



# Nordic News

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

[www.canadiannordicsociety.com](http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com)

## **CNS 2011 Dates to Remember**

### **Speakers' Events**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2012**

David Richeson - Greenland.

### **Luncheon Dates**

**Monday December 12, 2011**

**Monday January 9, 2012**

### **Lucia Pageant**

**Saturday December 10, 2011**

**Wednesday January 18, 2012**

**Nordic Film Night**

The Canadian Nordic Society wishes that everyone have a happy and joyful festive season and a prosperous new year.

## **CNS EVENTS**

### **CNS LUNCHEONS**

These have become increasingly popular and have been on our event schedule for a number of years now. All of our monthly luncheons are held on a Monday at the Army Officers' Mess, 149 Somerset Street W. (off Elgin Street), Ottawa, Ontario

The date of the next luncheon is: Monday December 12

This special luncheon at the Officer's Mess will feature roast turkey, at a price of \$21.00 including taxes and gratuities. To reserve, please contact Lennart Nylund, 613-829-8602 or [lnylund@sympatico.ca](mailto:lnylund@sympatico.ca)

Other Monday luncheon dates will be:

2012: January 9, February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, and June 4.

Board member Kathleen Tipton has organized our luncheon program.

### **SPEAKERS' EVENTS**

No Speakers' Events are scheduled for December or January.

## **ANNUAL SANTA LUCIA PAGEANT**

The annual Santa Lucia Pageant will be held Saturday, December 10, 2011.

Doors open 6.00 pm Performance 7.00 pm

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

400 Sparks St. at the corner of Bay St.

**Note: this is a new location for the event.**

#### **Admission:**

Adults, age 18 and over \$15.00

Members of Canadian Nordic Society, \$10.00

Children age 17 and under: free.

Memberships to Canadian Nordic Society will be available for sale at the door:

Family \$30.00; Individual \$20.00; Student \$15.00

As customary, donations of baked goods and other treats for the children will be very much appreciated.

To **volunteer** and for further information, please contact:

Lennart Nylund, Vice-President, Canadian Nordic Society

Chairman, Lucia Planning Committee

613-829-8602

[lnylund@sympatico.ca](mailto:lnylund@sympatico.ca)



## **FUTURE EVENTS**

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 Nordic film evening. The film is yet to be selected.

Wednesday, February 22, 2012, David Richeson will give a presentation on his travels through Greenland.

## **OTHER NORDIC EVENTS OR ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **Iceland**

#### **From the Friends of Iceland**

The annual Jólaglögg will be held on Friday, December 16, 2011 at 7:30 pm at the Auditorium, Library and Archives Building, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa.

The film for the evening...

NÓi ALBINÓI / NÓi THE ALBINO  
2003. Dir. Dagur Kári.

Is he the village idiot or a genius in disguise? 17-year-old Nói drifts through life on a remote fjord in the north of Iceland. In winter, the fjord is cut off from the outside world, surrounded by ominous mountains and buried under a shroud of snow. Nói dreams of escaping from this white-walled prison with Iris, a city girl who works in a local gas station. But his clumsy attempts at escape spiral out of control and end in complete failure. Only a natural disaster will shatter Nói's universe and offer him a window into a better world.

For more information: 613-233-0689

#### **DID YOU KNOW:**

Bob Paulson (Icelandic background) was just appointed Commissioner of the RCMP.

### **Finland**

#### **Ottawa Finnish Church Committee - Finnish church services**

Dec. 11th at 3 p.m. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Finnish Christmas Church service, Coffee and Social to follow.

#### **Canadian Friends of Finland Events**

Friday December 2. Annual Christmas Party, St. Bartholomew's Church Hall, 6PM  
Sunday January 22, 2012 Kahvikutsut (Concert Fundraiser) Rockliffe, 1 PM  
Friday March 16, 2012 St. Urho Celebration Mooney's Bay Bistro  
Sunday April 1, 2010 CFF Concert: Kuusisto & Djokic, MacKay United Church  
Friday June 22, 2012 Juhannus Billings Estate.

