155
 Gausman, Connie, 132
 Gerslund, Svend, 57-61
 Gjørup, Margrethe, 149-152
 Glud, Pastor Kai, 65
 Godfredsen, Emma, 22
 Goudi, Anita, 62
 Gould, Professor Robert, 52-53
 Green, Julia, 226
 Green, Zane, 226
 Gregerson, Alf, 54
 Gregerson, Lili, 54
 Grevlund, Erik, 157-158
 Grey, Ebba, 25, 98, 173, 217, 227
 Grundtvig, Pastor N.F.S., 122, 153
 Gundersen, Anna Margrethe, 221
 Gundersen, George, 221

H

Haakinson, Agnethe, 127
 Hale, Hannah, 167-169, 174
 Hånsbæk, Per, 201
 Hansen, Folmer, 163-164
 Hansen, John, 123
 Hansen, Lois, 115
 Hansen, Maren, 76
 Hansen, Martin, 163

Hansson, Heinrich, 60, 70-71, 73,
 171, 174-175
 Hansson, Margit, 66-67, 69-71, 73,
 171
 Harboe, Olavia Glizenkrone, 107
 Harrison, Gyrithe Berg, 220
 Harrison, Jim, 220
 Hart, Joyce, 88
 Haultain, Professor Herbert, 188
 Heilbuth, Steen, 61-62
 Helms, Anita, 102-104
 Helms, Edvard, 98-99
 Helms, Henry, 100
 Helms, Jacob, 98
 Helms, Juliette, 102-104
 Helms, Kristiane, 98-99
 Helms, Niels Jørgen, 98
 Helms, Paul Nicolas, 102-104
 Helms, Peggy, 101-104
 Helms, Robert, 98-104
 Henderson, Christine, 167, 169
 Hendricksen, Chris, 115
 Hendricksen, Elaine, 118
 Hendricksen, Evelyn, 116
 Hendricksen, Gladys, 118
 Henricksen, Harry, 118
 Hendricksen, Kathy, 118
 Hendricksen, Leslie Dean, 118
 Hendricksen, Peter, 115
 Henningsen, Poul, 156
 Henrik, Prince, 77
 Hermans, Annemari, 65
 Hindbo, Hans, 91
 Hitchcock, Glenna, 22
 Hjorth, Harry, 125
 Hoff, Manfred, 47
 Hoffmeyer, Asta, 179
 Hoffmeyer, Julius, 179
 Høgh, Erik, 25, 29
 Holbøll, Einar, 210
 Holck, Henning, 218
 Holck, Jonna, 218
 Holm, Johanne (Hanne), 212
 Husted, Bent, 84

I

no entries

J

Jacobsen, Arne, 156, 198-199, 201
 Jacobsen, Ester, 192
 Jacobsen, Gerda, 192
 Jacobsen, Hans, 194
 Jacobsen, Larry, 192-195

Jaspersen, Lilly (Nielsen), 116
 Jensen, Aage Gade, 224
 Jensen, Aase, 226
 Jensen, Anton, 115
 Jensen, Eleanora, 115
 Jensen, Elise, 219
 Jensen, Gunnar, 45
 Jensen, Inge, 224
 Jensen, Jens, 123
 Jensen, Kaj, 226
 Jensen, Keld, 203
 Jensen, Ken, 64
 Jensen, Kristine, 123-124
 Jensen, Martha, 130
 Jensen, Niels, 123
 Jensen, Ole, 66
 Jensen, Pernille, 123
 Jensen, Rev. Rasmus, 209
 Jensen, Soren, 123
 Jessen, Agnes, 75
 Jessen, Dana, 29, 32
 Jessen, Lee, 29, 32
 Jessen, Danish Consul L.L., 75, 204
 Jessen, Mrs. L.L., 77
 Jochumsen, Steen, 42-43
 Johansen, Hans Peder, 129
 Johansen, Jorgen, 66
 Johannson, Bernice, 91
 Jorgensen, Anne, 36
 Jorgensen, Gunnar, 214
 Jorgensen, Mary, 54
 Jorgensen, Thorvald, 95

