



Nordic News

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

The Arctic and Climate Change

by Hilde Huus

A new ambassador is in town! The new Norwegian ambassador to Canada, Her Excellency Anne Kari H. Ovind, presented her Letter of Credence to the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, on January 26, 2016. I had a look at her biography (provided by the Norwegian Embassy of Canada and reproduced below) and was struck by the strength of her background in Arctic affairs and climate change. I was curious to see if all of the Nordic countries are prioritizing climate change in the Arctic as much as Norway seems to be doing, so I had a look at each country's official website. This is what I found.



Her Excellency Anne Kari Ovind (Photo: enerWE, from Standard Online)

Finland will be assuming the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2017. The Arctic Council is a high-level international forum for promoting cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the Arctic States on issues such as sustainable development and environmental protection. All of the Nordic countries as well as Canada, the United States, and Russia, are members of the Arctic Council, which is currently chaired by the United States.

The **Kingdom of Denmark** published its “Strategy for the Arctic 2011 to 2020” in August 2011. It includes the following statement. “In cooperation with the international research and scientific community, the Kingdom will strengthen the effort to quantify global and regional impacts of climate change in the Arctic, including knowledge about how Arctic ecosystems, sea ice and ice sheets respond to climate change. Such efforts include monitoring and research activities with the involvement of Greenland, Faroese and Danish research centres.”

Sweden released its new Environmental policy for the Arctic on January 27, 2016, noting “The Arctic countries have a particular duty to raise the climate issue and lead the way on global action because of their responsibility for the Arctic, and also because together they are responsible for a large proportion of global greenhouse gas emissions.” In May, 2015, Sweden signed an agreement with the United States regarding Arctic research, and stated in a news release that “Sweden is a world leader in polar and climate research. Thanks to the Swedish icebreaker Oden, which is equipped with research laboratories and sophisticated equipment, Swedish polar research has gone from being good to world-leading.”

Norway’s “Arctic Policy for 2014 and beyond” includes the following with respect to research: “The Government will therefore further develop the climate and environmental research being carried out under the auspices of the Fram Centre, and will continue to provide funding for the Research Initiative for Northern Norway and the Polar Research programme, under the Research Council of Norway. The Norwegian Polar Institute has also set up a research project that will enhance knowledge of the sea ice, climate change and meteorology.”

On November 25, 2015, the government of **Iceland** announced a three-year climate change action plan consisting of 16 projects. “Eight of the projects are aimed at reducing net emissions of greenhouse gases in Iceland; in transportation, fisheries, agriculture and land use... Four projects are aimed at increasing Iceland's cooperation with and support of other states in reducing emissions and addressing the consequences of climate change... Monitoring of glaciers in Iceland will be heightened with the aim of making the results accessible to scientists, the public and tourists; furthermore, the glaciers and their surroundings will be promoted as natural laboratories on climate change.”

I have listed only snippets from each country’s statements on the Arctic and climate change. You may have noticed among them several statements about the importance of research on ice sheets and glaciers. It just so happens that one of the eight founders of the Canadian Nordic Society, Jack Ives, is an international expert and activist on mountains, glaciers and climate change. His field of study has resulted in a life of great adventure and he has many fascinating stories to tell. We are very privileged to have him as our speaker this month.

Speaker Series

(The Speaker Series take place at the Officers' Mess, 149 Somerset Street West)

Scientist, author, adventurer, and activist **Jack Ives** will speak on **Climate and Environmental Change in Iceland from Viking times to the present** on Wednesday, March 16, at 7:30PM. His talk will be illustrated with photos taken from 1952 until recently. After having spent a lifetime as a mountain researcher, Jack Ives has become one of a group of international activists working for the sustainability of mountain environments. Among his many accomplishments, he was Chair of the International Working Group of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Project 6 – Mountains (1974–1977) and Coordinator of UNU's Project on Mountain Geocology and Sustainable Development (1978–2000). His awards include: the King Albert 1st Gold Medal (2002); the Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society (2006); Iceland's Knight's Cross of the Order of the Falcon (2007); and the Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Award (2015).



Jack Ives with the Oraefajokull Ice Cap in background, February 2007 (photo courtesy Jack Ives)

His Excellency Sturla Sigurjónsson, Ambassador of Iceland to Canada will address the CNS on Wednesday, April 20, at 7:30 PM.

