



Nordic News

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

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

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. Please join us for our special Christmas lunch on **Monday, December 7**, at noon. The price is \$21.50, which includes taxes but not tips. **Reservations are required** for this lunch only. To reserve, please contact Lennart Nylund by Wednesday, December 2, by email at lnylund@sympatico.ca or by phone at 613-829-8602.

Here are the dates of the lunches for the rest of this season:

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

SPEAKER SERIES

The Canadian Nordic Society speaker series takes place at **7:30PM at the Officers' Mess** at 149 Somerset Street West. (Members begin to assemble at 7:00PM.) Non-members may attend for a fee of \$5.00.

Tuesday, November 17, (please note change of date) : **Don Westwood** will speak about **The Design of Toronto City Hall: the Finnish Influence on Modern Toronto**.



Don Westwood is a Professor Emeritus of the School of Architecture at Carleton University where he taught and conducted research for some 31 years. Born in London, England, Don emigrated to Canada in 1959 where he worked on the design of the Toronto City Hall that had been designed by the Finnish architect Viljo Revell. This presentation is a perspective on Toronto's uniquely designed city hall, how it was created, and how it has fared over the past fifty years, by a professional who is very much an insider on this major piece of Canadiana.

Don and his wife Anneli have been long-time members of the Canadian Nordic Society. For more information call (613) 837-1641.

Additional Information on the Icelandic Settlement Disaster Kinmount, Ontario

Further to Peter Macnaughton's article on this subject in our October edition, the names of the Icelandic settlers of Kinmount, Ontario in 1874 can be viewed on the CNS website at:

<http://canadiannordicsociety.com/icelandic-settlement-disaster>

Great Turnouts at our Monthly lunches!

We are very encouraged at the number of people who have been attending our lunches recently. We counted 25 at our October lunch! The photos below show some of our members enjoying Vangie Bergum's presentation on her book "Downstream, Bestemor, and Me" at the June 1, 2015 lunch. (*photos courtesy of Astrid Ahlgren*)



Author Vangie Bergum, middle, speaks with Kari Williams, while Bruce Miller listens with interest.



Tim Mark in conversation with Vangie Bergum. George Hynnä is in the background.



Hilde Huus, Kari Williams, and Brault Kelpin (husband of the author) listen as Vangie Bergum answers a question about her book.

Events of Interest to CNS Members

Danish Club's annual bazaar on Saturday, November 14, 11:00AM to 2:00PM, at Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre, Britannia Park, Ottawa

Per Talgoy's annual lutefisk dinner on Saturday, November 21, 6:00PM to 9:00PM, at New Edinburgh Field House 193 Stanley Ave., Ottawa. \$15 per person (RSVP per.Talgoy@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca)

Finnish Christmas carol sing-along on Sunday, November 29, 3:00PM, at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 400 Sparks Street, Ottawa. Entrance through the side door from the parking lot. (Note: entrance is closed at 3:30 and re-opened after the service, before the coffee reception.)

Swedish Club's annual traditional Lucia celebration on Saturday, December 5, 4:00PM to 7:00PM at Rideau Park United Church, Alta Vista. (The Lucia procession will start at 5:00PM.)

Danish Club's family Christmas party on Sunday, December 6 at 2:00PM, at St. John's Lutheran Church Hall, 272 Crichton Street, Ottawa

Danish Club's Christmas church service on Sunday, December 13 at 2:00PM, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 272 Crichton Street, Ottawa

Finnish Christmas service on Sunday, December 13, 3:00PM, at St. Peter's Evangelical Church, 400 Sparks Street, Ottawa. Entrance through the side door from the parking lot. (Note: entrance is closed at 3:30 and re-opened after the service, before the coffee reception.)

30th European Union Film Festival - Ottawa

The 30th European Union Film Festival takes place in Ottawa from November 20 to December 10. The following are the contributions from the Nordic countries:

"The Keeper of Lost Causes" (Mikkel Norgaard, Denmark, 2013, 97 minutes) on Saturday, November 21, at 9:05PM, ByTowne Cinema
Danish with English sub-titles

"A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence" (Ray Anderssen, Sweden, 2014, 101 minutes) on Saturday, November 28 at 6:35PM, ByTowne Cinema
Swedish with English sub-titles

"The Grump" (Dome Karukoski, Finland, 2014, 104 minutes) on Sunday, November 29 at 3:50PM, ByTowne Cinema
Finnish with English sub-titles

Admission: \$13 for the general public; \$9 for seniors. To view the full program from all countries go to European Union Film Festival.

Ambassador of Sweden Addresses Canadian Nordic Society

His Excellency Per Sjögren, Ambassador of Sweden, addressed the Canadian Nordic Society on October 7, 2015 at the Officers' Mess at 149 Somerset Street West. The audience listened attentively to his remarks on "Swedish Foreign Policy: Priorities and Challenges".