For more information contact Connie Whitmore, President CFF, [connie.whitmore@ipnet.com](mailto:connie.whitmore@ipnet.com)

## **Finnish Presidential Elections 2012**

There is a note from the Embassy of Finland about the Advance polls in Canada:

Embassy of Finland, Ottawa (ON):

Wednesday 11th– Thursday 12th January 9am – 6pm and Friday 13th January 9am – 1pm

Second round, if necessary Wednesday 25th– Thursday 26th January 9am – 6pm and Friday 27th January 9am – 1pm.

55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 850, Ottawa

tel: (613) 288 2233

As well, there are Advance polls at 7 Consulates across Canada.

## **European Union**

### **EU Christmas Concert:**

Friday December 9, 2011

Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica

385 Sussex Drive

Ottawa

7 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM

Free admission

See the invitation at the end of the newsletter.

## **Norway**

The Embassy has provided the following information:

### **COLD RECALL** – Roald Amundsen's reflections from the Northwest Passage

In 2011, the Norwegian Embassy in Ottawa celebrates the 100th anniversary of polar explorer Roald Amundsen's journey to the South Pole by launching a Roald Amundsen exhibition in Canada. The polar explorer's achievements will be celebrated with original photos from Roald Amundsen's expedition to the Canadian North and Arctic. The photos have never been shown in Canada before, and they offer a unique view on Amundsen's connection with the Canadian Aboriginal people, and the knowledge he gained from his stay in the Arctic.

The exhibition, presented in cooperation with the Fram Museum in Oslo, consists of Amundsen's very own photos from Gjoa Haven in the Canadian North (Nunavut) as well as his own texts about his stay there. Amundsen spent almost two years in Gjoa Haven before he became the first person ever to sail through the Northwest Passage. Amundsen and the crew on his ship Gjøa established a close relationship with the Inuit in the area. His photos are largely a documentation of the life of the Inuit, and reflect the great influence the Inuit's traditional clothing and skills had on Roald Amundsen's own development as a polar explorer. The Inuit have in large part been left out of the Canadian-Norwegian polar history. With this new Roald Amundsen exhibition, the Embassy and the Fram Museum want to show that the knowledge Amundsen gained from living with the Inuit helped him win the race to the South Pole.

The exhibition opened in Vancouver and is now showing in Winnipeg where it will remain until mid-January. Then it will travel to Iqaluit and Whitehorse. The Embassy hopes to show the exhibition in Ottawa in 2013. Those interested may contact to Embassy to have a catalogue from the exhibition.

## **Benedicte Ingstad and L’Anse aux Meadows**

The Norwegian Embassy has initiated a cooperation with Benedicte Ingstad to promote the story about Vinland in Canada. As a part of this the Embassy has made a Viking brochure entitled “The Norwegian Vikings”. The history of the Vikings is closely linked to their role masters of the sea. For more than 200 years, the Vikings were feared as fierce and ruthless pirates. But this is not the full story. The Vikings were also poets, lawmakers and artists. Their ships explored unknown seas, and they settled new lands.

To obtain a copy of the brochure, contact the Norwegian Embassy: [emb.ottawa@mfa.no](mailto:emb.ottawa@mfa.no)

