



Nordic News

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

CNS Season Cancelled but Annual General Meeting Planning Underway

Council is very sorry to have to cancel the remainder of this season's events but we are pleased that we did manage to fit in seven successful luncheons (including the wonderful Christmas lunch) and six Distinguished Speakers Events. On March 13, we were advised that the Army Officers' Mess was closing until further notice. The current pandemic makes it impossible to continue our events for the time being.

Our April talk was to be about Pier 21 and the immigration experience. CNS member Martti Lahtinen and Robert Vineberg, the chair of the board of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society, were to be our featured speakers. We are hopeful that we will be able to reschedule this talk at a future date.

Meanwhile, we are planning to continue with the annual general meeting by email. Astrid Ahlgren is chairing the nominating committee, which also includes Lawrence Wade and Kari Rogstad. We will keep you informed via CNS-announce as the process unfolds.

Retaining and Promoting Heritage Languages in an English – Dominant Environment

by Trygve Ringereide

As part of our Distinguished Speaker Series, Canadian Nordic Society members and guests were treated to a very illuminating and engaging discussion of Retaining and Promoting Heritage Languages in an English – Dominant Environment. The event took the form of a panel discussion, with Dr. Ian MacKay of the University of Ottawa serving as moderator. Joining Dr. MacKay in the discussion were Constantine Ioannou of the Ottawa-Carleton Education Network, Ingela Strömberg, founder of the Swedish Language School in Ottawa, and CNS Council member Dr. Kristin Udjus Teitelbaum.

Each participant offered their unique and interesting perspectives within the context of the importance of maintaining heritage languages while learning additional ones and promoting these ideas within schools and communities.

The presentation began with an overview by Dr. Ian MacKay of languages around the world and the social and cognitive benefits of learning multiple languages. Ingela Strömberg, offered an

interesting account of the need perceived by her and her daughter to maintain Swedish language in their family. This was the genesis which led to her creation of the Swedish Language School in Ottawa, which was attended by her grandchildren, all of whom speak Swedish. Ingela outlined the various steps that were required to create the school, including the creation of the Swedish Club to satisfy the requirements of the Swedish education authorities for an organization responsible for curriculum materials and the processing of grants in support of the school.

Dr. Kristen Udjus gave a fascinating account of her family's journey in preserving their heritage, language and culture over the years. All four of her children speak Norwegian as do most of her grandchildren. Kristin's Canadian husband, a fluent speaker, is credited by Kristin with supporting her desire to preserve the culture and language of her homeland as part of her family's heritage.

Constantine Ioannou gave a detailed and impassioned account of his personal history as a multilingual Greek Canadian and professional language educator and leader over thirty years. He referenced his own participation as a child in Greek school in London, Ontario and explored the sense that children get of their place in society if different from the dominant culture. Needless to say, he is grateful that he did learn Greek, which led him to learn other languages, including French, German, Norwegian, Spanish, and Swedish.

The challenges of funding and promoting language instruction are great but so are the rewards as we witnessed through a delightful video of young students talking about what made classes in their heritage classes so enjoyable and valuable to them as young Canadians from various communities. This very interesting evening concluded with audience comments and questions to the panelists.



Left to right, Ingela Strömberg, Dr. Kristin Udjus Teitelbaum, Dr. Ian MacKay, Constantine Ioannou, and CNS President Dr. Karin Birnbaum (photo: Astrid Ahlgren)

16th President Gösta Edvardsson (1989 to 1992)



Gösta Edvardsson was born in Hällefors, Sweden (about midway east to west between Stockholm and Oslo) on September 1, 1923. He left Sweden with his wife Ellen (Björken) to work in Ecuador as secretary treasurer on a banana, cacao, and coffee plantation. From there they moved to Montreal where their first child, son Stephan, was born. Their daughter Pia was born in Vancouver, where they lived from 1963 to 1966. They moved back to Montreal where Gösta was the Swedish Attaché at the 1976 Olympics and the family played host to the Swedish Olympic Committee. He served as Swedish Attaché once again for the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid.

Gösta and Ellen were very active cross-country skiers for most of their lives. Gösta competed in the sport, participating in many Gatineau Loppets. The Gatineau Loppet was originally 55-km long and was called the “Keskinada Loppet.” The *Ottawa Citizen* of January 12, 1981 reported on another cross-country ski race, the 30 km Tay Valley Loppet, and noted that “Gosta Edvardsson of Nepean, a 58-year old skier, placed near the leaders with a time of 1:59.20.” Gösta was also active in orienteering.

For most of his career in Canada, he worked for Flakt Canada Ltd., a Swedish company which produced pulp- and paper-making machinery. The family moved to Ottawa in 1978 and Gösta and Ellen joined the Canadian Nordic Society. Gösta served as president from 1989 to 1992. Ellen passed away in 2013. Gösta remained physically active into his old age, cross-country skiing and going for long daily walks. He died on March 4, 2017.

Contributions to *Nordic News*

We appreciate receiving your Nordic-related articles and news to include in the *Nordic News*. Please email them to the editor, Hilde Huus, at communications@nordicsociety.com

Canadian Nordic Society Co-ordinates

Our website is www.canadiannordicsociety.com, and you can contact us by email at info@canadiannordicsociety.com.

The CNS council list, including email addresses and phone numbers, is available at: <http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com/council.html>

And the CNS has its own, very active, [Facebook](#) page.

Join CNS or Renew your Membership

September 1 is the beginning of a New Membership Year. You can join CNS or renew your membership online, by mail, or in person. We encourage you to pay online using PayPal. This is the quickest and most efficient method. If you prefer, you can pay in person when you attend one of our luncheons or speaker events. Please speak to any one of our Council members.

Online

To pay online, go to the CNS website (<http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com/join-cns.html>) and complete the membership form.

By mail

Please print and complete the membership form below, enclose a cheque payable to the Canadian Nordic Society and mail to:

Canadian Nordic Society
240 Sparks Street
Box 55023
Ottawa, ON
K1P 1A1



Canadian Nordic Society

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

www.canadiannordicsociety.com

Membership Application/Renewal*
(Membership year starts on September 1)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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

Email: _____

Family Membership \$45, Individual Membership \$30, Student \$20

****To apply for membership online or renew online using PayPal, please go to:***

<http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com/register-renew-member.php>