



Nordic News

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

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Tim Mark

It is a pleasure to introduce you to the 2015-16 Canadian Nordic Society Council members . You will find the full listing near the end of this Newsletter. New on Council are Astrid Ahlgren and Hilde Huus. Astrid has a Finnish-Swedish background and is a former President of the Canadian Friends of Finland. Hilde's parents, Eystein and Randi Huus, were CNS members for many years and Eystein served on the CNS Council himself for a time. Hilde is keen to keep up her interest in Norwegian life and culture. Please feel free to approach any Council member with your suggestions or concerns.

Your Council has been busy. We now have a PayPal account, thanks to Bruce Miller, Lennart Ny-lund, the Treasurer, and our webmaster Punam Bhargava . You may join or renew your membership online using PayPal (or by sending a cheque; or in person at a meeting.) Reminder: the membership year starts on 1 Sept. Please support CNS and our programs by joining or renewing your membership. The website is being revised and updated by Hilde and Astrid and others.

Note that CNS accepts paid advertising. We have renewed the website advertisement for Trivago for three years; and you will find an ad for *The Christmas Doctor* in this Newsletter.

Council is planning a full slate of activities for this fall and winter and we look forward to your support.

EVENTS

Hangin' out with Eric

Once again this year CNS member and former Councillor Eric Bawden has extended an invitation for old and new friends to visit his farm on Sunday, 13 September from 12 noon until 4 PM. Bring your own picnic lunch and beverages. Eric will provide a BBQ should you wish to grill your meal, and he will fire up his sauna upon request. You can enjoy a few hours in the rural beauty of his farm and wander through the lovely woods. Kids of all ages will be charmed by the chickens, sheep and llamas that make up Eric's animal family. This will be a relaxing and fun way to start the CNS activity year. Join us!

Details and directions:

- Sunday, September 13, 12 noon to 4:00 PM
- Hosts Leta Petersen and Eric Bawden (613-821-2157)
- Address Erileya Farm 7080 Devereaux Rd, Greely

Take the 417E and get off at the Walkley Road exit. Turn left onto Walkley Road East and follow the signs as it turns slightly right and becomes Ramsayville Road E. Turn right onto Mitch Owens Road. Turn left onto John Quinn Road. Take Snake Island Road and then turn left onto Swale Road. Drive for 2.2 km to get to 7080 Devereaux Road.

RSVP to ahlgren.astrid@gmail.com before Friday 11 September.

See and be seen at the Erileya Farm!





Enchantment of the Mountains

Your Council is in the midst of preparing for a very exciting concert of some of the piano and vocal music of Edvard Grieg, to be performed by Canadian pianist Sandra Mogensen and Norwegian singer Hilde Haraldsen Sveen. It will be presented with the Royal Norwegian Embassy on **Sunday, Oct. 25**, 7:00 PM at First Unitarian Church, 30 Cleary Ave., Ottawa. Save the date and watch for more details!

MONTHLY LUNCHESES

Members of the Nordic Society 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 is served at noon and tickets can be purchased at the bar immediately to your left as you enter the building. Many of us gather at the bar for a drink and to chat at around 11:30 before moving on to the dining area. You will hear a mix of English and various Nordic languages and lots of interesting conversation. Please do join us!

Lunch is scheduled for the first Monday of the month this year, with the exception of September. Here is this year's lunch schedule from September 2015 to June 2016:

- September 14
- October 5
- November 2
- December 7 (*Christmas lunch, reservation required*)
- January 4
- February 1
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6

SPEAKER SERIES

The Canadian Nordic Society features a fascinating variety of speakers and presentations on many subjects relating to the Nordic countries and their links to Canada. The presentations take place at 7:30 PM at the Officers' Mess at 149 Somerset Street West. (Members begin to assemble at 7:00 PM.) Members enjoy free admission to these events. Non-members are charged a fee, usually \$5.00. Below is our current schedule of speakers. Please watch for updates in our coming newsletters.

Tuesday, October 6: **His Excellency Per Sjögren**, Ambassador of Sweden will address the CNS (topic to be announced).