Monthly Lunches

Canadian Nordic Society members meet for lunch once a month from September until June at the historic and beautiful Officers' Mess at 149 Somerset Street West (just east of Elgin Street), Ottawa. Lunch tickets are purchased at the bar, on the left as you come in to the building. Please do join us! Lunch is served at 12:00 p.m. You may want to arrive a little earlier to meet and chat with other CNS members and their guests.

These are the dates of the lunches for the rest of this season:

- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6

New Norwegian Ambassador Her Excellency Anne Kari H. Ovind *(from the Norwegian Embassy of Canada's website)*

H.E. Anne Kari Hansen Ovind presented her credentials to the Right Honourable Governor General David Johnston on 26 January 2016 and became Norway's Ambassador to Canada.

Over the past 6 years, she has led the Section for the High North, Polar Affairs and Resources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo. Her responsibilities comprised implementation of Norway's Arctic policy, including coordination across all ministries to produce a coherent and comprehensive policy, the Arctic Council and regional cooperation as well as bilateral relations in the field of Arctic affairs.

Prior to this, she was Assistant Director General for the Environment and Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and led the Norwegian Delegation to the UN Commission for Sustainable Development in New York in 2006, 2007 and 2008. She was responsible for organizing the International High-Level Conference on Climate Change and Technology in Bergen 2009, hosted by then Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg.

Ambassador Ovind has broad experience from bilateral cooperation with Russia in the north, including in the field of nuclear safety. From 1998-2002 she worked on NATO affairs, first at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo, then three years as First Secretary at Norway's Delegation to NATO in Brussels.

As Adviser in the Section for Global Security and Nuclear Safety, she was instrumental in implementing Norway's Action Plan for Nuclear Activities and the Environment in Northern Areas. She joined the Foreign Service in 1996, but started her career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1993 as part of the negotiating team for Norwegian membership of the European Union.

Ambassador Ovind was a student at the National Defence College in 2004. She holds a Master of Science (MSc) in Economics and Business Administration from the Norwegian School of Business and Administration (Bergen), a Master of Arts in European Integration Economics from the College of Europe (Bruges) and a Master of Science in Sea Use Law, Economics and Policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

She is married to Tom Oscar Ovind and they have two sons.

Eric Bawden's Presentation - "A Soul's Journey to Find Its Way Home"

by Peter Macnaughton

If you have never accepted various forms of spirituality, telepathy, shamanism or the supernatural, your beliefs would be sorely tried upon hearing Eric's tale about discovering his Finnish roots, presented to the Canadian Nordic Society on January 20th.

In childhood, Eric was never referred to as having been born; "he arrived" into his adopting parent's lives. Various childhood incidents where his lack of knowledge of his background affected him dramatically and convinced him that his children should know fully their ancestry; this led him into a long search to find his roots, a "Mission Impossible" endeavour.

Eric recounted dreams and voices telling him to start and continue, years of searching into employment records looking for a woman who disappeared for the year in which he was born, borrowing a copy of every telephone book in For Ontario to search for a particular name. Some contacts were serendipitous – once he contacted a company that had taken over another company, on the day the retired president of the first one had returned, to have this retired person provide him an important link forward into his past. One day he had a very strong vision about his quest, to find out later his birth mother, driving in California some 4500 km away, had to pull over to the side of the highway having the same vision at the identical moment.

Little voices directed his quest – one such voice told him to "Write Helen now"; while step-sister Helen never received the letter, one of her brothers picked up a last delivery of mail for Helen (who had just moved out of the country) and eventually contacted Eric.

Eric eventually succeeded in locating his birth mother Doris, and visiting her, along the way helping her to publish her memoirs. He eventually was able to trace his Finnish ancestry from his biological

mother back into the 17th century. (circa 1650). Eric has followed a path of self-sufficiency that paralleled his relatives living back in Finland, and figures that he has been directed by instincts that have been passed down genetically.



CNS President Tim Mark presents Eric Bawden with a CNS mug in appreciation of his presentation

List of Presidents of the Canadian Nordic Society

It has been the CNS council's intention for some time to compile and publish the list of CNS presidents since its inception in 1963. We have scoured our records and come up with the list below, and would like to give our members a chance to look it over before we publish it on our website.

