

March 2018



Nordic News

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

March 21 Distinguished Speakers Series: John Gilbert on Gerard Kenney

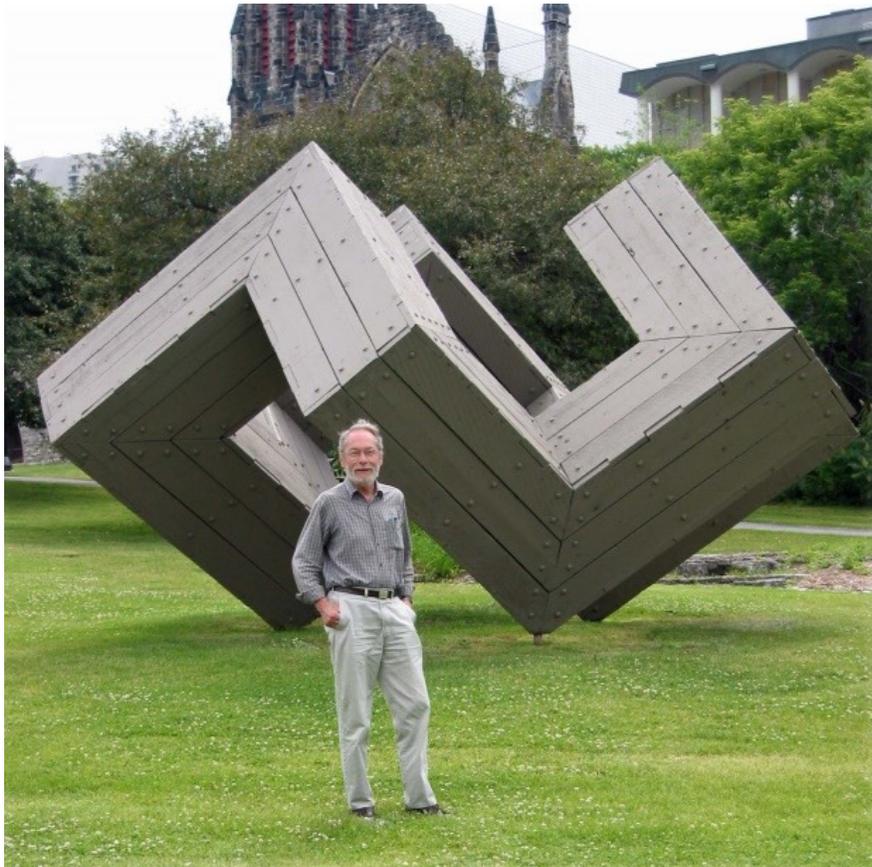
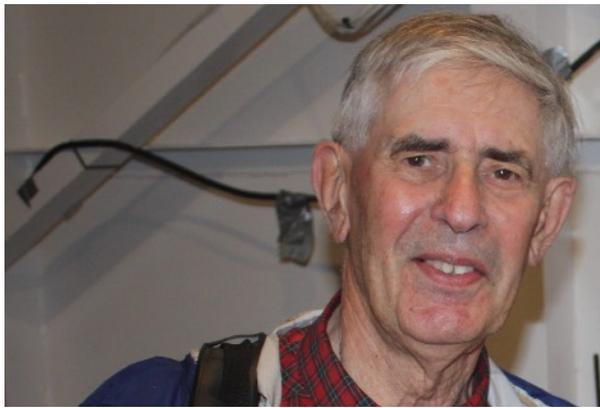


Photo of Gerard Kenney by John Gilbert

CNS member John Gilbert is a retired telecommunications professional who has lived in the High Arctic and maintained a lifelong interest in it. He will be speaking about his professional colleague and friend, Gerard I. Kenney (1931 to 2014), who served as Acting President of the CNS in 1996. Kenney was a telecommunications engineer and author. Beginning in mid-career, he wrote books and articles about the wilderness and the history of the Arctic.

In the late 1960s, while at Grise Fiord on Ellesmere Island, Gerry was shown part of a horizontal member of a wooden burial cross in memory of a Norwegian sailor, Ove Braskerud, who had left his bones in the frigid waters of nearby Harbour Fiord in 1899. Braskerud had been a member of the 1898-1902 Sverdrup expedition aboard the Norwegian ship *Fram*. This chance encounter inspired Gerry to write “Ships of Wood and Men of Iron: a Norwegian-Canadian Saga of Exploration in the High Arctic,” which tells the story of Captain Otto Sverdrup and his crew’s four years in the Arctic around the turn of the 19th century, as well as the Arctic expeditions between 1903 and 1948 by men such as A.P. Low, Joseph E. Bernier, Vilhjalmur Stefansson and Henry Larsen. Gerard Kenney went on to write two more books and many articles about the North.