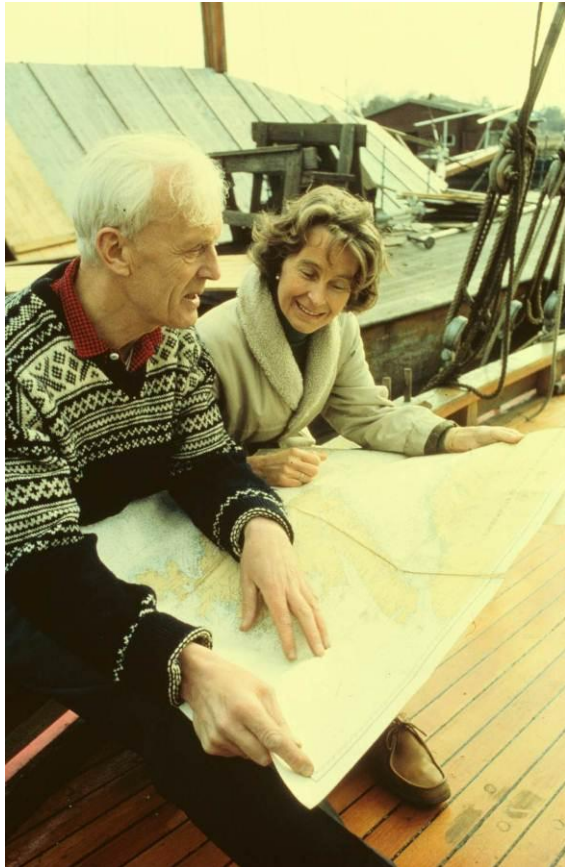
## **REPORT ON SPEAKERS’ EVENTS**

### **Report on November’s Special Speaker Event**

#### **L’Anse aux Meadows – Vinland by Professor Benedicte Ingstad**

By Peter Macnaughton

The story of Vinland, or L’Anse aux Meadows, came alive for the 75 guests at the Special Speakers’ Event on



November 15, presented by Professor Benedicte Ingstad, one of the discoverers of the old Norse settlement at the tip of the northern peninsula of Newfoundland. It was her father, Helge Ingstad who led the expedition that located the old settlement, and her mother, Anne Stine Ingstad who lead the archaeological excavations for 8 years in the 1960s.

The old sagas of Greenland and Iceland tell of the establishment of a settlement called Vinland on lands to the west of the settlements on the south-west coast of Greenland. The sagas were oral histories passed down through generations until they were written down in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The sagas tell that Leif Eirikson set out to explore the lands found by an off course ship to the west. He sailed south, past barren lands, forested lands until he came to a place with good pastures, trees and a fine beach. There a small settlement was founded, but it only survived a few years and was possibly eradicated by conflicts with the indigenous population of the area.

Neither did the settlements on Greenland survive as is well known. There was some thought that the story of Vinland had grown in the passing on of the oral story.

Prof. Ingstad’s father was born in 1899 (and lived until the current century, which made him one of the few people to have lived in 3 centuries.) He grew up in Norway and studied law at the University of Oslo. He then had a very colourful career – lawyer, cowboy, trapper, governor (of Greenland and the Spitsbergen Islands), writer and explorer. He became acquainted

with the story of Vinland and decided to search for the location. He put his mind in the shoes (and ships) of Leif and his party, studied how they might have made their way down the east coast of Labrador and on to Newfoundland. Others had interpreted part of the sagas as implying the location was quite far to the south in climates warm enough for grapes to grow (and perhaps the Vin in Vinland.) However, her father knew that “vin” was a common suffix in Norse place names and meant “meadow”. He set out up the east coast in 1960 in coastal vessels and all along the shores of Newfoundland, he would stop at settlements and ask the inhabitants if there were any ruins around. Finally he met

George Decker (at St. Anthony), who said “Follow me.” George showed them some low mounds on a grassy meadow being grazed by animals. Our speaker, 16 at the time and on summer leave from school, had joined the ship in St. John’s and her mother were also in on the discovery.

The following year they returned to the site on the MS Halten and excavations were conducted, led by Ms. Ingstad, a trained archaeologist. Over the next 7 years they uncovered several buildings, found artefacts and other evidence of settlements. Her father was criticized for announcing that the site was the old Norse colony of Vinland, arguing that it was established by the native people. But the Ingstads showed that the style of the sod houses was Norse, that they had found iron works using local bog iron, a technology not used by the native Americans. Radio carbon dating, then a relatively new tool, showed that the site dated from around 1000 AD. An iron ring pin was uncovered. Ring pins were used in the Norse communities to fasten closed the cloaks that they wore, again an item not in use by the local inhabitants.

