



Nordic News

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

www.canadiannordicsociety.com

CNS 2012 Dates to Remember

Speaker's Events

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

David Richeson

Luncheon Dates

Monday February 6, 2012

Monday March 5, 2012

Special Events

Nordic film evening Wednesday, January 18, 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Best wishes for 2012 to all members of the Canadian Nordic Society. The Board has been planning what we hope will be some interesting events for the winter-spring season.

The Canadian Nordic Society would like to thank all of those who worked to make the Lucia pageant on December 10, 2011 such an outstanding success. For the first time our annual event was held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. There was a more than usual magic to this year's Lucia in that, instead of a simple stage in a hall, the entire performance of the Lucia pageant took place with the backdrop of St. Peter's Lutheran Church sanctuary. In a separate section of this Newsletter, Len Nylund has thanked various people who stepped forward to make the special Lucia magic. Because it was held in a new location, this latest Lucia presented new challenges. On behalf of CNS, I would like to thank our Vice-President, Len Nylund, who, as Chair of the Lucia committee, has been sweating out the details, both large and small, on behalf of CNS since last June. His contribution to the success of this year's Lucia was truly exceptional.

In co-operation with the Royal Norwegian Embassy, CNS co-sponsored a special Speakers' presentation on the Viking site at L'Anse aux Meadows by the distinguished Norwegian anthropologist, Benedicte Ingstad, whose parents were the ones who initially discovered this ancient site. The Army Officers' Mess was packed to almost overflowing for that evening.

On Wednesday, November 23, CNS was proud to host a presentation by His Excellency Teppo Tauriainen, Sweden's Ambassador to Canada. The Ambassador's presentation outlined socio-economic, political and cultural matters in Sweden but he also took time to focus on Sweden-Canada Co-operation in Today's Arctic. This is particularly topical since Sweden is the current Chair of the eight-nation Arctic Council (which includes Canada), which it will hold until 2013.

CNS will be holding a Nordic film evening on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, with a Finnish and Swedish double feature. The first film will be a half-hour documentary on Sweden's world-renowned children's author, Astrid Lindgren. The feature film will be an intense drama directed by Finland's only Oscar winner, Jörn Donner, *Kuulustelu* (The Interrogation, 2008), which is based on a true story that took place during the Continuation War period in Finland (1941-44).

On Wednesday, February 22, 2012, David Richeson will give a presentation on his travels through Greenland. Also, to be topical, Finland is currently holding a Presidential election that will replace its present head of state, Tarja Halonen, who cannot stand for a third term. We hope to have a speaker that can report to CNS members on the latest developments in Finland.

Again we ask that, for those of you have yet to do so, please consider becoming a member of the Canadian Nordic Society. It is your membership fees that sponsor our Speakers Series, a tradition we have promoted since the founding of our Society almost fifty years ago. If you have not done so, please take the time to fill in the form found elsewhere in this Newsletter and send it along with your cheque.

CNS EVENTS

CNS LUNCHEONS

The monthly luncheons will be held at the Army Officer's Mess on Mondays, February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 4. Please mark these dates on your new 2012 calendars. Reservations are no longer necessary --- just

show up. However, if you would like information, confirmation or reassurance, you may contact Lennart Nylund at 613-829-8602 or lnylund@sympatico.ca.

Lennart Nylund

JANUARY FILM NIGHT

Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Location: Army Officers' Mess, 147 Somerset St. W. (off Elgin), Ottawa, ON

The Interrogation (Kuulestelu).

Finnish dialogue with English subtitles. 2008.

Director: Jörn Donner.

This critically well reviewed Finnish drama describes the difficult choices facing Kerttu Nuorteva, a Finnish-born Soviet citizen and spy, who had been dropped into Finland by parachute in February 1942. She operated undercover in Helsinki until her capture in September 7, 1942. The bulk of the movie deals with the story of her interrogation. While her true identity is slowly revealed, she continued to refuse to confess despite several different methods of interrogation. Gradually she begins to realize the fate of her colleagues, friends and family in the Soviet Union.

Based on a true story, this movie is directed by Jörn Donner, Finland's only Oscar winner. While the audience is hardly supportive of this spy, the movie is a well-crafted psychological drama that examines the motivations of Kerttu Nuorteva and the ever more complicated dilemma she has placed herself in.

