

September 2016



Nordic News

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This Summer of Iceland *(by Hilde Huus)*

This summer a few CNS members visited Iceland, which seemed to be steadily in the news for one reason or another, so it seemed to me that a good way to launch our new season would be to catch up on recent happenings in and about Iceland.

Many of us were in attendance when His Excellency Sturla Sigurjónsson, Iceland's Ambassador to Canada, addressed the CNS on April 20. If you missed it (or even if you were there), you may want to check out the detailed article about this event, including a photo of the Ambassador with CNS President Tim Mark, in the June 15, 2016 issue of *Lögberg Heimskringla*. Based in Manitoba, the *Lögberg Heimskringla* newspaper covers events of interest to the Icelandic community all over North America and Iceland. (To view the June 15, 2016 issue, go to http://canadiannordicsociety.com/newsletters/jun16_icelandic-news.pdf. To have a look at their website, go to <http://www.lh-inc.ca>)

It came as a shock to the “football” world when Iceland beat England in Euro 2016. It seemed unthinkable that a nation of some 330,000 souls could eliminate a country of 54 million! Coach Heimir Hallgrímsson summed it up when he said “It should benefit not only kids in football but kids in sport in general that you can achieve anything if you believe in it and you work hard.” When the *Ottawa Citizen* contacted CNS and asked us if we knew where local Icelanders would be watching the next big match in the series, Iceland vs. France, CNS spread the word that the place to be was the Georgetown Pub. An article appeared in the front section of the paper the following day (<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/euro-2016-dream-run-ends-for-iceland-but-not-due-to-a-lack-of-support-in-ottawa>). Although the results were a little disappointing, CNS was thrilled to have been among those cheering on the plucky team from little Iceland.



CNS President Tim Mark Demonstrates Proper Icelandic Fan Demeanour

In the days leading up to Iceland’s national election this summer, I had come across an article or two mentioning the possibility that Iceland’s next first lady might be a Canadian, in fact not only a Canadian, but an Ottawa Valley girl. This was news to me, but I simply assumed that this was a long shot and not something that was likely to actually occur. Well I was wrong! Eliza Reid grew up on a farm near Ashton, just east of Carleton Place. She met her husband, Gudni Johannesson, when they were both studying history in England. And now they are making history themselves. He was elected President of Iceland in June, and she is now Iceland’s first Canadian-born first lady.

Iceland again made the headlines this summer with announcements of “ground shaking” discoveries by Icelandic volcano researchers into “caldera”, the mysterious cauldron-like depressions that form atop volcanoes. The Bardarbunga volcano began to erupt on August 29, 2014, and continued erupting until February 27, 2015. It was the strongest eruption in Europe in more than 240 years and produced the largest caldera ever observed. Analysis of Bardarbunga revealed that the caldera began when magma seeped up from a depth of 12 km below the surface. This magma didn’t just shoot straight up—it flowed perpendicular to the surface along an underground canal for a distance of 45 km, before erupting as a major lava flow northeast of the actual volcano.

CNS member Jack Ives, a holder of The Patron’s Medal of the Royal Geographical Society and the Knight’s Cross of the Order of the Falcon (Iceland) amongst other distinctions, and his wife Pauline visited Iceland in June ‘for old times’ sake’ mostly to visit friends in the Skaftafell area of southern Iceland. This resulted in their taking the Ring Road to effect a four-day reunion at the exquisite “lake of the flies” – Myvatn - where son Tony is undertaking research. Jack brought back the two photos of Myvatn on pages 3 and 5 below.



In late July, on our way to Oslo, my mother and I flew from Halifax to Reykjavik via Air Iceland. It was difficult to get much of an impression of Iceland from the airport in the middle of the night, other than to say that it looked flatter than we expected, and was definitely very chilly. When we politely asked the security guard who guided us through the airport if this was the usual temperature for late July, she replied rather drily “This is Iceland!” (In other words, if you are looking for a tropical beach, look elsewhere!) President Tim Mark and his wife Chris had a better look when they took a cruise that went right around the island. Here are some of Tim’s comments from that trip:

Iceland is experiencing a huge tourist boom. In 2015 there were around 1, 289,000 visitors. For a population of about 332,000 people that is a very large figure indeed, especially as this has been a very recent development. Tourists now account for more foreign exchange earnings than fishing or the aluminum industry.

Highlights from our cruise? Many and impressive waterfalls, the historic sites, the accordion collection at the Ísafjörður museum and of course, nibbling on fermented shark (kæstur hákarl). Definitely a taste sensation.