Her mother last excavated the l’Anse aux Meadows site in 1968. Since then the site has been taken over by Parks Canada and has been declared a World Heritage location. Parks Canada completed the excavations, and have created re-constructions of what the site might have looked like at the end of the first millennium.

Prof. Benedicte Ingstad lamented that her mother never got the recognition that she deserved for the years spend in the original excavations.

This event was a joint event with the Royal Norwegian Embassy here in Ottawa, who made Prof. Ingstad available, and the Canadian Nordic Society. The Ambassador, HE Else Eikeland, thanked the speaker, saying the the work of the Ingstads “made her proud to be a Norwegian”. H.E. noted that Anne Stine Ingstad was the first prominent woman explorer in Norway. She went on to outline some of the events coming up. Dec. 14 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of Roald Amundsen at the South Pole. She also mentioned there are information catalogues on both Amundsen and the Ingstads that are available to the audience. Next summer, a Viking Festival will be held at L’Anse aux Meadows and she encouraged us to charter a plane and make our bed and breakfast reservations in St. Anthony’s right away.

CNS would like to thank Professor Ingstad for a wonderful presentation, and thank the Ambassador and the Royal Norwegian Embassy for making this night possible and so memorable. Thanks also to Prof. Ingstad and the embassy staff for making available the picture of her parents shown above.

## Report on November’s Speaker Event

### SWEDEN’S AMBASSADOR SPEAKS TO CANADIAN NORDIC SOCIETY

By Lennart Nylund



On November 23, 2011, Sweden’s Ambassador, H.E. Teppo Tauriainen, spoke to the Canadian Nordic Society on “Sweden-Canada Cooperation in Today’s Arctic.”

The Ambassador opened with some observations about relations between Sweden and Canada: there is a mutual respect, even among Swedes who have never been to Canada; the trade between the two countries is limited, but there is great potential, and opportunities must be provided to companies to engage in trade; Sweden has sent delegations to Canada to study, among other things, Canada’s successes in education, and policies regarding immigration. He noted that 95% of immigrants in Sweden are political refugees.

The Arctic Council was chartered in Ottawa in 1996, and it includes the five Nordic countries, Canada, the United States and Russia. There is a two-year rotating Presidency, and

Sweden currently holds it until May 2013. The Council must include indigenous groups, as they increase the knowledge base---they hold the same status as nations. The Council is perhaps the least known of international success stories.

The Arctic is an important part of Canadian policy, especially on inherently sensitive issues of sovereignty and resources, as compared to Sweden where there is no coast in Arctic waters. There was no Arctic policy in Sweden, and no strategy, but networks of interested people have been found to help develop strategy.

The issues are complex. A charting of the continental shelf is required to help resolve boundary issues in a race for natural resources. Norway and Russia were among the first to agree, in a model diplomatic fashion, on their ocean boundaries. Important also are climate change and its effect on marine shipping. Search and rescue agreements must be negotiated to make travel safe. Policy making must be science-based, to develop strategies that have a common denominator to suit all.

The Arctic Council was loosely knit at first, with no organizational structure. Now, there is a more formal arrangement with a Secretariat and a budget. There is scope to broaden the work of the Council, but how far are they willing to cooperate?

Interest in the work of the Council goes far beyond the Arctic region. There are observers at meetings from China, Japan, Italy, South Korea and the European Union. It is hoped this interest will lead to development by private business, to provide jobs and economic growth in the Arctic.

In December 2011, members of the Swedish Arctic Council will be coming to Ottawa to meet with their Canadian counterparts.

Picture courtesy Lennart Nylund

---

#### **Editor's note**

I am remiss in failing to acknowledge that Doreen Riedel provided the picture of her father Henry Larsen with the sculpture of Roald Amundsen used in the November Newsletter. Thanks Doreen.

## NORDIC RESOURCES

Just a reminder that there is a list of Nordic Resources located on our website

<http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com/resources.html>

including the Nordic Embassies, the Ottawa based social organizations, and links to newspapers and museums in Nordic Countries. The list is on the Nordic Resources tab on the general web site, or use the link above.