K

Kahil, Salam, 60
 Kanstrup, Ethan, 29, 32
 Kanstrup, Halden, 29, 32
 Kanstrup, Michael, 31
 Kanstrup, Thomas, 32
 Kappel, Hans Christian, 93
 Kappel, John, 93
 Kappel, Karen, 90, 92
 Kappel, Paul, 93
 Kierkegaard, Jorgen, 49
 Kierkegaard, Soren, 213
 King Frederik VII, 136
 King Frederik IX, 161
 King, Prime Minister McKenzie, 117
 King-Kabu, Pastor Samuel, 36
 Kjaer, Peter, 39
 Kjeersgaard, Larry, 22, 25, 29, 44
 Klausen, Gunnar, 218
 Klausen, Johanne Margrethe, 218
 Klint, Kaare, 200

INDEX

Kmetyk, Michael, 64, 72
 Kmetyk, Sonja, 64, 66-67, 69
 Knudsen, A. Westergaard, 113
 Knudsen, Gert, 159
 Knudsen, Johannes, 153
 Knudsen, Pastor, 42
 Kornerup, Soren, 157
 Kristensen, Alice, 82
 Kristensen, Kris, 82, 211
 Kroman, Ben, 40, 55
 Kroman, Karen, 55
 Kuhlman, Ed, 25, 173-174, 203

L

Langer, Henrik, 54-55
 Larsen, Aase, 61
 Larsen, Andrew, 95
 Larsen, Pastor Harold, 116-117
 Larsen, Jack, 60-61, 63-67, 69, 72
 Larsen, Karen Marie, 147
 Larsen, Karin, 206
 Larsen, Karin Thorlund, 38
 Larsen, Kirsten Alice Hooge, 218
 Larsen, Knud, 218
 Larsen, Letty, 218
 Larsen, Martha, 208, 220
 Larsen, Pastor Morten, 47
 Larsen, Ole D., 22, 28, 36
 Lauridsen, Annette, 175
 Lauridsen, Pastor Peder, 121-122
 Laursen, Henrik, 204
 Laursen, Marianne, 63-67
 Laursen, Steen, 63-65, 72
 Laursen, Stig, 65
 Lehman, Jens, 40
 Leshgold, Jack, 159
 Leskinen, Raija, 196
 Lichtenberg, Asta, 189
 Lichtenburg, Frans, 189
 Lichtenberg, Frants, 179-180, 188-189
 Lichtenberg, Steen, 179-180, 188
 Lodge, Linnea, 191
 Løgsted, Elsie, 126
 Løgsted, Grethe, 126
 Løgsted, Just, 126
 Lorentsen, Theodor, 102
 Lund, Henrik, 149
 Lynch, Cathy, 104
 Lynge, Trade Commissioner
 Morten Siem, 38
 Lyth, Bruce, 174
 Lyth, Ingrid, 59
 Lyth, Jorgen, 67, 69, 72, 171

M

Madsen, Bent, 213
 Madsen, Cassidy, 213
 Madsen, Catherine, 213
 Madsen, Chris, 171
 Madsen, Eloise, 213
 Madsen, Emmy, 213
 Madsen, Esther, 213
 Madsen, Fiona, 213
 Madsen, Grethe, 222
 Madsen, Helga, 213
 Madsen, Hannah, 213
 Madsen, Pastor Holger Nielsen, 81-82, 213-214
 Madsen, Jeffrey, 213
 Madsen, Johannes, 213
 Madsen, Johan Vedel, 70, 167, 171-175, 217
 Madsen, John, 62-67, 69
 Madsen, Justin, 213
 Madsen, Karl, 60, 62
 Madsen, Lee, 213
 Madsen, Maud, 213
 Madsen, Maura, 213
 Madsen, Michelle, 171, 174-175
 Madsen, Stephen, 213
 Magyar, Katalin, 67, 69-70
 Main, Barbara, 157
 Malloy, Mike, 225
 Manhart, Violet, 221
 March, Lillian Marguerite, 136
 Margrethe, Her Royal Highness
 Crown Princess, 77
 Marker, Christian Peter, 155
 Marker, Valdemar, 155
 Marker, Vivian, 155
 Marshall, Janet, 226
 Marshall, Peter, 226
 Marshall, Ryan, 226
 Matthews, Margaret Douglas, 78
 McCarthy, Honourable Grace, 77
 McInnes, Barbara, 29, 33
 McNabb, Michelle, 29, 33, 50
 McPherson, Ann, 226
 McPherson, Dan, 226
 McPherson, Ian, 226
 McPherson, John, 226
 McPherson, Kristen, 226
 McPherson, Lindsay, 226
 Metz, Alexander, 218
 Metz, Elizabeth, 218
 Metz, Victoria, 218
 Metz, William, 218
 Mikkelsen, Mette Marie, 135
 Miller, Bendix, 69

