



Nordic News

240 Sparks Street, PO Box 55023, Ottawa, ON K1P 1A1

www.canadiannordicsociety.com

CNS 2014 Dates to Remember

Speakers' Events

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Luncheon Dates

Monday, April 7, 2014

Monday, May 5, 2014

Monday, June 2, 2014

CNS EVENTS April Speakers' Event #1 David Gray

Celebrating the Canadian Arctic Expedition (CAE)

Canadian Nordic Society is pleased to welcome David Gray

Date and Time: Wednesday April 9, 7:30 pm

Location: Army Officers' Mess, 149 Somerset St. W.

In 2013 Canada celebrated the 100th anniversary of the launch of the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-1918. This little-known journey into the mysterious Arctic, which provided Canada with a strong foundation of Arctic knowledge, is indeed an expedition worth celebrating.

As part of the celebrations, biologist and historian David Gray led a small group to Banks Island in the western Arctic this past summer to help fill in gaps in our knowledge of this significant part of Canadian history. The goal was to retrace part of the route of the CAE starting at Sachs Harbor, then sailing up the west coast of Banks Island. This modern-day Arctic expedition planned to visit several CAE camps to film and document these historic places that have never before been investigated.



With a focus also on the people of the CAE, and their roles in the original exploration, David will tell the exciting story of the 2013 expedition, and how the Arctic ice disrupted their plans, and made for an historical adventure beyond what was planned.

David (on the left above) will also share photographs, artifacts, and a short film of the 2013 expedition. With an Arctic career beginning in 1968, David has spent many seasons in the Arctic studying wildlife and pursuing his interests in Arctic people and history.

Join us to learn more about the early exploration of Canada's north by Scandinavian explorers.

Coffee will be available.

Thanks to Eric Bawden for organizing this event and providing the write-up.

(H.E. Thordur Óskarsson, Iceland's Ambassador to Canada, passed on the information that the original expedition was led by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, a first-generation Icelandic immigrant, born in Arnes, Manitoba. Editor)

April Speakers' Event #2 Jonas Bengtsson

Acclaimed Danish novelist Jonas Bengtsson will be in Ottawa Tuesday April 15 to publicize his new book *A Fairy Tale*, and will be addressing the Canadian Nordic Society on **TUESDAY** April 15, in a session joint with the Royal Danish Embassy, The Danish Club of Ottawa, and the Ottawa International Writers Festival. The book is described as "a profound and penetrating novel about the unbreakable bond between a father and his son".



Jonas T. Bengtsson (b. 1976) stunned the Danish literary scene in 2005 with his critically acclaimed and prize-winning debut *Amina's Letters*. Critics called him "an extraordinary new voice" and readers awaited his second novel with great anticipation. Two years later, Bengtsson reassured every one of his talent. *Submarino* became the season's punch in the face with its disturbing and authentic portrayal of Copenhagen's underworld. Bengtsson writes with an uncanny sense of raw realism and already possesses a literary maturity that distinguishes him from his peers. (From <http://salomonssonagency.se/php/author.php?lang=en&authid=15>)

H.E. Niels Boel Abrahamsen, Denmark's Ambassador to Canada, will be present to say a few words at this event.

Laurence Wall of CBC will be the guest interviewer.

Date and Time: **Tuesday** April 15, 2014 at 7:30 pm

Location: Army Officers' Mess, 149 Somerset Street W. (off Elgin), Ottawa

Coffee. Free admission.

For information from the Writers Festival perspective, visit

<http://www.writersfestival.org/events/spring-2014/a-fairy-tale-with-jonas-bengtsson>

CNS LUNCHEONS

The following are the dates for the CNS luncheons (all are Mondays):

2014: April 7, May 5, June 2

As usual, reservations are not normally required.

The luncheons will be held at the Army Officers' Mess, 149 Somerset Street W. (off Elgin), Ottawa, at noon.

Thanks to Bruce Miller and Lennart Nylund for arranging these luncheons for us. Please mark your calendars with these dates.

OTHER CNS INFORMATION

Nominating Committee

The Board has struck a Nomination Committee in advance of this year's elections, headed by Lennard Sillanpää. If you are interested in standing for election to the Board of the Canadian Nordic Society please get in touch with Len.