Fermented shark (photo courtesy Tim Mark)

A new attraction for visitors to Iceland will be the reconstruction of a Viking village that is being built in Mosfellsdalur, near Reykjavik. Around 20 buildings will be constructed in all, and construction is set to begin in September. Once ready, people dressed as settlers will be on the site to show guests how the Vikings made clothing, milked their cows and conducted their daily lives. It is expected to take about five years to complete. When we posted an article about this on our Facebook page (http://icelandmonitor.mbl.is/news/nature_and_travel/2016/07/07/viking_village_to_be_built_near_reykjavik/), a visitor to our page commented that he hoped there would be good accommodation for visitors nearby. Iceland is certainly becoming a going concern for visitors and tourists, and seems to be gearing up for more and greater things. Stay tuned!



CNS Membership Dues

Are you a CNS member in good standing? You are if you paid your dues for the 2015-16 season. To keep it that way, you should pay your 2016-17 dues by September 31. The easiest way is by completing the online form on the [CNS membership page](#), using Paypal if you wish. Or you can complete the membership form at the bottom of this newsletter and mail it in. If you are attending the September 12 luncheon or the September 28 speaking event, you can pay our excellent and very approachable Treasurer, Lennart Nylund, in person.

Monthly Luncheons

Our 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. There is some parking available in nearby streets, and the Ottawa City Hall parking garage is always open. The

City Hall pedestrian exit onto Lisgar Street is just a couple of minutes walk from the Officers' Mess. Lunch is served at noon and tickets can be purchased for a very reasonable cost at the bar immediately to your left as you enter the building. (These luncheons have to be one of the best deals in town!) 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. We wear name tags because it is a different mix every time, and this helps us to get to know each other. 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 12
- October 3
- November 7
- December 5 (our special Christmas lunch - reservations are required)
- January 9
- February 6
- March 6
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5

About our Distinguished Speaker Series

We are proud of our monthly speaker series and your Council truly enjoys bringing you unique and interesting topics that bring a Nordic perspective to our lives. This year promises to be another great mix of topics and some special, fun events as well. Mark your calendars with the dates below (generally the third Wednesday of the month) so you won't miss out. They take place at the Officers' Mess, 149 Somerset Street West at 7:30 PM, but we recommend arriving a little early so you can get your name tag and socialize a little if you wish. Speaker events are free for members, with a \$5 charge for non-members. There is some parking available at the mess itself in the evenings.

Distinguished Speaker Series Dates

- September 28
- October 19
- November 16
- December (to be determined)
- January 18
- February 15
- March 15
- April 19
- May 24

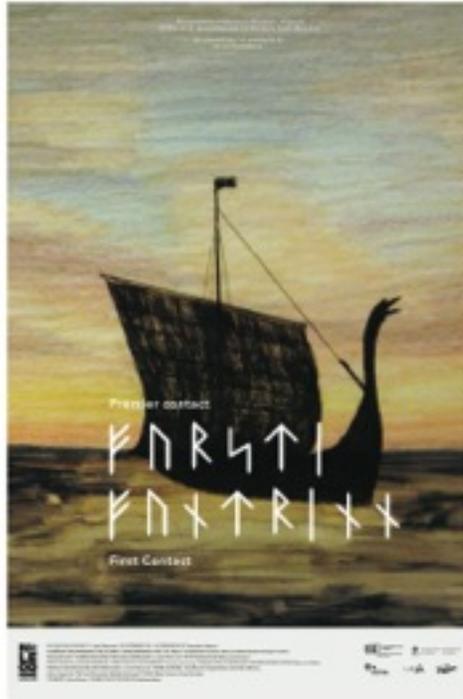
Details of our September event are outlined below.

Her Excellency Anne Kari H. Ovind, Ambassador of Norway to Canada, will address the CNS on October 19. Watch for details in the October issue, on CNS-announce, and on Facebook.

September 28 Screening of “First Contact”

Our first evening in our Distinguished Speaker Series this season will be on Wednesday, September 28 at 7:30 PM at the Army Officers’ Mess. We will be screening a 28-minute animated film called “First Contact” directed and animated by Scott McLeod, with screenplay by Samantha Rideout.. The film has been selected for the International Swedish Film Festival and for the Land In Sights First People's festival in Montreal. It tells a story of early encounters between Viking settlers and the proto-Beothuk, the ancestors of one of Canada’s First Nations. Their meeting goes smoothly at first, but turns hostile within the year due to misunderstood intentions. When a chance to return to good relations presents itself, both sides must weigh the risks.

Told from a women’s perspective, the fictionalized tale foreshadows certain tragic outcomes of subsequent relations between Canada’s settlers and its first peoples—while also exploring the moral danger, the creative challenge and the rich potential of encountering the “other.” The animations incorporate authentic visual motifs from both of the featured cultures into a vivid, pencil-and-watercolour style.



Samantha Rideout, who wrote the screenplay, will be in attendance to speak about the historical background of the film and the making of it. She first encountered legends about a turn-of-the-first-millennium encounter between First Nations and Norse Greenlanders while completing a Master's degree in Medieval Icelandic Studies at the University of Iceland in Reykjavík. Admission to this event will be free for both members and non-members.

