

CANADIAN NORDIC SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAY 25, 2011

NOMINATIONS TO CNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011 – 2012

President: Lennard Sillanpää

Vice-President: Lennart Nylund

Treasurer: Simon Snow

Councillor: Martti Lahtinen

Councillor: Susana Chheng

Councillor: Enid Robins-Holm

Councillor: Kathleen Tipton

Proposed by Nominations Committee:
 Jesslyn Mullaney (Chair)
 Ed Napke
 Lennart Nylund



Canadian Nordic Society

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT **Annual General Meeting of May 25, 2011**

The Board of the Canadian Nordic Society has continued to work at our two strengths as these have been defined over the years, namely to develop close ties with the five Nordic embassies in Ottawa and to emphasize our Speakers' Series. We have also continued to host Lucia, a Christmas concert for children that CNS has hosted for many years. We are also trying to establish some kind of Midsummer event in June that will attract people of Scandinavian origin and perhaps also draw support from the wider Ottawa community. For the second year in a row, this June event will be a Midsummer Concert scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2011, which I will discuss later.

1. Speakers' Series

Our first Speaker's event, held on October 28, featured **Eric Enno Tamm**'s presentation on his book: *The Horse that Leaps through Clouds. A Tale of Espionage, the Silk Road and the Rise of Modern China*. A standing room crowd of approximately 80 people attended. This event was held in co-operation with the Canadian Friends of Finland. Petri Kruuti, Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of Finland, also addressed the audience. Mr. Tamm sold some 24 copies of his book and had a number of additional orders from those attending. This is one of the most successful book events ever sponsored by CNS.

Our November Speaker was H.E. **Else Berit Eikeland**, Norway's Ambassador to Canada, who gave a presentation to CNS members on Norway's current policies in the High Arctic and developing increased co-operation with Canada. We were very pleased that more than 50 people attended that presentation which was held in the main dining room of the Army Officers' Mess.

On January 27, 2011, one of our former Board members, **Reina Lahtinen**, returned to provide us with a presentation on "Students on Ice: International Co-operation in Polar Regions." Reina, who is the Partnership and Development Manager for Students on Ice, presented a documentary film, entitled, *Imiqutailaq: Path of the Arctic Tern*, that had been prepared by two Canadian Inuit teenagers, and then answered questions on both the film and on Students on Ice. The presentation was well-received with many questions.

On February 24, CNS had **Don Westwood**, a Professor Emeritus in architecture at Carleton University and a long-time member of the Canadian Nordic Society, gave a presentation on one of his long-time professional interests, The Origins of Finnish Architecture and Design. Many members of the Canadian Friends of Finland attended as well as a number of Professor Westwood's colleagues from Carleton University. As Don Westwood plans to travel to Finland this summer to do follow-up research on these matters, there was talk of having another presentation in the next year or two.

On March 24, CNS tried something unique when we decided to award Ottawa writer, **Roy MacGregor OC**, with our first *Excellence in Canada-Scandinavian Co-operation* award in the form of a framed

certificate. Roy MacGregor is an award-winning journalist and author, who has written a series of novels known as the *Screech Owl* series, which feature young people and hockey. These books were intended to attract young readers in Canada, especially boys in the 8 to 13 age group to enjoy the experience of reading books related to Canadian themes. To that end, Roy has written some 22 books in the Screech Owl series. What is most surprising is that the *Screech Owl* books have been translated into Swedish and Finnish and are selling in every increasing numbers to readers in Sweden and Finland. CNS was pleased that Britt Bengtsson, Cultural Affairs Officer at the Embassy of Sweden in Ottawa, was in attendance to describe the successful sales of all 22 *Screech Owl* books have been in Sweden.

On April 20, CNS had well known Canadian political scientist and media commentator, Dr. **David Dymont**, author of the recently published, *Doing the Continental: A New Canadian-American Relationship*, who spoke on Canada's role in the Arctic with respect to its continentalist interests with the United States and expanding ties in this region with the Nordic countries. It was a good interactive type of presentation that went on for more than two hours, concluding with the author signing a number of his books that he sold.

2. Film Evenings

None this year but remain a possibility.