Email: lennard.sillanpaa@sympatico.ca
Tel: 613-837-1641

CNS newsletter address list

CNS is in the process of putting the email address list up on the same server as hosts the CNS web page. This will allow the Treasurer handling the membership registration to also update the email address list – right now the address list is interspersed with the Editor's personal address list. Persons on the CNS email address list should have received a message from "mailing list manager", requesting that they confirm their desire to be registered on the new CNS email address list.

On the first day of every month, the server will automatically send you an email asking if there has been any change to your registration. If no change, you can just ignore it. If you anticipate a change to your email address, this will be your opportunity to register it. If emails bounce because the email address is no longer valid, it alerts the moderator who will immediately investigate. There will also be an unsubscribe option.

The use of this CNS email address list will be limited to one or two persons to ensure the confidentiality of the membership list.

OTHER NORDIC EVENTS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST

Danish Club

From Viking News circulated earlier (on-line at <http://danishclubottawa.com/>)

Queens's Birthday Party (Dinner/Dance)

Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 18.00 (6:00 p.m.)

Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre

Britannia Beach

For information Vita Christensen at 613-747-9764 or Soren Laursen at 613-736-7073

Easter Church Service

Sunday, April 13, 2014 at 14.00 (2:00 p.m.)

St. John's Lutheran Church

270 Crichton Street, Ottawa

Danish Canadian Conference
May 22 – 25, 2014
The Westin Ottawa
11 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa

Bus tour to Kingston

May 10, 2014

For further information, call Rolf Christensen at 613-747-9764 or e-mail at
robuch@ca.inter.netSaturday

Royal Danish Embassy

This year the annual Kids edition of the Toronto International Film Festival will screen seven Danish films. The list of Danish films includes both “Helium”, the Oscar winner of Best Live-Action Short Film at this year’s Academy awards, and Denmark’s first big-screen superhero film “Antboy”:

The festival takes place in Toronto between April 08 and 21, 2014. For more information visit <http://canada.um.dk/en/focus-areas/danish-events/eventdisplaypage/?eventID={AF37DE9E-7DCD-4346-84CD-15984D60BAD0}>

The Hot Docs 2014

The theme of one section of HOT DOCS 2014 is “Made in... Denmark.” Several Danish films including “Expedition to the End of the World” screened at the Wakefield International Film Festival will be screened at the Canadian International Documentary Festival to be held in Toronto between April 24 - May 4, 2014. For more information, download the schedule at http://www.hotdocs.ca/resources/documents/Hot_Docs_2014_Screening_Schedule.pdf.

A map showing venues is on page 31.

Author Anne Fortier will be at Chapters, Rideau Centre at 19:00 on April 3, 2014 to present her new book, *The Lost Sisterhood*. For more information about the book, visit <http://www.annefortier.com/>

Canadian Friends of Finland

Topi Lehtipuu Finnish Tenor
Tuesday May 20, 2014 at 7:00 pm
First Unitarian Church
30 Cleary Ave
Ottawa, ON K2A 4A1

For more information or to purchase tickets please contact:
Tuulikki Bence-Brückler or Connie Whitmore
benceb@hotmail.com
613-489-2474

Reception to follow.

Finnish Church Services for 2014

Palm Sunday Service - April 13th, 2014
Thanksgiving Service - October 5th, 2014
Christmas carol sing-along - November 30th, 2014
Christmas Service - December 14th, 2014

All the services are held at 3:00 pm in St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 400 Sparks Street, Ottawa.

Enter through the side door from the parking lot. Note: Side entrance will be closed at 3:30pm and will be re-opened after the service before the coffee reception.

Finnish School of Ottawa

The Finnish school will hold its traditional Vappujuhla - First of May Celebration - on May 3rd this year.

Date and time: Saturday May 3th, 10AM - Noon

Location: Hopewell Avenue Public School Gym, 17 Hopewell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario (just off Bank St.)

All OSKU members and friends are welcome to join us for First of May celebrations at the school gym on Saturday morning!

There is no cover charge for attending the party, but cash donations at the coffee table will be greatly appreciated.

Don't forget to wear your high school graduation hat! And your graduation picture!

Come Celebrate Vappu with us!

For more information contact Anu at 613-321-1011 or anulindeman@hotmail.com

Eidsvollsmen Council of North America

CNS received an email from the Eidsvollsmen Council of North America (ECONA), which is composed of descendants of the Eidsvollsmen, the Founding Fathers of Norway. The email

wanted to know of any special Syttende Mai 2014 Bicentennial Celebrations in Canada. The writer was referred to the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

Information on this organization can be found at www.eidsvollsmencouncilofna.org

If you are a descendant, or are interested in general, it is worthwhile following the above link.

