



Nordic News

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

Jack Ives Presentation on Climate Change in Iceland *(by Hilde Huus)*

Canadian Nordic Society members and guests were treated on March 16 to a truly engrossing lecture by member Dr. Jack Ives, on his own personal experiences and observations as a research scientist studying glaciers in Iceland. His lecture was illustrated with many stunning photos taken over the years from 1952 to quite recently.



Photo from the 1950's showing an Icelandic farm with a glacier in the background

Jack explained at the outset that he considers the human element of great importance in the study of geography. He has always paid close attention to what local Icelanders told him about the changing conditions of the glaciers and the surrounding area. As farmers, they and their ancestors lived in close communion with nature and were very conscious of changes in the local flora and fauna, and in the size and position of their local glaciers. They carefully documented many of those changes. Their accounts of historic changes in the local landscape can yield significant clues to be taken into account by scientists who are trying to piece together the natural history of the area. Jack noted that some of the local Icelanders believe they can trace their ancestry right back to the first settlers, and they may well be correct in this belief. The Icelandic sagas certainly seem to have some foundation in historical events.

Below is an example of the breathtakingly beautiful slides Jack showed us. He also showed us some illustrations of how the glaciers have changed over time. I was most impressed by one slide illustrating that although a glacier may appear to have receded by only a few meters, the actual mass of the glacier overall can have shrunk by 50% or more. This was an eye-opener for me.



A very lively question and answer session followed the lecture. It was apparent that Jack's audience was captivated by his account of his adventures as a research scientist, not just in Iceland but all over the world.

Jack Ives has published many books and articles over the years. His most recent, “Baffin Island: Field Research and High Arctic Adventure, 1961 to 1967” was published by the University of Calgary Press, which describes it as follows:

Baffin Island encompasses both field research and High Arctic adventure. The research trips to Baffin between 1961 and 1967 also served as a vital training ground in polar studies for university students; further, they represented a breakthrough in gender equality in government-sponsored science, thanks to the author's persistence in having women permitted on the teams. The book contains a special section detailing the subsequent professional achievements of the many researchers involved (in addition to the later career moves of Ives himself) and a chapter that delves deeper into the science behind their fieldwork in the North. Readers need not be versed in glaciology, however. Ives has produced a highly readable book that seamlessly combines research and adventure.

The book contains many photos of very high quality. It can be downloaded free of charge, or purchased from Amazon. For more information, visit <http://press.ucalgary.ca/books/9781552388297>



Annual General Meeting and Election of Council 2016-2017

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Canadian Nordic Society, and the election of CNS Council 2016-2017, will take place on Wednesday May 18, 2016 at the Army Officers' Mess, 149 Somerset Street West, Ottawa at 7:30 PM. The Council to be elected for 2016-2017 will consist of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and three Councillors. The Nominating Committee (Chairman Karin Birnbaum, Gunilla Wade and Astrid Ahlgren) is seeking nominations of individuals prepared to serve actively on CNS Council and thereby to contribute to the Society.

Every CNS member is entitled to a vote, either in person or by proxy; for those holding a family membership, each family member in good standing and over the age of 18 is eligible to cast a vote. Members unable to attend the Annual General Meeting may exercise their right to vote through a proxy, by completing the proxy form at [proxy-2016-2017.pdf](#). Completed proxy forms are to be submitted to the Secretary in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

If you wish to be nominated, or if you wish to nominate a member of the CNS for a position on Council, the Nominating Committee encourages you to complete the [Nomination Form 2016-2017](#). The names of three CNS members who are sponsoring the nominee are required on the nomination form. Completed nomination forms must be received by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Karin Birnbaum, by [May 4](#), 2016.

A list of CNS members in good standing is available upon request from the Secretary, so that nominators can verify that a prospective candidate is eligible for nomination. Enquiries should be directed to Astrid Ahlgren by email at ahlgren.astrid@gmail.com or sent by mail to her attention at the following address:

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

The success of the CNS depends upon an active and engaged membership. Don't miss your chance to shape the next CNS Council!