Also:

To Faraway Land (Till landet fjärran)

A film about Astrid Lindgren and children's rights; 2004. 26 minutes.

Director: Margareta Kranz.

Refreshments.

SPEAKER'S EVENTS

February Speaker

VIKINGS AND NATURAL BEAUTY: A TRAVELLER'S VIEW OF GREENLAND

Dr. David Richeson

Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Location: Army Officers' Mess, 147 Somerset St. W. (off Elgin), Ottawa, ON

Bar and Coffee afterwards

David R. Richeson was Director General, responsible for Collection and Research with the National Museum of Science and Technology until his retirement in 2002. His professional career consisted of lecturing in Canadian history at the University of Alberta and thirty years of professional museum work that included both curatorial and administrative positions with the Provincial Museum of Alberta, the National Museum of Man, the Saskatchewan Western Development Museum and the afore-mentioned National Museum of Science and Technology.

During the past ten years, Dr. Richeson has had the opportunity to travel and photograph in the Canadian North, the Arctic and Greenland. Greenland has become his favourite destination. In 2008, he spent a week visiting Viking ruins in Southern Greenland on Tunulliarfik (Eiriks Fjord) and Igalikup Kangerlua (Einars Fjord). Between 2007 and 2011 he has visited fourteen villages and towns along the west coast of Greenland, situated between Qaquortoq south of 61 degrees latitude and Qaanaaq, one of the northernmost inhabited places on earth, nearly 78 degrees north.

David Richeson has a doctoral degree in history from the University of Alberta.

SANTA LUCIA

Annual Santa Lucia Pageant

The Annual Santa Lucia Pageant was held on December 10, 2011 at a new location, St. Peter's Lutheran Church. The performance was held in the Sanctuary, providing an awesome ambiance for this ancient tradition. Afterwards, the near-record crowd moved into the adjoining hall for socializing and enjoyment of baked goods and other treats. The children had their usual run of the place, having great fun by participating in the fish pond and dancing around the Christmas tree. We would like to congratulate the choir directors, Mats Lindeberg and Annika Ericsson Kidd and pianist Beth Young for their many hours devoted to rehearsals which resulted in a magnificent and emotional performance. We would like to thank Pastor Dr. Barton Beglo and his secretary Carol, and his church volunteers for welcoming us and providing such valuable assistance: Hildegard Elebracht, the food coordinator in the kitchen, and especially Tim Dudley, the event coordinator who worked with us every step of the way from the early planning stages in the fall.



Of course, we wish to thank the many volunteers from the Canadian Nordic Society, including Tuula Bigras, Marja-Liisa Hansen, Ida Capern, Stella Ellis, Simon Snow, Bruce Enstone, Tony Baron, Per Talgoy and his son Bradley, Gunilla and Larry Wade, Christine Trankalis, Kathleen Tipton, Susana Chheng, and President Lennart Sillanpaa. We must also thank IKEA, and their public relations person, Christina Hunter, for their generous donation of cookies and the door prize, an iconic Poang chair. The chair was won by Mrs. Sofia Marttinen of Orleans who recently moved here from Victoria. She has every intention of joining the Canadian Nordic Society. Well done everyone!



Lennart Nylund, with thanks to Susana Chheng for the pictures

Lucia – 2011

If you were the winner of the 1 year subscription to the Swedish Press magazine that was won at the 2011 Lucia event on December 10 please contact Christine Trankalis, at 613-523-4793 or email: Christine.trankalis@sympatico.ca so that she can arrange your subscription.

GUNVOR NAPKE

In loving memory of GUNVOR NAPKE who passed away on December 9, 2011, a Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2012, between 2pm and 5pm at Pinecrest Cemetery, corner of Greenbank and Baseline. Wife of Edward, Mother of Maria, Adam and Amanda. Gunvor was born in Stockholm Sweden in 1925 and came to Canada in 1961 after her marriage to Ed in Stockholm. They are among the original members of the Canadian Nordic Society. Both Ed and Adam were President of the Canadian Nordic Society a number of times. Donations may be made to the Ottawa Humane Society. Both Ed and Adam have served as President of CNS.