Wednesday, October 21: **Elinor Barr**, to discuss her newly released book *Swedes in Canada: Invisible Immigrants*. Elinor Barr's book explores such topics as the push and pull factors that led to immigration, settlement patterns, the part that religion played in their lives, involvement in the two World Wars and the Spanish Civil War, the lively Swedish press, the continuous search for employment, the role of women, involvement in strikes and unions, and various events that furthered the cause of "Swedishness" within the sea of other immigrants.

Wednesday, November 18: **Don Westwood**, *The Design of Toronto City Hall: the Finnish Influence on Modern Toronto*

New Canadian Polar Medal features RCMP Schooner St. Roch



On June 23, 2015, the Governor General announced the creation of the Polar Medal to celebrate Canada's Northern heritage and give recognition to persons who render extraordinary services in the polar regions and Canada's North. It will also honour those individuals who have withstood the rigours of the polar climate to make significant contributions to polar exploration and knowledge, scientific research, and the securement of Canada's Northern sovereignty.

The depiction of RCMP Schooner St. Roch is of particular interest to the Canadian Nordic Society. The St. Roch started its expedition through the Northwest Passage 75 years ago under the command of Captain Henry Larsen. Henry Asbjørn Larsen was born in Norway in 1899 and immigrated to Canada in 1927. The St. Roch crossing under his command was only the second crossing of the Northwest Passage. The first had been made from east to west by Roald Amundsen, Larsen's hero. The St. Roch expedition was the first crossing that went from west to east.

Henry Larsen's daughter, Doreen Larsen Riedel, is a long-standing member of the Canadian Nordic Society.

Swedish and Finnish Language Instruction

Registration for **Swedish high school credit courses** with the Ottawa Carleton School Board will take place at Glebe Collegiate Institute on Saturday, September 19. CNS member Tuulikki Bence-Brückler has retired from teaching the course. The course will now be taught by Britt Bengtsson, also a CNS member.

Tuulikki Bence-Brückler will be **teaching Finnish** to a small group of beginners in her home in Alta Vista beginning on Monday, September 14 at 7 PM. For more information, contact Tuulikki at 613-523-8780.

Special Presentation to George Hynnä

Retiring President, George Hynnä has been awarded the Canadian Nordic Society Certificate of Excellence in recognition of Distinguished Leadership in Promoting Knowledge of Scandinavian National Cultures. Councillor Lennard Sillanpää presented the plaque to Mr. Hynnä at the CNS annual general meeting. He pointed to Mr. Hynnä's long and exemplary service to the Society and notably, the 2013 revision of the Bylaw. Mr. Hynnä thanked the audience as a proud "Thunder Bay Finn."

George Hynnä, left, receives Certificate of Excellence from Councillor Lennard Sillanpää, centre,



and is congratulated by President Bruce Miller, right.

Vangie Bergum reading from her book *Downstream, Bestemor & Me*

The 1 June 2015 CNS luncheon, the final one before summer, was well-attended and the scene of a special and very personal presentation. Author and academic Vangie Bergum read from her recently-published book, *Downstream, Bestemor & Me*, about her Norwegian family's pioneer life in Saskatchewan in the early 1900s.

Inspired by a literacy program operating in a remand centre in her community, in the 1990s Ms. Bergum decided to explore her own family history. She began with research into a tragic 1929 incident in rural Saskatchewan involving her Norwegian-born grandparents, whom she had never met. Reliance on family recollections was not fruitful; the circumstances of their sudden deaths were not a topic of family discussion.

Driven by a deep need to connect with her grandmother in some way, Ms. Bergum crafted a story that weaves together what is known about the past generations of her family, her own life journey, and the universal need to remember in order to understand. At times she speaks to her grandmother in her book, as if in a state of transformation.

Ms. Bergum entranced her audience with the selected readings from her book, and remained afterward for informal discussions and questions from CNS members. President Tim Mark presented Ms. Bergum with her own, much-coveted CNS mug.



