



Nordic News

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

www.canadiannordicsociety.com

CNS 2013 Dates to Remember

Luncheon Dates

Monday, Sept 9, 2013

Monday, October 7, 2013

CNS LUNCHEONS

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

2013: September 9, October 7, November 4, December 2

2014: January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2

As usual, reservations are not normally required except for the December luncheon.

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

Annual General Meeting Synopsis

The meeting was called to order on May 29th 2013 by President Lennard Sillanpää. Vice-president Lennart Nylund confirmed that a quorum was present. The agenda was approved as well as the minutes of the previous AGM. A number of hand-outs were available.

The President spoke about the year past, thanking the retiring members of Council, and also thanking some support people. He presented an outlook for CNS at 50, with an emphasis on renewing membership.

Treasurer Simon Snow presented a financial report. CNS had a net loss of \$1704.41 for the year ending March 31, with a balance of \$2259.18. The Treasurer's Report generated quite a bit of discussion, including a motion by Ed Napke directing the incoming Council to charge admission to guests coming to the Speakers' Events. The motion was not carried, but a subsequent motion directing the incoming Council to consider means for guests to contribute was carried.

Bruce Miller addressed the need to comply with the recently enacted new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act. The draft Articles of Continuance was approved.

Ed Napke presented the proposed slate of candidates prepared by the Nominating Committee. The slate was accepted, with a modification to the title of one position. The following form the Council for 2013/2014:

President:	George Hynna
Vice-President:	Bruce Miller
Secretary:	Tim Mark
Treasurer:	Len Nylund
Counsellor:	Martti Lahtinen
Counsellor:	Eric Bawden
Counsellor/Past President	Len Sillanpää



CNS Annual General Meeting May 29, 2013

Floral bouquets were presented to the retiring members of the Council, Sheila Hellström and Simon Snow, by the President Len Sillanpää, who in turn received a bouquet in appreciation for his 5 years of leadership as President. Also shown is the incoming President, George Hynnä



Editor's note – this synopsis is not the official minutes of the AGM. The formal minutes are prepared by the acting Secretary.

OTHER NORDIC EVENTS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST

Canadian Friends of Finland

Juhannus Celebration and Annual General Meeting

DATE: Friday, June 21, 2013

TIME: AGM 7:00 PM. Juhannus Celebration 7:30 PM

LOCATION: Billings Estate (see map below)

CFF hopes to see you at the AGM and to celebrate Juhannus and the beginning of summer! Tickets are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Children under the age of 12 are free. Your membership must be up to date to receive the discounted ticket price. Please RSVP to Connie by email or to Eric by phone at 613-746-1765, so that we can plan the amount of food we need! If you are interested in contributing food to the event or labor to set-up or take-down, please let us know. We could use the help! Also, our DJ has asked you to bring any music you would particularly like to hear.

RSVP:

connie.whitmore@ripnet.com

Eric: 613-746-1765

Location: Billings Estate, 2100 Cabot St, Ottawa, ON

Driving directions:

Take Riverside Drive South to Pleasant Park. There are lights at the intersection for Riverside and Pleasant Park.

Turn left onto Pleasant Park and follow it to Cabot Street.

Turn right onto Cabot Street and follow the signs to the museum.

Free parking is available and there is room for buses to park.

National Gallery of Canada EXHIBITION

Sakahàn: International Indigenous Art

17 May 2013 - 02 Sep 2013 Special Exhibitions Galleries

Sakahàn, meaning “to light [a fire]” in the language of the Algonquin, is the National Gallery of Canada’s largest survey of recent Indigenous art. It will highlight over 100 works by more than 75 artists from around the world, including impressive installations created specifically for the project. Poetic, unexpected and challenging, the artworks document and interrogate distinct cultural and social issues. One of the Gallery’s most ambitious contemporary art exhibitions to date, Sakahàn will extend to partnering venues in the Ottawa region and abroad.

As noted in the May newsletter, there are 10 artists participating from or with connections to the Nordic countries.

For more information, including a list of artists, please see www.gallery.ca/sakahan

This special exhibition is included in the regular admission price.

There is a brief write-up in the Editor’s Section below.

From the Finnish Embassy

The Finnish Canadian community has their annual **Grand Festival** coming up the last weekend of June in Sudbury, Ontario.

The 74th annual Finnish Canadian Grand Festival is returning to the City of Greater Sudbury, Ontario, Canada where the Grand Festival originated on the Dominion Day Weekend in 1940. We are calling this year’s festival: **FINNFUN2013**. FINNFUN2013 will take place from Thursday June 27th to Canada Day on Monday July 1st, 2013. We encourage families to bring their children to participate and to learn about their Finnish culture and heritage.

More information: <http://www.finnfun2013.ca/>

The Embassy of Finland in Ottawa will bring the portable passport system to FinnFun 2013, between June 27 and July 1 in order to provide passport service for Finns living both in Canada and in the US. The passport system will be available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (appointment required). Please contact the embassy, preferably via email at embassy@finland.ca or by phone (613) 288 2233 if you are interested in applying for a passport during the festival.

For more information

<http://www.finland.ca/Public/default.aspx?contentid=275839&nodeid=41324&culture=en-US>

From the Norwegian Embassy

The SAW gallery presents Joar Nango's exhibit *A temporary substitute for something else*. Joar Nango is a contemporary Norwegian Sámi artist and architect, and the exhibit is presented in collaboration with the National Gallery's Sakahán exhibit, featuring contemporary indigenous art from around the world.