His Excellency started his remarks by explaining the current political landscape in Sweden, which is governed by a coalition made up of the Social Democratic Party and the Green Party, with the support of the Left Party. This arrangement has been very stable over the past year since the election, in step with a long tradition of Swedish compromise. The Ambassador noted that Sweden is situated in one of the most free, secure, and prosperous regions in the world but is facing unstable times. He referred specifically to the situation in the Ukraine, ongoing terrorism threats, and the refugee crisis. Sweden's humanitarian system is overburdened by the 40 ongoing conflicts in the world today, and the resulting refugee crisis. He noted that there are 8 million displaced persons within Syria, and 4 million in its neighbouring countries, with no end to the war in Syria in sight.

Sweden is a strong member of the European Union (EU) and a loyal supporter of its goals. With respect to the situation in the Ukraine, he stressed that international law principles and the Minsk Protocol must be applied to maintain the Ukraine's territorial integrity. Sweden is making a considerable contribution to the coalition against ISIS through humanitarian action and by receiving refugees. Between 80,000 to 90,000 refugees have been received since the beginning of the war in Syria. 2,000 refugees a week were being received by Sweden during some periods. Sweden is the largest receiver of asylum seekers in Europe. It has an orderly reception system in place and is working on a plan for more effective refugee integration into society involving the municipalities, trade unions, sports organizations, and many other groups.

Sweden has demonstrated its willingness to do its part on the world stage by submitting its candidacy for the United Nations Security Council in 2017-18. Among other international summits, it will be participating in the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference this Fall, and the World Humanitarian Assistance Summit 2016 in Turkey, which aims to reform structures for global humanitarian assistance.

The Ambassador talked about Sweden's national climate policy and its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to keep increases as far below 2% as possible. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven recently announced to the UN General Assembly that Sweden intends to become the first fossil fuel-free nation in the world, with zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050.

The Ambassador explained Sweden's view that equality between men and women is a key human rights issue. He noted that studies show the effectiveness of increased participation of women in peace efforts.



His Excellency Per Sjögren, Ambassador of Sweden, right, with CNS President Tim Mark

The audience had many questions for the Ambassador on issues including fossil fuel reduction, how new immigrants are received by Swedish society, Sweden's foreign policy with regard to Israel, and its feminist foreign policy. He answered all of them thoughtfully and in detail. Tim Mark, President of the Canadian Nordic Society, thanked the Ambassador for his broad horizon overview of Swedish foreign policy. He remarked on the prominence of Sweden, a relatively small country, on the world stage and wished them good luck in their candidacy for the UN Security Council. He presented the Ambassador with the coveted "Canadian Nordic Society coffee mug" as a token of the Society's appreciation.

Maud Returns Home

by Peter MacNaughton

Members may remember a talk by Jan Wanggaard in March 2012, about the endeavour to recover the remains of the *Maud*, a ship commissioned for the Polar explorer Roland Amundsen, and return the vessel from its resting place in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, Canada to its birth place in Norway.

According to a recent tweet, the recovery team has succeeded in raising the hull of the *Maud* to a level keel and raising the bow off the sea bed.



The project has had to cease recovery operations for the winter and has winterized the tug. The picture above was taken by a camera on a kite and was copied from the Facebook/Twitter page at <https://www.facebook.com/maudreturnshome/posts/996895773705490>

We wish the project success in raising the hull and loading it onto the barge next year.

Elinor Barr: Ottawa Book Launch of “Swedes in Canada: Invisible Immigrants”

(photos on pages 10 and 11 courtesy of Stuart Barr)

Oct 21, 2015 marked the Ottawa launch of Thunder Bay author Elinor Barr’s much anticipated book - “Swedes in Canada: Invisible Immigrants”. The event was part of the Canadian Nordic Society Speakers Series and was jointly sponsored through the generosity of the Embassy of Sweden. A large and appreciative audience of over sixty people attended.



Elinor Barr with her new book

Elinor Barr was born in 1933 to Swedish parents and grew up in Ignace, Ontario. She graduated from McKellar General Hospital School of Nursing in Fort William and has published eight books as well as several articles and book reviews. She was welcomed on behalf of CNS and the Swedish Embassy by an old friend, Lennard Sillanpää.

As we learned - since 1776, more than 100,000 Swedish-speaking immigrants have arrived in Canada from Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Ukraine, and the United States. Swedish individuals and companies have been active in almost every aspect of Canadian life. Many Swedes emigrated to North America from 1840 to 1914 : most were landless labourers and the sons and daughters of small farmers who stood no chance of inheriting their family landholdings. Consequently they left to seek their fortunes opportunities elsewhere. The 1931 Census of Canada identified more than 81,000 Canadian inhabitants of Swedish origin.

Following a fascinating and entertaining talk accompanied by many vignettes about the lives and adventures of immigrant Swedes, Elinor was thanked by the Ambassador of Sweden, H.E. Per Sjögren. In his remarks the Ambassador noted the importance of “Swedes in Canada” as the definitive history of the Swedish immigrant experience in Canada and its appearance after many

years of work as a significant publishing achievement. The Ambassador also noted the continuing influence of Swedish companies and individuals on Canadian life.