Book published

CNS member France Rivet passes on an announcement of a book that she has just published, *Voyage with the Labrador Eskimos, 1880-1881*. It is the English translation of the diary of Norwegian Johan Adrian Jacobsen who, in 1880, came to Labrador to recruit “Eskimos” to bring back to Europe in order to exhibit them in zoos. One of these Inuit was Abraham Ulrikab whose diary was published in 2005 by Professor Hartmut Lutz. Prof Lutz is also the translator of Jacobsen’s diary.

Visit <http://polarhorizons.com/en/bookstore> for more information.

Report on Recent Events

February 19. *Eccentric Angel: The Strange, Sad Life of Søren Kierkegaard*

Prof. Graeme Hunter of the Dept. of Philosophy at the University of Ottawa spoke to an attentive and appreciative audience of 44 people at the Army Officers’ Mess. The bicentenary of the Danish philosopher and theologian Søren Kierkegaard was celebrated in 2013. Kierkegaard is often regarded as the first existentialist philosopher.

Disclaiming any notions of being a Kierkegaard specialist, Prof. Hunter gave his audience an introduction to the Danish intellectual, philosopher and theologian. He did this through the philosopher’s tangled and unhappy love affair with Regine Poulsen. “I came. I saw. *She* conquered” wrote Kierkegaard. Having proposed marriage, and having been accepted, Kierkegaard was tormented by the idea that he was not worthy of his future bride – and (curiously) that it was she, not he, who should break off the engagement. At first bewildered, Regine eventually accepted the calumnies her fiancé was spreading about himself; and indeed broke off the engagement.

Over his career the lovelorn and melancholy Kierkegaard used the history of this unhappy affair to develop his own ideas about the human condition. He identified three such states, which can be successive stages in a person’s moral development. The first is the “aesthetic man.” This man is not an aesthete but lives according to the appetite of his senses. Don Juan is just such an egregious example. This state may be succeeded by “the moral man.” The moral man may in his turn be succeeded by “the man of faith.”



A spirited question and answer session followed, which showed that an audience likes at times to be challenged rather than just entertained.

CNS President George Hynnä thanked the speaker and presented him with the traditional CNS mug.

Tim Mark kindly provided this write-up and the photograph.

EDITOR'S SECTION

Canadian Do Not Call list

I received an email that cell phone numbers will be released to telemarketers soon, but a subsequent message said that the item was incorrect and cell numbers would not be released to telemarketers. I do get an occasional call on my smart phone which seems to be from a telemarketer. You can put your cell phones on the Canadian Do Not Call List by visiting <https://www.lnnte-dncl.gc.ca/> You can also extend the registration of your other phones at the same time. Registrations automatically lapse after 5 years unless renewed.

Finnish Axe Invention



For those of us who prepare their own firewood, my brother sent me the following link:

http://cottagelife.com/84461/environment/tips-environment/thanks-to-this-finnish-axe-chopping-wood-will-never-be-the-same?utm_source=CLRSS&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Outbrain

In the Shadow of Alfred

Readers may remember that I was writing some material on Alfred Nobel. Here is part 3. More to come.

Inventions, Ideas, Patents

Though Alfred is best known for the prizes that bear his name, and for inventing dynamite, he thought, worked and wrote prolifically in many areas. He was awarded more than 355 patents across several countries during his life.

One of his earliest inventions was the blasting cap in 1863, a device that initiated the explosion of nitroglycerine, a temperamental liquid explosive. Alfred's blasting cap, started as a small amount of gunpowder set off by a fuse, the explosion of which set off a shock wave into the nitroglycerine, allowing the product to be set off at a moment desired. At least one source felt this to his most significant invention, even more significant invention than dynamite itself.

Nitroglycerine by itself was extremely dangerous – it could be set off by shock, heat, impurities, decomposition, aging. His youngest brother Emil had perished in an explosion while preparing nitroglycerine. So Alfred set out to tame the explosive. He concluded that it was necessary to absorb nitroglycerine in a porous but non-explosive material, and eventually settled on a naturally occurring siliceous material kieselghur, (diatomaceous earth). Thus in 1866 Alfred produced an explosive product that was safe to transport, store and handle, with 5 times the explosive power of black powder. Alfred created the name dynamite after the Greek word, dynamis, meaning great power.