## NORDIC FACTOIDS

I was looking up Hinduism on the net and put together the following:

Hinduism in Nordic Countries and Canada (2011-10-16)

Country	Population	Hindu Population	Percentage
Canada	33,390,141	333,901	1%
Denmark	5,468,120	5,468	0.1%
Finland	5,238,460	524	0.01%
Iceland		No information given	
Norway	4,627,926	23,140	0.5%
Sweden	9,031,088	7,044 - 10,837	0.087-0.12%

Source: Wikipedia Hinduism by Country; data for 2007 (estimates)

India had 957,636,314 Hindus in a population of 1,189,610,328, or 80.5%. It is interesting that the Hindu ratio in Norway is much higher than the other Nordic countries.

Hinduism is the predominant and indigenous religious tradition of the Indian Subcontinent. The earliest evidence for prehistoric religion in India dates back to the late Neolithic in the early Harappan period (5500–2600 BCE). Modern Hinduism grew out of the Vedas (oldest scriptures of Hinduism), the oldest of which is the Rigveda, dated to 1700–1100 BCE.

## MEMBERSHIP

Our Treasurer Simon Snow said that many of those who attended the Doreen Riedel presentation also took the time to renew their membership with CNS and reminds us that if you have not done so, please fill in the form found below and send it along with your cheque to the Canadian Nordic Society to the address indicated.



## Canadian Nordic Society

If you are already a member, please pass this on to a friend!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (work): \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax : \_\_\_\_\_

To reduce costs, the newsletter will be sent electronically to those with email addresses unless otherwise advised.

### **Family Membership - \$30, Individual Membership - \$20. Student Membership - \$15.**

#### **As a Member you:**

- will receive the Society's Newsletter
- are invited to participate in all CNS events
- are encouraged to become actively involved in the life of the Society
- receive discounts on tickets to CNS events

#### Canadian Nordic Society Board Members – 2011-2012

Lennard Sillanpää - President	613-837-1641	cell: 613-298-4799	<a href="mailto:lennard.sillanpaa@sympatico.ca">lennard.sillanpaa@sympatico.ca</a>
Lennart Nylund - Vice President	613-829-8602		<a href="mailto:lnylund@sympatico.ca">lnylund@sympatico.ca</a>
Simon Snow - Treasurer	613-866-7669		<a href="mailto:ottawalainen@rogers.com">ottawalainen@rogers.com</a>
Enid Robins-Holm - Secretary	613-226-1436		<a href="mailto:erobin0456@rogers.com">erobin0456@rogers.com</a>
Martti Lahtinen - Councillor	819-827-0899		<a href="mailto:mLahtinen_13@hotmail.com">mLahtinen_13@hotmail.com</a>
Susana Chheng - Councillor	613-552-9275		<a href="mailto:susana.chheng@gmail.com">susana.chheng@gmail.com</a>
Kathleen Tipton - Councillor	819-923-3311		<a href="mailto:kdtipton@hotmail.com">kdtipton@hotmail.com</a>
Lars Öhman - Honorary President			

Peter Macnaughton - Newsletter Editor, not a board member 613-224-8527 [peter.macnaughton@sympatico.ca](mailto:peter.macnaughton@sympatico.ca)

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact one of the Board Members. Membership dues can be given to any Board member or you can mail your payment to:

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

[www.canadiannordicsociety.com](http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com) email: [info@canadiannordicsociety.com](mailto:info@canadiannordicsociety.com)



*The Delegation of the European Union to Canada and the  
Diplomatic Missions of the Member States of  
the European Union*

*Present a*

# *Christmas Concert*

*Featuring European Christmas Carols and Songs*

*Chorale De La Salle*

*and*

*Christ Church Cathedral Girls' Choir*

*with special guest*

*Lisgar Collegiate Institute String Ensemble*

*Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica*

*385 Sussex Drive, Ottawa*

*Friday 9 December 2011, 7 pm*

*Doors open at 6:30 pm*

*Free entry*



Scrimmchbl Flowers