So if you notice that someone is missing, a name has been misspelled, or any other error, please do advise me, Hilde Huus, by sending an email to hildehuu@gmail.com

Looking over the names of our past presidents made me curious about them, so I thought I would do a little research and include some short articles about some of them. Several are still CNS members, while others have passed away or moved on. I'm starting with the short article below on the first president of the Canadian Nordic Society, Daniel Gibson Harris.

Presidents of the Canadian Nordic Society since its founding in 1963

1963-67	Daniel G. Harris
1967-68	Nina Glynn
1968-69	Knut Magnusson
1969-70	G.O.H. Poulsson
1970-71	Olav Løken
1971-72	E.V. Jull
1972-73	Peter Glynn
1973-75	Lars Öhman
1975-77	Håkon Åass
1977-78	Sirkka Omholt-Jensen
1978-80	Gurli Ågård Woods
1980-83	Knut Eric Solem
1983-86	Edward Napke
1986-87	Peter Williams
1987-89	Y. A. George Hynnä
1989-92	Gösta Edvardsson
1992-94	Karin B. Birnbaum
1994-95	Doreen Riedel
1995-96	Lennard Sillanpää
1996	Gerry Kenney, Acting President
1996-2000	Leena Sillanpää
2000-02	Jesslyn Mullaney
2002-04	Adam Napke
2004-07	Per Talgøy
2007-08	Leo Zrudlo
2008-13	Lennard Sillanpää
2013-15	Y. A. George Hynnä (and Bruce Miller, Acting President 2014-15)
2015-present	Tim Mark

Daniel Gibson Harris *by Hilde Huus*

Daniel Gibson Harris was born in Buckinghamshire, England in 1915 and trained as a chartered accountant. He joined the British Royal Naval Supplementary Volunteer Reserve, and since he had learned to speak Swedish, was sent in 1940 to the British embassy in Stockholm as Assistant Naval Attache. He and his superior, Captain Henry Denham, managed to obtain details of the position of the new German battleship *Bismarck*. The mission of the *Bismarck*, along with the heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen*, was to break into the Atlantic Ocean and block Allied shipping from North America to Great Britain. The information provided by Harris and Denham led to the pursuit and eventual sinking of the *Bismarck* by the British Navy.

After the war, Harris remained in Stockholm for a while as an employee of the English Steel Corporation, and then moved first to New York and then to Alberta. In 1960, he joined the National Energy Board and in 1963 moved to Ottawa, where he helped found the Canadian Nordic Society.

After he retired in the early 1980s, Harris took a BA in History at Carleton University and started seriously pursuing his interest in Swedish naval history. In 1989, he published his first book "F. H. Chapman, the first naval architect and his work". He also published a number of papers and articles on Swedish naval history, continuing to do so until his final years. Towards the end of his life, he also wrote and published a memoir, "Observed Secretly: Northern Window", about his experiences during the War.

In 1991, he was awarded the Silver Medal of Merit of the Swedish Royal Society of Naval Sciences. He was also presented with the Order of the Polar Star by Prince Bertil of Sweden, in recognition of his services in promoting Sweden in Canada.

Despite his distinguished background, he was apparently a very approachable, fun-loving gentleman. My mother remembers him at the annual Santa Lucia celebrations, smiling and apparently enjoying himself hugely as he danced around the Christmas tree with the children.

Harris died on 19 November 2007 at Bells Corners, Ottawa, Canada.

Contributions to Nordic News

We appreciate receiving your articles and news to include in the *Nordic News*! Please email them to the editor, Hilde Huus, at hildehuu@gmail.com

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

<https://www.facebook.com/canadiannordicsociety>



Join CNS

You can join CNS online, by mail, or in person.

Online

To join online, go to the CNS website (<http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com/join-cns.html>) and complete the membership form . Payment may be made through PayPal.

Note: it is not necessary to have a PayPal account.

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

In person

You can join in person when you attend one of our luncheons or speaker events. Please speak to any one of our Council members



Canadian Nordic Society

Box 55023, 240 Sparks St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1A1
www.canadiannordicsociety.com

Membership Application/Renewal

(membership year 1 September - 31 August)

Name(s) _____
Mailing address _____

Phone(s) _____
Email _____

Category of membership (check box)

- individual \$30.00
- family \$45.00
- student \$20.00

You will receive a receipt for your payment.

September 2015