Election for one Vacant Council Position

Members will recall that one Councillor position was not filled at the CNS Annual General Meeting in May 2016. The election for the outstanding position will take place at the Sept. 28 CNS meeting (before the scheduled program).

If you wish to be nominated, or to nominate another member of the CNS as a Councillor, please complete the [nomination form](#). The nomination form must be signed by three members in good standing. Completed nomination forms must be received by the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Karin Birnbaum, by 14 September 2016. A brief biography of the nominee would also be appreciated.

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. If you are a member but are unable to attend the Sept. 28 meeting, please exercise your right to vote through a [proxy form](#).

To date one nomination has been received – namely for Mr. Trygve John Ringereide.

The success of the CNS depends upon an active and engaged membership on behalf of CNS Council - please take part in the election process

Tim Mark
President
Canadian Nordic Society
Sept. 1, 2016

Upcoming Events of Interest

- “**Occupied**”, a Norwegian political thriller 10-part series, will begin on TVO at 9:00 PM on Sunday, September 11. The series is also apparently available on Netflix and is recommended by our Secretary, Hanne Sjøborg. (*Thank you to member Ross Francis for this item. He notes that Wikipedia has a good article about the series.*)
- Once again this year our friends at the Danish Club will be participating in the **New Edinburgh Community Garage Sale**, which takes place on Saturday, September 17, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Look for their booth in front of the St. John Lutheran Church Hall, 272 Crichton Street.
- Saturday, November 5 is the date that has been set aside for the **Danish Club’s annual bazaar**. Watch for more details.

CNS Member Eric Järvlepp Recalls 1971 Dinner Dance (by Eric Järvlepp)

1967 was Canada's centennial year. To mark this occasion, the National Arts Centre was built for the people of Canada by the federal government in the nation's capital city, Ottawa. It was finished in 1969. The well known National Arts Centre Orchestra was an important component of this project. Their opera series functioned for a few years before it was terminated. Its independent successor, Opera Lyra, suffered the same fate. Apparently there was not enough public support.

In the National Arts Centre is a room called the Salon, which is used for meetings, dinners and dances. It has an ornate floor-to-ceiling aluminum entrance structure that is usually closed but can be opened. It is a massive piece of art. There is a square wooden dance floor surrounded by a carpeted area with moveable tables and chairs. Since the Centre was built for the people of Canada, the Salon was made available to groups and organizations who could rent it for approved events. It cost \$60 (in 1970 dollars) for four hours. Initially its existence was not well known.

The Nordic Society held a dinner dance there in February, 1971. Olav Løken was the president at that time. Mrs. Leena Järvlepp (wife of the author) was the convener of the event. She had been hired as a temporary employee by Census Canada for the 1971 census, working in the No. 8 temporary building at the Dow's Lake. She ended up making the arrangements for this event from a

common wall-mounted telephone in the hallway during office hours. Dinner had to be ordered from the Arts Centre's own catering service which charged a dollar or two more than similar meals would cost at hotels and restaurants. But this was a convenient arrangement.

Eleven ladies arrived wearing their national costumes. The black Norwegian attire looked majestic.



The Ottawa Journal published a review of this event including the photo above. The author's wife Leena is in the back row, third from the left. CNS member Hjørdis Weibust is also in the photo, in the back row, third from the right.

Leena selected the Finnish "letkis" as the opening dance. It is a "snake" dance in which the hands are placed on the shoulders of the person in front. The dancers take two short steps, then stop and kick sideways with one foot. Then two more steps, a stop and kick sideways with the other foot. This was fun and everyone joined the line. It did not take long before the dancers and the band had different rhythms and the dance became organized chaos. So much more fun!

A young couple promised to lead the dance but failed to show up. So the author of this article was ordered by the convener to lead the dance but soon had to bow out due to back problems. So Leena led the snake dance herself until the end.

Ballroom dancing followed. Music was provided by the DiLabio Dance Band.

When the news got around that groups could rent the Salon for a reasonable price, a very long waiting list formed and finally the initiative was terminated. While it was still available, the Estonian and Latvian Societies had two dinner dances and the Nordic Society had one, among others.

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



(advertisement)



Interlangues

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- Be eligible to work in Canada
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Those who are interested can send their resumes directly to:
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819-965-7028

(advertisement)

VOLT®

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Volt is currently hiring Nordic localization testers/Proofreaders for a game testing company in Downtown Montreal.

The localization testers will be presented with translated scripts and documents and must proofread to ensure there are no errors.

We are looking for people who can read/write Swedish, Danish, Norwegian or Finish with Native fluency and are available for 24 hours or more a week. Fluent in English is also a must. The position is contractual and on-call.

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Nordic localization tester role:

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- Valid work permit or Canadian residency/citizenship;
- Interest in Video Games, apps is a good bonus.

If you are interested in this role, please send your resume directly to:

montrealgametesting@volt.com

Thank you!

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