John assisted in the documentation of the collection of the Gerard Kenney papers and will draw from Gerry Kenney’s publications illustrated with images from his slides, along with images from his own personal collection.



John Gilbert aboard the Arctic icebreaker “Polar Prince”

Ottawa Senators Nordic Night - Get your Tickets by March 12!

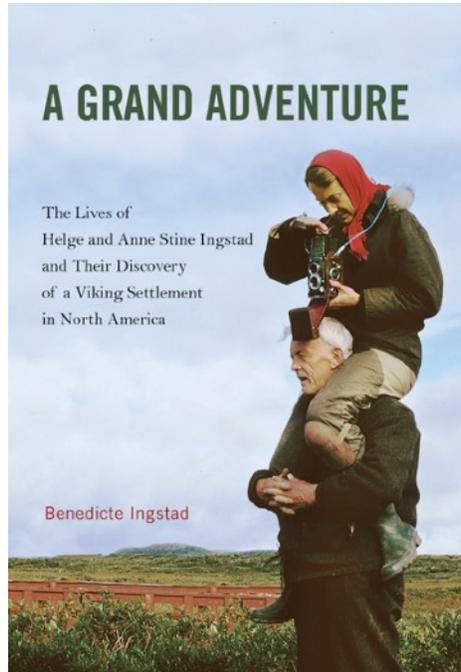
This year, the Senators will be hosting Nordic Night on Monday, **April 2**, when they will be playing the Winnipeg Jets. It’s a great, fun family night and the tickets are very reasonable at \$45 each, all inclusive. Wear or bring your Viking or other Nordic paraphernalia and cheer on the Nordic players on both teams! It’s best to **order by March 12** to ensure tickets are processed and delivered on time. Please go to the registration [form](#) for more information and to order.

Review of “A Grand Adventure: The Lives of Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad and Their Discovery of a Viking Settlement in North America”

by Leo Lehtiniemi

Members of the CNS may be interested in a book by Benedicte Ingstad, entitled “A Grand Adventure,” the English translation of which was recently (2017) published by McGill-Queen’s University Press. It is the story of her parents, Helge Ingstad and Anne Stine Ingstad, both Norwegians, whose experiences in Canada spanned many years and went through many ups and downs. Perhaps the most notable of these deal with the discovery of definitive archaeological

evidence of the first Viking settlement at L'Anse Aux Meadows in Newfoundland. But there is much more to the story. Members of the CNS who have been bitten by the wilderness bug will relish reading about Helge's early excursions in the far north, at a time when the edge of the frontier did not extend anywhere near as far as it does today, and before the creep of "civilization" and "modernization" tamed - some may say polluted - the natural wilderness and its down to earth way of life in so many ways.



Perhaps even more interesting are the numerous professional and political challenges they had to overcome along the way, and particularly before appropriate credit was ultimately conferred. CNS members who are intrigued by and wish to delve into the forces at play in how Canadian history, and perhaps history anywhere is written, will appreciate the account of how long it took and how many obstacles had to be faced and surmounted before due recognition was bestowed.

The book was one I had difficult putting down, or skimming through. There was just so much that fascinated me, and the writing was tight and with very little fluff or esoteric detail. Many parts fired the imagination. I recommend it heartily for extended fireside reading.

Death of HRH Prince Henrik of Denmark

We were saddened to learn of the death of Prince Henrik of Denmark on February 13. Prince Henrik was born Henri Marie Jean André de Laborde de Monpezat in France in 1934 and married Queen Margrethe II of Denmark in 1967. He became her prince consort in 1972 when she succeeded her father, King Frederick IX. The couple had two sons and eight grandchildren.

CNS President Karin Birnbaum and Vice-president Trygve Ringereide have signed the Book of Condolence at the residence of the Danish ambassador on behalf of the Canadian Nordic Society.

CNS Council at Ottawa City Archives



Several members of Council were on hand on February 5 to participate in the deposit of the CNS official documents from 2013 to 2016 to the City of Ottawa Archives. We were also treated to a fascinating tour of the conservation area. The photo above shows CNS President Karin Birnbaum handing over CNS documents to archivist Stuart Clarkson. In the second photo, left to right, are Stuart Clarkson, Karin Birnbaum, CNS Vice-president Trygve Ringereide, Secretary Astrid Ahlgren, Councillor Hilde Huus, and Treasurer Lennart Nylund. Missing from the photo are Councillors Hanne Sjøborg and Brendon Fraser. Photos by CNS member Marian McLennan.