3. Lucia Pageant:

Once again, the Canadian Nordic Society hosted its annual Lucia pageant on Saturday, December 11, 2010 at Christ Church Cathedral. We had a record turnout as it was once again a standing room only crowd to view the concert. Simon Snow, our Treasurer, indicates that we had record revenues of almost \$2,500, which would include both admissions and the profit from raffles. We had additional expenses in the purchase of some 12 new Lucia gowns but our final profit was still \$673.92.

To place this in perspective: most years, Lucia operates at a small loss. We are only permitted a total of 200 within the hall at Christ Church Cathedral and this year we pretty well hit the maximum as a result of some excellent advance publicity in Ottawa media. For that I would like to thank the efforts of **Martti Lahtinen** who has helped CNS develop a media campaign for these kinds of events. Another reason for our increased profit this year was the sale of raffle tickets and the donated prizes that accompanied them. Thanks to **Ida Capern** in securing all those raffle and door prize donations, including donations from the various embassies.

The magic that every year turns out to be Lucia is based on many hours of dedicated work from numerous individuals. I have listed them in an earlier President's message. This magic requires the full commitment of the Board and the efforts of many volunteers, especially our choir leaders. I am pleased to say that when Lucia organizers call on the membership for help, it has always been forthcoming.

However, new planning will be needed for Lucia in the very new future and your CNS Board will be calling on all members for advice and suggestions with respect to our continued Lucia tradition. We will soon be looking for a new location. Next year we will again hold it at the Hall at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, December 10, 2011. However, as many of you have seen in the newspaper and other media, the Anglican Church plans to sell this property in the near future and build a high-rise condominium. 2011 will be the last time CNS will be able to hold its Lucia Pageant in this wonderful building. If CNS wishes to continue, what has been for decades our most successful event aimed at families, we will need to find a new location for 2012. The Board has set up a committee to begin a search for a new site. For those with suggestions, I would recommend you contact **Len Nylund**, our Vice-President, who is heading up the Lucia re-location committee.

4. Luncheons:

Monthly luncheons at the Army Officer's Mess have been an interesting component of our program for the past several years. This year they have been organized by **Tuula Bigras**. We will be continuing this into next year's program. The last scheduled luncheon this year will be on Monday, June 13.

5. Midsummer Concert:

For the second year in a row, the CNS Board had undertaken a Midsummer Concert that will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2011 at Dominion-Chalmers United Church, Ottawa. The concert features a program of representative classical music performed by The Chamber Players of Canada and its Artistic Director, Julian Armour. Ticket prices are: Reserved at \$40.00; General Admission: \$20.00; and Student: \$10.00.

We are approaching this second concert from a different vantage point:

(a) The Midsummer Concert is the eighth of a series of eight concerts being performed in the Ottawa area by The Chamber Players of Canada, whose artistic director is Julian Armour. Our concert has been featured in the Chamber Players program schedule and advance tickets have been sold in series and through established outlets.

(b) The Ottawa media, such as CBC Radio and the Ottawa Citizen, are aware of our upcoming concert and will be publicizing it as we get closer to June 11.

(c) The five Nordic embassies are supporting our Concert financially for a second year. They are featuring this on their respective websites. Many of the ambassadors attended the first Concert and were pleased at how it was carried off.

The Board has decided **once again** to undertake the most ambitious event we have ever undertaken, namely the performance by international renowned musicians of representative classical music from each of the Nordic countries at a June concert. High level professional music and Scandinavian Midsummer would seem to be two natural themes that should in many ways be synonymous. If this concert idea proves successful, then it may be that CNS will have finally found its distinct June event for promoting Scandinavian culture in Canada's National Capital Region

6. Transitions

Let me also outline some changes for 2011-2012:

(a) Board Departures: **Ida Capern, Tuula Bigras, Tony Baron and Maria Shaar-Öhman** have indicated that they will be stepping down from our Board. I would like to thank each of them for their excellent work on behalf of the Canadian Nordic Society; Tony and Maria for three years; Tuula for the past two, and Ida for a very busy year as the Secretary to the Board which has meant regular liaison with our web-page manager.

(b) Newsletter: During the course of the year, I called on **Christine Trankalis** to once again—after a two-year hiatus-- take on the duties of our Newsletter editor, which she has done with exceptional skill. Christine has informed us that she will be stepping down but will continue to the end of June.