Modjesky, Ralph, 182
 Moller-Hansen, Poul, 57-68, 72, 74, 171
 Moller-Hansen, Shirley, 63, 67
 Montserrat, C.N., 182
 Morck, Pastor Archie, 120
 Morck, Steve, 83
 Morrison, Kristiina, 72
 Mortensen, Carl, 75
 Mortensen, Daina, 167, 169, 174
 Mortensen, Fred, 60
 Mosby, Ethel, 129
 Moscato, Katrina, 167, 169
 Mowatt, Don, 65-68, 70
 Mowatt, Janet, 218
 Munk, Jens, 209
 Myroon, Sonja, 44

N

Nansen, Fridtjof, 194
 Neuchild, Pastor Birgit, 36
 Nicolajsen, Kaj, 45, 211
 Nielsen, Anton, 121-124
 Nielsen, Borge, 72
 Nielsen, Carl, 67-68, 209
 Nielsen, Carl Aage Berg, 220
 Nielsen, Pastor Charlo Staal, 42
 Nielsen, Doris, 46
 Nielsen, Elisabeth, 137
 Nielsen, Ernst, 146-148
 Nielsen, Gyrithe Berg, 220
 Nielsen, Harry, 132
 Nielsen, Henny Berg, 220
 Nielsen, Ingelise, 64-65
 Nielsen, Jeanette Lindahl, 147
 Nielsen, Rev. Jens Bach, 210
 Nielsen, Jette Lindahl, 146-148
 Nielsen, Jo-Ann Lindahl, 147-148
 Nielsen, John, 146-148
 Nielsen, Jørgen Helmuth Lindahl, 147
 Nielsen, Karen, 146-148
 Nielsen, Knud, 46, 66
 Nielsen, Knud Peter, 57-60, 73, 170-171
 Nielsen, Kristine, 121
 Nielsen, Lillian, 142
 Nielsen, Margaret, 132
 Nielsen, Margaret Frances, 135
 Nielsen, Niels, 115, 121, 123, 136
 Nielsen, Niels Møller, 135
 Nielsen, Pamela, 135, 138
 Nielsen, Peder, 114
 Nielsen, Pernille, 22, 44

INDEX

Nielsen, Peter, 136
 Nielsen, Ruth, 62-66
 Nielsen, Solvejg, 22, 25, 29, 32, 46,
 67, 69, 71
 Nielsen, Svend, 83-84
 Niggli, Christoph, 84
 Nissen, Marie, 98
 Nissen, Martin, 98
 Nissen, Tomine Mette Kirstine, 98
 Nissen, Vagn, 35
 Nommesen, Pastor Emil E., 115
 Nyholm, Pastor Paul, 119

O

Obeirck, Julian, 140
 O'Brien, Annette, 216
 O'Brien, Joe, 216
 O'Brien, Kristy, 216
 O'Brien, Vicky, 216
 Olrick, Hans, 196
 Olsen, Agnes, 128
 Olsen, Ahlmann, 128-129
 Olsen, Anna Birgit, 222-223
 Olsen, Arnold, 128
 Olsen, Carl, 128
 Olsen, Dennis, 128
 Olsen, Edwin, 128
 Olsen, Elaine, 128
 Olsen, Erik, 222
 Olsen, Grethe, 222
 Olsen, Isabelle, 222
 Olsen, Joanna, 222
 Olsen, Katherine, 222
 Olsen, Kenneth, 46, 222
 Olsen, Kurt Tage, 222-223
 Olufsen, Tor, 72
 Ostergaard, Liselotte, 22, 37
 Osterlind, Lennart, 57
 Overgaard, Sune, 22, 25, 29
 Overgaard-Thomsen, Rev. Poul,
 210-211

P

Pagh, Anne, 215-216
 Pagh, Fred Ejvin Jensen, 215-216
 Panton, Dr. Kenneth D., 109, 111
 Paquette, Al, 57, 63
 Paquette, Inge, 57-59
 Pastro, Jessica, 167, 169
 Pedersen, Annelise, 29, 52
 Pedersen, Arne, 218
 Pedersen, Asger, 29