Lennart Nylund

OTHER NORDIC EVENTS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST

Finnish Election

Voting underway at the Embassy and Consulates in Canada for the Finnish Presidential Election

Canadian Friends of Finland

An afternoon of coffee and nostalgia...

DATE: Sunday, January 22nd

TIME: 1 PM

LOCATION: 388 Mariposa Ave in Rockliffe

Music by pianist Greg Åkeson

Join us for an afternoon at a fine Rockliffe home. Savour typical delicacies of the Finnish Coffee Table with your option of coffee or tea. Go back in time to the music of yesterday's Hollywood. Admire and purchase quality replicas of rings that were worn in significant movies by famous stars such as Lana Turner and Ingrid Bergman. Enjoy the company of friends while contributing to fundraising in support of an important CFF concert to be held April 1st, 2012. This concert will feature Finland's internationally acclaimed violinist Pekka Kuusisto and renowned Canadian cellist, Denise Djokic.

Suggested donation for the event is \$20.

Rings are for purchase and priced separately.

RSVP to Tuulikki Bence-Brückler at 613-523-8780 or by **email** ([click here](#))

Friends of Iceland

You are invited to attend the Friends of Iceland **Annual Thorrablot** to be held Saturday, February 4 6 to 11 p.m. at the Orleans Legion Hall, 800 Taylor Creek Drive, Orleans.

<http://g.co/maps/kvugq>

Come celebrate winter and friends together and meet our new Ambassador.

You are asked to bring one dish to share, Icelandic or otherwise. Cash Bar

Please **RSVP** to judith.hoye@rogers.com

Language Classes

Finnish Classes are starting again:

The Children's Finnish school started Saturday the 7th of January 2012.

Children's classes take place at 17 Hopewell Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 2Y7, on Saturdays 9.30-12.00. Registrations is always welcome

You can find more information on the Children's program: The Finnish School of Ottawa (OSKU) website: <http://ottawa.finnish-schools.org/>

Adults classes will begin on the 30th of January.

Adult classes take place at 212 Glebe Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 2C9 Monday evenings 7-9 PM.

More information on Adult classes and registration can be found on Ottawa Carleton District School Board The General Interest Program website:

http://www.ocdsb.ca/programs/continuweb/general/Pages/course_descriptions.aspx

Please feel free to contact Raija Hilska at rai japshilska@yahoo.ca more details on Children's program and/or Adult classes.

Swedish Classes

There is a Swedish credit course taught at Glebe Collegiate on Saturdays. The next one starts in September.

Contact [Swedish Language Classes](#) for more information and how to register.

I don't know of any other Nordic language classes offered in Ottawa; if there are such classes, please send me the information and I will include it in a future newsletter.

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.



Amundsen Centennial Celebration

December 14, 2011

“At 3 PM on December 14, 1911 Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole,” H.E. Else Eikeland, Norway’s Ambassador to Canada, told the audience gathered at the Army Officer Mess to commemorate the 100th anniversary of this event. An important element in making his expedition a success is the knowledge he gained from the Inuit at Gjoa Haven about survival and functioning in the Polar Regions. Ambassador Eikeland thanked the Inuit people of Gjoa Haven for their assistance in making the Norwegian expedition to the south pole a success.

The festivities included several performances by the Nunavut Sivuniksavut with songs and throat singing:



David Serkoak (with the microphone) explained the origins of the throat singing. When the men were away hunting, the women remaining behind would hold competitions amongst themselves as a way to pass the time. Besides, the throat singing soothed the baby in the fold in the clothes on her back.

Nunavut Sivuniksavut is a unique eight-month college program based in Ottawa. It is for Inuit youth from Nunavut who want to prepare for the educational, training, and career opportunities that are being created by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the new Government of Nunavut. (Taken from their web page <http://www.nstraining.ca/> Editor)



The MC for the night was John Geiger, President of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society, whose objective is to make Canada make Canada better known in the world through publications, expeditions and lectures. John is an author and head of the editorial board for the Globe and Mail. He provided a background to the event being celebrated, emphasizing the role Canada's Inuit played during Amundsen's transit of the North-West Passage.