(c) Web Site: The Board would also like to thank **Punam Bhargava** for her conscientious work in maintaining the CNS website: canadiannordicsociety.com

7. OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE:

(a) **Increased memberships.** Priority. The core of our organizational budget comes from membership fees. These pay for the rental of the Army Officers Mess. Simon Snow will speak to this more in his Treasurer's report. However, I urge all members to be proactive in both joining and in renewing their memberships at the earliest opportunity.

(b) Continued co-ordination with Embassies. Assist them to publicize events they may be promoting. Speakers for our Speakers' Series. EU film festival and other events.

(c) Continued co-ordination with other clubs and organizations in Ottawa and beyond with respect inviting them to participate in our events and **at the same time, by publicizing their activities.** Sometimes joint events. We have advertised the activities of other clubs in the Ottawa area promoting Scandinavian language and culture and we have asked these same clubs to advertise our events. The internet has made this so much easier and cost effective.

(d) Continue with Lucia.

(e) Establish some kind of Midsummer event.

(f) Honouring our History: The Canadian Nordic Society was first established here in Ottawa in 1963 and it continues to function because we continue to evolve in different directions while at the same time continuing with our primary purpose of increasing a better knowledge in Canada of the Nordic countries. To that end, we had our first Excellence in Canada-Scandinavia Co-operation award earlier this year and ask you for suggestions on how this can be expanded.

To summarize:

The Canadian Nordic Society has flourished for more than 45 years because it has a purpose and there continue to be members committed to its objectives. However, we are dependent on memberships being paid because we have no other source of income. We also need your help and assistance from time to time, including service on the Board or on some committee. Please feel free to consider CNS as "*our Society*" which means that all of us have a proprietary interest in this organization.

Thank you to my fellow Board members for all of their hard work over the past year.

Thank you to all of the members for continuing to support us by attending our events.

Len Sillanpää
President
Canadian Nordic Society

CANADIAN NORDIC SOCIETY
Statement of revenues and expenses, April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011

Expenses

Meeting room rentals	\$ 1,305.57
Bank charges	\$ 191.94
Office supplies, postage	\$ 161.64
Webmaster	\$ 345.00
Presentation plaque for speaker	\$ 81.29
Lucia, December 11, 2010	\$ 2,109.08
Midsummer concert, June 13, 2010	\$ 8,901.04
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$13,095.56</u>

Revenues

Memberships	\$ 1,970.00
Lucia	\$ 2,783.00
Midsummer Concert	\$ 7,693.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 30.00
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>\$ 12,476.00</u>

Net: (\$ 619.56)

Bank balance, March 31, 2011 \$ 4,479.19

CANADIAN NORDIC SOCIETY
Statement of revenues and expenses
Midsummer Concert, June 13, 2010
Dominion Chalmers United Church, Ottawa

Expenses:

Rental fee, Dominion Chalmers	\$ 1,350.00
Chamber Players of Canada	\$ 5,250.00
Printing - tickets	\$ 187.55
Printing - posters	\$ 82.39
Printing – programs	\$ 438.44
Piano rental	\$ 1,350.35
Reception	\$ 96.90
Flowers	\$ 54.21
Venue insurance	\$ 91.20
<u>Total expenses:</u>	<u>\$ 8,901.04</u>

Revenues

Advance ticket sales by members	\$ 3,030.00
Net ticket sales from outlets	\$ 753.00
Ticket sales at the door	\$ 1,410.00
Contributions from Nordic embassies	\$ 2,500.00
<u>Total revenues</u>	<u>\$ 7,693.00</u>

Net: (\$1,208.04)

CANADIAN NORDIC SOCIETY
Statement of revenues and expenses
Lucia celebration and concert, December 11, 2010
Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa

Expenses

Room prep - tablecloths, candles, etc.	\$ 31.98
Loot bags (fish pond)	\$ 93.87
Flowers	\$ 49.71
Rehearsal supplies	\$ 72.02
Refreshments	\$ 394.52
Rehearsal hall for choir	\$ 151.98
Venue rental	\$ 703.00
Kitchen help and caretaker	\$ 180.00
New Lucia gowns for choir	\$ 164.00
Deposit for 2011, Dec. 10	\$ 268.00
<u>Total expenses</u>	<u>\$2,109.08</u>

Revenues

Admissions	\$2,235.00
Raffle	\$ 290.00
Return of deposit	\$ 258.00
<u>Total revenues</u>	<u>\$ 2,783.00</u>

Net: \$ 673.92