Pedersen, Emma, 207
 Pedersen, Esther Garde, 39
 Pedersen, Gunhild, 218
 Pedersen, Gunnar, 22
 Pedersen, Henny Edel, 220
 Pedersen, Leo, 173
 Pedersen, Lise, 54
 Pedersen, Mads, 207
 Pedersen, Ove, 117, 126
 Petersen, Gordon, 28, 30
 Petersen, Jan, 149
 Petersen, Jes, 28
 Petersen, Danish Consul John, 68, 72
 Petersen, Mary, 28
 Peterson, Edith, 65
 Poulsen, Rev. Olaf, 207
 Praegel, Kate, 66

Q

Queen Margrethe II, 208

R

Rapley, Marianne, 31
 Rasmussen, Pastor Al, 119
 Rasmussen, Barbara, 158
 Rasmussen, Boie Hartvig, 160-161
 Rasmussen, Eggert Boie, 156-162
 Rasmussen, Erik, 203
 Rasmussen, Eva, 160
 Rasmussen, Jens, 58
 Rasmussen, Jorgen, 201
 Rasmussen, Paul, 158
 Rasmussen, Peter Boie, 158
 Rasmussen, Poul Erik, 63, 66-67, 69
 Rasmussen, Preben, 201
 Rasmussen, Sheryl, 159
 Rasmussen, Spencer Boie, 158, 160
 Rasmussen, Stanley, 116
 Rasmussen, Thomas Boie, 158-160
 Rasmussen, Thorvald, 201
 Rasmussen, Villy, 201
 Reeves, William, 106-107
 Richards, Dal, 206
 Robinson, M.P. Svend, 74
 Rogers, Roy, 142
 Rohweder, Jorgen, 57
 Ross, David, 163
 Roy, Kirsten, 54
 Rytter, Rikke, 69

S

Saltorp, Pastor Birgitte, 218
 Schliessner, Richard, 142-143
 Schneider, C.C., 182
 Schultz, Pastor, 128
 Shearer, Lise, 57-67, 69, 72, 171
 Siple, Branwen, 64, 69-70
 Siple, Colleen, 64, 69-70
 Siple, Ebba, 62-67, 69-70
 Sivertsen, Elizabeth, 47
 Skanderup, Agnete C.N., 114-115,
 124, 127-128
 Skanderup, Alvin Johannes N., 115,
 118, 127, 130
 Skanderup, Pastor Anton N.,
 113- 121, 130
 Skanderup, Anton Nielsen, 122-124,
 130, 132
 Skanderup, Brenda, 131
 Skanderup, Brian, 130
 Skanderup, Carol, 127
 Skanderup, Clifford I. N., 115, 127,
 130-131
 Skanderup, Curtis, 132
 Skanderup, Darren, 131
 Skanderup, David, 116, 127
 Skanderup, Edward, 130
 Skanderup, Ellen, 127
 Skanderup, Elsie, 127
 Skanderup, Evelyn (Wester), 131
 Skanderup, Gerald, 126-127
 Skanderup, Gloria, 132
 Skanderup, Joyce, 132
 Skanderup, Karen, 130
 Skanderup, Kaye, 131
 Skanderup, Kristine, 115, 119-120,
 130
 Skanderup, Leo Nielsen, 114-115,
 117-118, 121, 124-127, 130
 Skanderup, Martha, 119
 Skanderup Mary Ann, 130
 Skanderup, Merlin, 130
 Skanderup, Milton Nielsen, 114-115,
 123-125
 Skanderup, Naomi Jenny N., 114,
 117, 124-125, 128-129
 Skanderup, Ruth Marie N., 114, 124,
 129
 Skanderup, Stephen, 132
 Skanderup, Verne Nielsen, 114, 117,
 124-125, 132
 Skanderup, Verner N.J.N., 115, 118,
 124-125, 130, 132