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. Lunch is served at 12:00 p.m, but you may want to arrive a little earlier to meet and chat with other CNS members and their guests. Please do join us for our last two lunches of this season on [May 2](#) and [June 6](#)!

Events of Interest to CNS Members

Women of the Kalevala: Lecture with Music (A [Mother's Day](#) Special Event)

- Lecture by Dr. Börje Vähämäki, Professor Emeritus of Finnish Studies, University of Toronto
- Music by Wanda Procyshyn, soprano and Thomas Annand, piano
- Sunday, [May 8](#), 2:30 PM at St Bartholomew, 125 Mackay St Ottawa
- Refreshments to follow in the church hall
- Tickets: \$25 (\$10 for students)

To purchase tickets online, go to <http://www.canadianfriendsoffinland.ca>

Brought to you by the Canadian Friends of Finland (Ottawa) with the support of The Finland Society.

Juhannus Mid-summer Celebration

The Canadian Friends of Finland will host a Juhannus celebration on Friday, [June 24](#), at [Billings Estate, 2100 Cabot Street, Ottawa](#). Watch for further details over the next few weeks.

April 8 “Hamlet” day

The University of Ottawa of Ottawa marked the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare in fine style, including a multilingual reading of Hamlet on April 8. The CNS provided the following Nordic speakers:

- Oskar Ovind – Norwegian Bokmål
- Martti Lahtinen-Finnish
- Marianne Bournes – Danish (with thanks to the Danish Club)
- Agnes Eva Volundardottir – Icelandic (with thanks to the Friends of Iceland)

Many thanks to everyone!

Full information, recordings and photos are at:

<http://artsites.uottawa.ca/shakespeare-celebrations/en/a-reading-of-hamlet/>

Don't miss “to be or not to be” in Klingon!

More on Daniel Gibson Harris

by Hilde Huus

The list of CNS presidents in the March issue and the article on its first president, Daniel Gibson Harris, sparked quite a bit of discussion at our March luncheon. Several of our members remembered Dan Harris's habit of greeting each member with a handshake at every event. Peter McNaughton recalled that when he and his wife attended their very first CNS meeting at the “Crow's Nest”, Dan Harris came over to welcome them and bought them a drink. I didn't know what the “Crow's Nest” was, until Eric Järvlepp told me that it was an attic room in the Navy Officers' Mess that was reached by a wooden staircase.

Eric provided me with his recollections of the origins of the Canadian Nordic Society. As he remembers it, Dan and his wife were originally members of the Scandinavian Club of Ottawa, founded in 1952. In 1963, a large group split off to form the Danish Club, leaving only a small group of members in the Scandinavian Club of Ottawa. “The last meeting of the Scandinavian Club felt like a funeral”, he recalls. “A new club, the Canadian Nordic Society of Ottawa, was founded”.

Eric also remembers attending an award ceremony for Dan Harris at the Finnish ambassador's residence. Here is his description of that rather unceremonious event:

Dan wrote a book about the history of the Finnish Navy. Finland was a part of the Swedish Empire for 600 years until 1809. Then the Russian Army defeated the Swedish-Finnish armies and Finland became a Grand Duchy of the Russian Empire until 1917. The Commander-in-Chief of The Finnish Armed Forces gave a high award to Dan Harris for his book. The award was given to him at the Finnish Ambassador's residence in Ottawa. I have forgotten what event it was, but I and my wife Leena were among the guests. It could have been their Flag Day, 4th

of June, or Independence Day, 6th of December, or some other event. Dan Harris was introduced to the General who took a box from his right pocket and gave it to him. Dan opened it and thanked him, closed the box and put it into his left pocket. The ceremony was over.

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

of Ottawa. “The last meeting of the Scandinavian Club felt like a funeral”, he recalls. “A new club, the Canadian Nordic Society of Ottawa, was founded”.



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