May 27, 2015 Handover of the CNS Archives



President George Hynnä, right, formally hands over the CNS Archives to the safe-keeping of the City of Ottawa Archives, with, left to right: Lennart Nylund (CNS Treasurer), Tim Mark (CNS Secretary), Bruce Miller (Acting CNS Vice-President), Theresa Sorel, Acting City of Ottawa Archivist

The suggestion to offer the CNS Archives to the City of Ottawa Archives for safe-keeping and for future research purposes came from Simon Snow, a CNS Board member at the time.

The CNS Archives were delivered on 7 April 2014. Among other things they consisted of minutes and records dating back to 1966, six ‘phonographic discs’, an audio tape, 40 photos, 100 slides and 3 compact discs.

Following an assessment of the material, the Standard Deed of Gift was completed and signed on 27 February 2015. The ceremonial ‘handover’ took place on May 27, 2015. CNS will continue to deposit materials of archival significance in the City of Ottawa Archives.

COUNCILLORS 2015 - 2016

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Canadian Nordic Society Communications

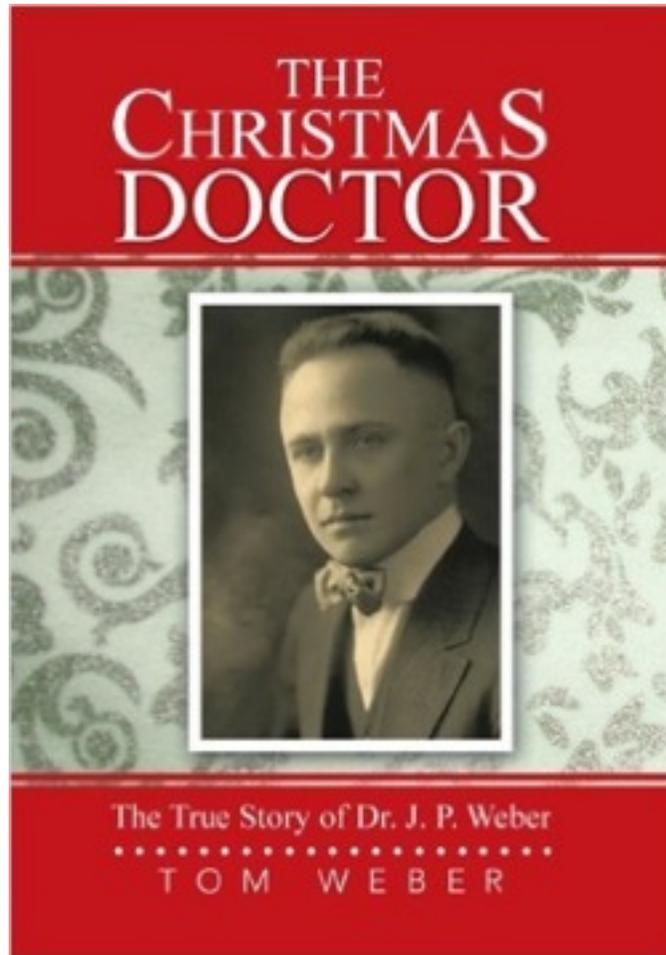
You may have noticed that the Canadian Nordic Society website has been updated. You can now complete the membership form and pay online using PayPal.

We are also planning a Facebook page. The Nordic Embassies have their own Facebook pages to promote events and share news of interest. We think this will be a great additional way for the CNS to announce its own events and speakers and to attract new members. We will let you know once our Facebook page is set up, and invite you to “Like us on Facebook”!

And finally, we intend to distribute this newsletter, *Nordic News*, once a month during the CNS year, and welcome your contributions. Please send any articles or news to the editor, Hilde Huus, at hildehuu@gmail.com

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

Interesting reading for everyone of Scandinavian heritage



“The Christmas Doctor - The True Story of Dr J.P. Weber” by Tom Weber

His life was saved as a teenager by a wonderful Danish-American nurse. He made a perilous horseback ride to see an immigrant Norwegian patient on Christmas Eve, 1927.

Available online at [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca)

(advertisement)