INDEX

Skjødt-Jakobsen, Pastor Lars, 25, 39, 52-53
 Skjødt-Jakobsen, Lis, 53-54
 Skovsgaard, Bishop Steen, 37
 Smith, Heather, 164
 Sommer, Egon, 83
 Søndergaard, Jens, 157
 Søndergaard, Lis, 22, 222
 Søndergaard, Soren, 25, 29, 38, 222
 Sørensdatter, Mette, Marie, 136
 Sorensen, Ben, 86-89
 Sorensen, Carl, 44, 72, 118
 Sorensen, Colin Frank, 87-89
 Sorensen, Dennis Ewan, 87
 Sorensen, Doris, 118
 Sorensen, Edith, 118
 Sorensen, Eileen, 87
 Sorensen, Eric Edgar, 87-88
 Sørensen, Gunnar, 218
 Sorensen, Inge, 224
 Sorensen, Joyce, 88
 Sorensen, Lili, 118
 Sørensen, Lis, 218
 Sorensen, Ingemann, 115, 118
 Sorensen, Karl, 22
 Sorensen, Marinus Bonde, 86
 Sorensen, Richard Ben, 87
 Sorensen, Ruth, 118, 132
 Sorensen, Wilfred Bryan, 87
 Sorensen, Victoria, 35
 Spicer, Clifford, 221
 Spicer, Erik, 221
 Spicr, Erika, 221
 Spicer, Helen, 221
 Spicer, John, 221
 Spicer, Violet, 221
 Sprrott, Charles F., 75
 Stahl, Swedish Consul Karl A., 204
 Starke, C.N., 196
 Stedel, Carol, 131
 Stenkjær, Emmanuel, 218
 Stenkjær, Emmy, 218
 Stephens, Miriam (Minnie), 86
 Sterns, Adolphe Abraham, 87
 Stevens, Sinclair, 145
 Stevenson, Andrew, 174
 Storms, Jette, 146
 Storms, Rupert, 148
 Strindberg, August, 191
 Sullivan, Ed, 142
 Sundgaard, Else, 207
 Sundgaard, Pastor Poul Berg, 207-210
 Svendsen, Marius, 113
 Sylling, Captain Kaare, 204

T

Taksø-Jensen, Danish Ambassador to U.S. Peter, 49
 Terp, Eva T., 22, 29
 Thompson, Bert, 95
 Thompson, Jacob, 95
 Thompson, Marvin, 95
 Thompson, Peter, 95
 Thomsen, Jytte, 222
 Thure, Eric, 211
 Thure, Yrsa Jorgensen, 214
 Tiemersma, Wilhelmina, 36
 Tierney, Tim, 29, 33
 Tingskov, Borge, 72
 Toft, Marian, 58
 Tricarico, Jannet, 48
 Trudeau, Justice Minister Pierre Elliott, 88

U

Unheim, Erik, 57-58

V

Van Duesen, Prof. Natalie, 191
 Vedel, Anders Sorensen, 175
 Vestergaard, Bente, 227
 Vestergaard, Carolann, 227
 Vestergaard, Harry Evald, 227
 Vestergaard, Lauge, 227
 Vestergaard, Vagn, 227
 Village Krista, 167, 170
 Villumsen, Karen Magrethe, 160
 Vinter, Niels, 135
 von Sicard, Ruth Linda, 212

W

Wagner, Ellen (Skanderup), 113
 Wegner, Hans, 156
 Wells, Kathryn, 214
 Wells, Raymond, 214
 Wester, Evelyn Marie, 131
 Wolf, Prof. Kirsten, 191
 Wolder, Ella, 45, 172, 174-175
 Woller, Jens, 22, 44-45
 Woller, Pastor Martin, 210
 Woodward, Lieutenant Governor W.E., 76
 Worsoe, Norwegian Consul Hercules, 204
 Wulff, Edith, 207

X

no entries

Y

no entries

Z

Ziegler, Anette, 219
 Ziegler, Edgar, 219
 Ziegler, Elise, 219
 Ziegler, Erwin, 219
 Ziegler, Louise, 219
 Ziegler, Marianne, 219
 Ziegler, Mark, 219
 Ziegler, Tina, 219
 Ziegler, Ulla, 219



FUTURE
EXERCISE
GOALS
PUSH

changing diabetes for a healthier tomorrow

JONATHAN CHARLESWORTH
Jonathan has type 1 diabetes

As a fitness trainer, Jonathan knows that the journey to personal success requires commitment, goals and support to overcome challenges along the way.

Changing Diabetes® is Novo Nordisk's commitment to answer the needs of people living with diabetes. Our Triple Bottom Line philosophy ensures we consider the social, environmental and economic impact of our actions as we work toward the goal of a healthier future.

By leading through collaboration with individuals, organizations and governments, we will break the curve of the diabetes pandemic and support people living with diabetes to live fuller, healthier lives until a cure is found.

Discover how you can help create a healthier tomorrow at changingdiabetes.com

changing
diabetes®


novo nordisk®