A lively question and answer session ensued. Elinor noted it had taken over eight years to research and write the book, and confirmed that she learned Swedish following her retirement in order to undertake her research. Don Sjöberg of Winnipeg had promised that if she would write a history of Swedes in Canada then he would raise money to make it happen: after much fundraising \$65, 000 was raised- enough to fund the project.

Amongst many Swedish contributions to Canadian life and Canadian national consciousness she singled out the 1973 Participaction campaign: many in the audience remembered ruefully that typical sixty-year old Swede -allegedly as fit as the average thirty-year old Canadian – and wondered if it still holds true.

Lennard Sillanpää called upon Myron Momryck formerly of Library and Archives Canada to comment on why the Swedes became ‘invisible’ immigrants.’ Two other distinguished guests, Neil Carlson, Honorary Consul of Sweden in Winnipeg and Sonja Lundström, former President of the Swedish Cultural Association of Manitoba, added their plaudits for Elinor Barr’s achievement. Following the presentation Ms. Barr was presented with flowers and the traditional CNS mug by CNS President Tim Mark. Delicious Swedish hors d’oeuvres were served, courtesy of the Embassy of Sweden.

“Swedes in Canada: Invisible Immigrants” is published by the University of Toronto Press and is available directly online or through Amazon or Chapters



Lennard Sillanpää



Elinor Barr and Ambassador Per Sjögren



Elinor Barr, Tim Mark and the CNS mug



Left to right: Neil Carlson, Swedish Honorary Consul, Winnipeg; Tim Mark, President, Canadian Nordic Society; Per Sjögren, ambassador of Sweden, Ottawa; Elinor Barr, author; Sonja Lundström, former President, Swedish Cultural Association of Manitoba; Lennard Sillanpää, Canadian Nordic Society (photo courtesy of Marie Devlin)

The CNS Has A Facebook Page!

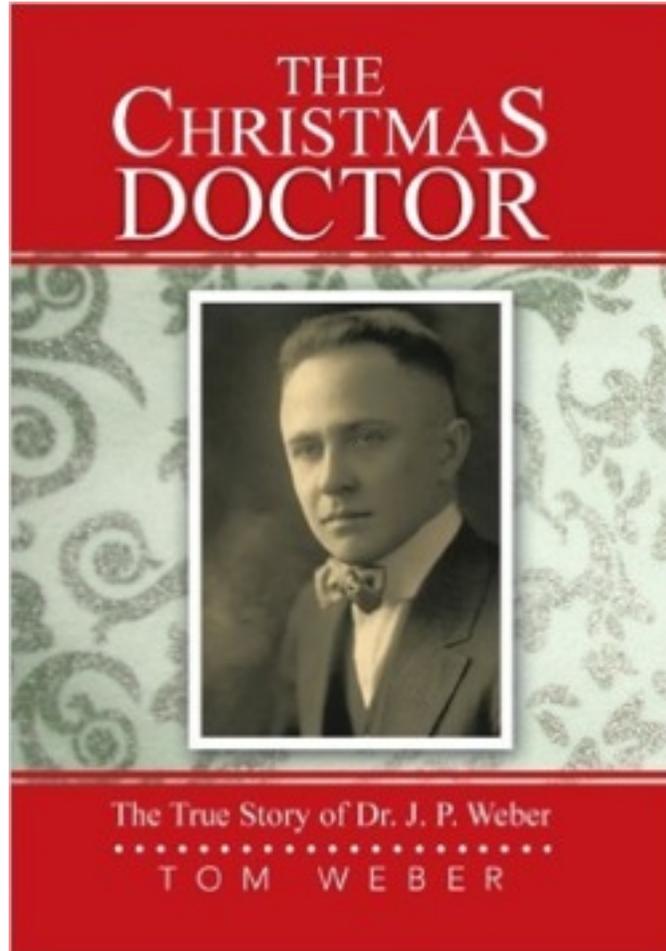
The Canadian Nordic Society now has its own Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/canadiannordicsociety> (or look up Canadian Nordic Society on Facebook). “Like” us on Facebook to show your support, keep current on our information and events, and share them with your friends!

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

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)

Norwegian sweaters for sale

Enid Robins-Holm

613 226-1436

erobin0456@rogers.com

Cardigan by ODA of Norway, size Medium, \$85.00.

Black and off white. Trim is olive, dark red and gold.

Silver clasps. Two front pockets.

Compare similar sweaters:

<https://www.etsy.com/listi.../111882239/oda-of-norway-sweater...>



Cardigan by Skjaeveland of Norway, size Medium (or large), \$75.00

Navy blue and off white with soft green trim. Front pockets and pewter buttons.



Cardigan by Skjaeveland of Norway, size Medium, \$125.00
Dark red and black with highlights. Silver clasps.



Norwegian cardigan, size Medium, \$125.00
Basic colours are dark green and navy with some red trim. Silver buttons.
Compare @ <http://ca.daleofnorway.com/women/>



Norwegian cardigan, size Medium, \$125.00
Compare @ <http://ca.daleofnorway.com/women/>





Canadian Nordic Society

Box 55023, 240 Sparks St.
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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