Nango has spent many years exploring the dynamics of Sámi vernacular architecture, particularly informal and do-it-yourself interventions. There are remarkable similarities between the Sámi region which spans across Scandinavia and Russia and Canada's many aboriginal communities in the North, making his installation at SAW relevant and poignant to an audience an ocean away.

Location: SAW Gallery

Dates: June 7 to August 17, 2013.

67 Nicholas Street, Ottawa

Phone: (613) 236-6181

Email: info@galleriesawgallery.com

Internet: www.galleriesawgallery.com

Opening hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11AM - 6PM

Also, the Norwegian tall ship **Sørlandet** will be at Brockville the weekend of June 14-16. For more information, including an interactive map with the location of the ships, visit

<http://www.tallshipsbrockville.com/index.php/events/>

EDITOR'S SECTION

Åland

Sheila reminds me that June 9 is Åland's Autonomy Day. I'm a bit late, but Happy Autonomy Day, to all of you from Åland.

As well, The National Day of Sweden was Thursday, June 6 and that of Iceland will be Monday, June 17. Congratulations all.

Why Finnish babies sleep in cardboard boxes



Tim Mark, the new secretary of CNS passed me a pointer to an article on the BBC website about Finnish Babies and infant mortality¹. Here is a summary of the article.

Since 1938, expectant mothers in Finland have received a box containing clothes, sheets and toys, and the box itself to be used as a bed. This kit has helped reduce the infant mortality in Finland from about 65 deaths per 1000 live births to one of the world's lowest, 3.4 deaths per 1000 live births.

The clothes in the box are selected with gender neutral colours in mind, so they can be used as hand-me-downs. To get the package, a mother-to-be had to visit a doctor early in her pregnancy. The bed in the box replaced the parental bed as the baby's early sleeping location.

The contents of the box have changed over the years – cloth diapers (nappies) were replaced with disposable ones in 1969, only to be reinstated in 2006. The bottle was eliminated to encourage breast feeding.

The infant mortality statistics for other Nordic countries and Canada (only given in whole numbers in my source Index Mundi)²:

Rank	Country	Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births
4.	Sweden	3
7.	Iceland	3
11	Finland	3
12	Norway	4
23	Denmark	4
34	Canada	5
61	Greenland	10

So the majority of the Nordic area is a safe place for a child to select to be born in.

¹ Why Finnish babies sleep in cardboard boxes

By Helena Lee, BBC News June 4, 2013

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22751415>

The photo credit is Milla Kontkanen. I took the picture from the BBC article but there are other versions available on the web. I don't know how long the article will be available on the web site.

² Index Mundi Thematic Map Infant mortality rate World, data 2012 <http://www.indexmundi.com/map/?v=29>

Wikipedia also gives data by half decade up to 2010, with slightly different numbers and rankings.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_infant_mortality_rate

Norway's National Day Celebration May 17, 2013

Wow! The Norwegians really know how to throw a National Day party. The Maple Leaf Brass Band. Parade. Kids activities. Gracious hosts. Norwegian ladies decked out in national costumes. Refreshments. Ideal weather in a beautiful setting. Short speeches, including a brief message from the King and Queen of Norway.



Norwegian National Day May 17, 2013



Clockwise from the upper left:

H.E. Mona Elisabeth Brøther and Mr. Åsmund Baklien, hosts; the colour party for the parade; two examples of the national dresses; two young guests heading towards the food after the parade in front of the Embassy Residence; the marching Band.

The Norwegians celebrate the signing of their constitution on May 17, 1814, which declared Norway to be a free nation, although Norway was at that time in a union with Sweden that lasted until 1905. Next year the 200th anniversary will be celebrated.

Her Excellency's dress was made for the 1000th anniversary of the founding of Oslo, celebrated in 2000.

Congratulations Norway.

Report on Sakahàn: International Indigenous Art, National Gallery

Different. I'm not sure just what I expected – perhaps art based on pre-white man encounters, such as carvings of natural materials. But the Sakahàn exhibit at the National Gallery shows that the indigenous artists are able to creatively use modern material in a fantastic number of ways.

Use of video was frequent, even one projected on a screen made of white turkey feathers. In one very dark room, there were 5 transparent plastic dishes on the ceiling with underwater video projected from above, and an array of black mattresses along the sides for visitors to lie on and enjoy the presentation.

On one wall hung arrays of tassels set in large but shallow recesses, with multi-coloured bands wrapped around the material. I wonder if these bands have a message or meaning. Elsewhere an artist had drilled fine holes in a red plastic 25 litre gas can in decorative patterns. Another wall has a long painting of the interior of a large supermarket, with the high prices of common goods giving a strong message about the plight of some indigenous groups.

Artists from around the world are represented – at the main entrance to the major exhibit gallery the featured artists came from down under. I did find a number of the Nordic artists, but not all 10.

Unfortunately, photographing of the exhibits was not allowed.

Well done, National Gallery. Exhibit on until September 2. For information, www.gallery.ca/sakahan

Peter Macnaughton
Newsletter Editor

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 April 1 to March 31 which means that it is once again time to renew your membership for the 2013-2014 year. Our 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, enclose a cheque and mail it to our mail box indicated in our letterhead. Unfortunately, the form cannot be completed or submitted electronically.

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: _____

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 – 2013-2014

President:	George Hynnä	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	613-232-2200 X2103	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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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:

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www.canadiannordicsociety.com email: info@canadiannordicsociety.com