Alfred's explosives were primarily based on nitroglycerine which was perfected by Ascanio Sobrero in 1846, who never seems to have patented it. Sobrero felt that the explosive was too dangerous to be of practical use. Much later Alfred engaged Sobrero to advise his Swiss-Italian company for the rest of Sobrero's life.

Alfred loved carriage rides, and had several carriages at his various residences. A local paper once wrote "He came travelling at a rapid tempo in his powerfully driven closed coupe. Only the flying hooves of the stallions could be heard, since the carriage was soundless, equipped as it was with his own invention: rubber belts around the wheels." At this time Nobel was at his home near the Bofors works in Sweden; the carriage was pulled by stallions that he had imported from Russia.

Alfred's other interests, research and inventions included:

- ballistite, a smokeless powder for artillery
- substitutes for India rubber, gutta percha, leather, varnishes
- explosion motors
- aerial photography from balloons and kites
- transporting oil in pipelines
- electroplating
- blood transfusions
- science of machines and artillery
- involved in "patents for the soundless discharging of a gun"
- production of artificial silk
- production of artificial gems
- better steel alloys
- science of machines and artillery
- psychology
- his aluminium yacht on lake at Zurich – world's first aluminium boat
- public pensions for those no longer able to work
- motion pictures based on an item he found in a medical journal that the human eye maintained an image on the retina for about one-tenth of a second

- progressive smokeless powder, in which the rate of combustion increased as the propellant burned as the shell moved along the gun barrel and hence there was an increasing volume to be filled.

Alfred inherited his genius from his father, Immanuel who had been an architect, builder, developer of land and sea mines for defence, produced what seems to be steam or hot water heating of buildings from a central source. His father also conceived the idea of wood formed by squeezing chips and sawdust, and a material made of thin sheets of wood veneer glued together at right angles. Forerunner of Ikea?

NORDIC RESOURCES

Just a reminder that there is a list of Nordic Resources located on our website:

<http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com/resources.html>

including the Nordic Embassies, the Ottawa-based social organizations, and links to newspapers and museums in Nordic Countries. The list is on the Nordic Resources tab on the general web site, or use the link above.

MEMBERSHIP

The CNS membership year is from September 1 to August 31 which means that it soon will be time to renew your membership for the 2014-2015 year. (The fiscal business year runs from April 1 to March 31, so that an audit can be completed in advance of the AGM in May). The membership dues remain the same as they have been for a number of years: \$20.00 for an individual membership; \$30.00 for a family membership, \$15.00 for a student membership. Please fill in the form on the page below, enclose a cheque and mail it to the CNS mail box indicated in the letterhead or give it to one of the Board Members listed below. Unfortunately, the form cannot be completed or submitted electronically.

It is the membership dues that enable us to have the Speakers' Series which has been one of the distinguishing aspects of the Canadian Nordic Society program since CNS was established in 1963. While it works in close co-operation with the five Nordic embassies situated in Ottawa, CNS does not receive any financial support from any embassy or other organization.

CNS depends on its membership to enable it to continue carrying out a program of activities that promote a better understanding of the societies and cultures of the Nordic countries.

Canadian Nordic Society Board Members – 2013-2014

President:	George Hynna	613-730-9074	george.hynna@gmail.com
Vice President:	Bruce Miller	613-745-1151	nordic@brmiller.ca
Treasurer:	Lennart Nylund	613-829-8602	lnylund@sympatico.ca
Secretary:	Tim Mark	613-733-1744	timmark@rogers.com
Councillor:	Martti Lahtinen	819-827-0899	mlahtinen_13@hotmail.com
Councillor:	Eric Bawden	613-821-2157	bawden@storm.ca
Councillor: and Past President	Lennard Sillanpää –	613-837-1641	lennard.sillanpaa@sympatico.ca
Honorary President: Lars Öhman - Newsletter Editor (but not a board member:)	Peter Macnaughton	613-224-8527	peter.macnaughton@sympatico.ca

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Membership Application/Renewal

Date: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone (home): _____ Phone (work): _____

Email: _____

Family Membership \$30, Individual Membership \$20, Student \$15

RECEIPT FROM CANADIAN NORDIC SOCIETY

Received From: _____

The amount of: \$ _____ For the year: _____

Date Received: _____

Received by: _____ Title: _____