One of the singers, Ray, performed a demonstration of the One Foot High Kick. This involves a jump starting on one leg, hitting a hanging item (the seal just below his left hand) with the foot on that leg, then landing on the same leg, bouncing no more than 3 times to regain balance. I managed to catch this picture when Ray, right most in the group, reached the seal at about 6 feet above the floor. Given the delay in my digital camera, I had to listen for him to begin his run and press the shutter button and hope to time it well. Almost. Not a great photo, but how many of us could have managed such an exercise anytime in our lives?



George Tombs presented the Amundsen Centenary Lecture. George is making a film about Roald Amundsen and his voyages of exploration, entitled *The Blinding Sea*. Part way through his lecture he explained that during his voyages in the Antarctic area, sea spray was always in his eyes making it hard to see, hence the title.

George gave background on Amundsen and how his family, and other explorers (Nansen, Franklin) provided inspiration. Amundsen participated in the Belgica expedition led by Adrien de Gerlache which provided lessons in how not to conduct such explorations. An explorer Frederick Cook, whom Amundsen met on the Belgica, determined that the Inuit survived without fresh vegetables because they ate their meat raw. Cooking destroyed the components which prevented scurvy.

He told us about the lessons that Amundsen learned from his experiences with the Inuit of Gjoa Haven – dog sledding, dressing in animal furs, respect for others, view the Inuit from within their life, be part of nature, importance of fresh meat, use of snow rather than fight it, and the importance of keeping a group of explorers together and happy.

Amundsen disappeared when on a search and rescue flight for a lost explorer. George said “No one knows where Amundsen is today. Perhaps is in our hearts as we speak.” Sometime ago he was asked what he would say to the Norwegian if he met him today; “honouring your memory, and your family is in touch with each other” would be his comment. For Amundsen left behind in the north a child-to-be, from which a number of descendants remain today.

The celebration was concluded by Joanni Sallerina who came down from Gjoa Haven for the event. He recounted how the Inuit of the time discovered Amundsen and his crew from the remains of some seals they had caught. Amundsen invited them on board his ship the Fram, provided supplies and food to the Inuit, and in return had winter clothing made. Joanni thanked Amundsen for putting their community on the map. He mentioned that the community, some 1100 strong, was planning to construct a museum in conjunction with the Fram museum in Norway.

Joanni presented his “see-through” glasses to David, and a beautiful handmade tapestry to the Ambassador.



MEMBERSHIP

The CNS membership year is from September 1 to August 31 which means that it is once again necessary to renew your membership for the 2011-2012 year. Our membership dues remain the same as it has been for a number of years: \$20.00 for an individual membership; \$30.00 for a family membership. Please fill in the form, enclose a cheque and mail it to our mail box indicated in our letterhead.

It is the membership dues that enable us to have our Speakers' series which has been one of the distinguishing aspects of the Canadian Nordic Society program since we were established in 1963. While we work 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.

We depend on our membership to enable us 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

If you are already a member, please pass this on to a friend!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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

email: _____ Fax : _____

To reduce costs, the newsletter will be sent electronically to those with email addresses unless otherwise advised.

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

As a Member you:

- will receive the Society's Newsletter
- are invited to participate in all CNS events
- are encouraged to become actively involved in the life of the Society
- receive discounts on tickets to CNS events

Canadian Nordic Society Board Members – 2011-2012

Lennard Sillanpää - President	613-837-1641	cell: 613-298-4799	lennard.sillanpaa@sympatico.ca
Lennart Nylund - Vice President	613-829-8602		lnylund@sympatico.ca
Simon Snow - Treasurer	613-866-7669		ottawalainen@rogers.com
Enid Robins-Holm - Secretary	613-226-1436		erobin0456@rogers.com
Martti Lahtinen - Councillor	819-827-0899		mLahtinen_13@hotmail.com
Susana Chheng - Councillor	613-552-9275		susana.chheng@gmail.com
Kathleen Tipton - Councillor	819-923-3311		kdtipton@hotmail.com
Lars Öhman - Honorary President			

Peter Macnaughton - Newsletter Editor, not a board member 613-224-8527 peter.macnaughton@sympatico.ca

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact one of the Board Members. Membership dues can be given to any Board member or you can mail your payment to:

Canadian Nordic Society
240 Sparks Street
P.O. Box 55023
Ottawa, ON K1P 1A1
www.canadiannordicsociety.com email: info@canadiannordicsociety.com