The 2018 Gatineau Loppet

In case you didn't know, the Gatineau Loppet is the "Greatest International Cross-Country Ski Event in Canada," and 2018 was its 40th anniversary. It's held in the Gatineau Park and this year there were eight courses, ranging from 2 km to 51 km in both classic and free technique. Sweden was the host, and Ambassador Per Sjögren was invited to speak.

We are very proud of our President, Karin Birnbaum, who completed the 27 km course on February 16 in a time of 3:18:26, coming in second in her age category. Congratulations Karin! Well done!



Bright Nights: The 8th Annual Baltic-Nordic Film Festival

The Canadian Film Institute, in partnership with the Baltic and Nordic Embassies, will present eight Baltic and Nordic films from March 9 until March 18 at [Arts Court Theatre](#), 2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa. General Admission: \$13 - CFI Members, Seniors, Students, Children: \$9 - Full Festival Passes: \$50. For more information and to order tickets go to: <https://www.cfi-icf.ca/bnff> The schedule of Nordic films is as follows:

- Friday, **March 9** at 7:00 PM: *Eternal Summer (Odödliga)* (Swedish with English subtitles)
- Saturday, **March 10** at 7:00 PM: *Heartstone (Hjartasteinn)* (Icelandic with English subtitles)
- Sunday, **March 11** at 4:00 PM: *Key House Mirror (Nøgle hus spejl)* (Danish with English subtitles)
- Saturday, **March 17** at 7:00 PM: *Miami* (Finnish with English subtitles)
- Sunday, **March 18** at 4:00 PM: *Staying Alive* (Norwegian with English subtitles)

Other Items of Interest

- **Laulumme – Our Song** concert on **Saturday, March 3** at [Dominion-Chalmers United Church](#), 355 Cooper Street, Ottawa at 7:00 PM. Features Cantiamo Girls Choir of Ottawa, the Les Choristes Women’s Choir from Western University and special guest EVA! The Helsinki-based EVA-trio consists of three musicians: Essi Wuorela (vocals) who is also a well-known member of the Rajaton acapella music group, Anna-Karin Korhonen (kantele) and Vesa Norilo (cello). Tickets available in advance / and at the door. Adults \$15 / \$20 - Students/Seniors \$10 / \$15 - Family of 4 (2 adults / 2 children) \$35 / \$40. (Purchase online at: [Eventbrite](#))
- The Canadian Friends of Finland Ottawa invites their Nordic friends to join them for a **St Urho Dinner**. St. Urho is said to have saved Finland from the plague of grasshoppers that was destroying its vineyards (okaaaay). It will take place on Monday, **March 12** at 7:00 PM, at [Das Lokal](#) restaurant, 190 Dalhousie Street, Ottawa. RSVP please to constance.whitmore@gmail.com
- The European Book Club will discuss “**Norma**” by Finnish author Sofi Oksanen on Wednesday, **March 21** at 6:00 PM, at the [Sunnyside Branch](#) of the Ottawa Public Library. Free. All welcome.
- Stories of **The Norse Gods: Battle, Betrayal and Death** will be told by Colette Laplante at the National Arts Centre on Thursday, **March 22** at 7:30 PM. They are based on stories in the medieval Icelandic “Poetic Edda” and “Prose Edda.” Tickets are \$22 for a regular ticket and \$18 for seniors, and may be purchased at www/nac-cna.ca, by calling 1-888-2787, or at the NAC box office.
- The Finnish **Rautavaara Vigilia**, Vespers and Matins, will be sung on Saturday, **March 24**, at 8:00 PM at [St. Joseph’s Parish](#), 174 Wilbrod Street, by the Capital Chamber Choir under the direction of Jamie Loback. Admission: general/\$25, students and seniors/\$15, with a \$5 advance purchase discount at [The Leading Note](#) (317 Elgin Street) or online at www.capitalchamberchoir.ca
- **Finnish Easter Church Service** on Sunday, **March 25**, at 3:00 PM at St Peter's Lutheran Church, 400 Sparks St. Ottawa. Everyone is welcome! Note:
 - enter from parking lot side door only
 - don't forget the parking permit for your car
 - doors are locked for safety reasons during the service (from 3:30 on)

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 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

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.

Online

To pay 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 pay in person when you attend one of our luncheons or speaker events. Please speak to any one of our Council members.



Canadian Nordic Society

240 Sparks Street, PO Box 55023, Ottawa, ON K1P 1A1
www.canadiannordicsociety.com

Membership Application/Renewal*

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>