

October 2017

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# Nordic News

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

## Finland's Ambassador to Canada to Address the CNS

Finland's Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Vesa Lehtonen, will address the CNS on Wednesday, **October 18** at 7:30 PM at the Army Officers' Mess, 149 Somerset St. West. He will speak on " "Finland's 100th Anniversary - thoughts on the past and the future."



*His Excellency Vesa Lehtonen*

His Excellency Vesa Lehtonen was appointed to serve as Head of the Embassy of Finland in Ottawa in 2016.

# Suomi Finland 100

## **Nordic Favourites - A Musical Salute to Finland's 100th Anniversary**



On Saturday, **October 21** at 7:30 PM, a special concert, “Nordic Favourites - A Musical Salute to Finland's 100th Anniversary,” sponsored by the Embassy of Finland, Canadian Friends of Finland Ottawa and the CNS, will be presented at the beautiful [First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa Church](#), 30 Cleary Ave. Popular Finnish folk songs and classical pieces will be presented by the [Toronto Pelimannit](#), [Trygve Ringereide](#) (tenor), [Shawne Elizabeth](#) (soprano), and the Finnish Singers. A reception will follow, sponsored by Ikea Canada. The concert is organized by Costa Kapsalis.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available from any CNS Council member. Tickets are also available for purchase by PayPal on the [CNS website](#). If you use PayPal, please bring your receipt. Information: Trygve Ringereide (613) 744-3650 or Costa Kapsalis (613) 726-1808.

*An official event of 'Finland 100'*

## **A Nordic Salute Gala Dinner and Musical Celebration**

The CNS is hosting **A Nordic Salute Gala Dinner and Musical Celebration** to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Finland. It will be quite an affair! All the Nordic ambassadors have been invited and most have already accepted our invitation. Chef Serge Rourre, former Executive Chef at Le Baccara restaurant at Casino Du Lac-Leamy has prepared a very elegant Nordic menu inspired by the world-famous Noma restaurant in Copenhagen.

The Gala will be held on Thursday, **November 9** at Les Jardins de La Cité Restaurant, 801 Aviation Parkway at 6:00 PM for cocktails, with dinner to be served at 7:00 PM. Dress is black tie or business suit.

Tickets are \$80 for members if paid before October 20. From October 21 on, non-members and members may purchase tickets, if available, for \$95. Non-members may apply \$15 of the cost towards CNS membership if they join this year. Tickets can be purchased by clicking on [PayPal](#) or in person at one of our events.

If you have any dietary restrictions, questions or special requests please direct these to [marketing@canadiannordicsociety.com](mailto:marketing@canadiannordicsociety.com) or call Hanne Sjøborg at 514-713-5753.

*An official event of 'Finland 100'*

### **October Luncheon**

Our October luncheon is on Monday, **October 2**, at the Army Officers' Mess, 149 Somerset Street West, at noon. For the schedule of all of the luncheons from September until June, please visit our [website](#).

### **“Canada 150 - Suomi Finland 100” Jubilee Celebration in Helsinki** *(by Norma Mickleburgh)*

As some of you know, there was a "Canada 150 - Suomi Finland 100" Jubilee on July 1st in Helsinki open to the public and hosted by the Canadian Embassy. The event marked two anniversaries in 2017: Canada's 150th and Finland's 100th birthday. After the Canadian Ambassador's welcome, the national anthems of Canada and Finland were sung by soprano Ghislaine Dionne followed by a stage show with two Finnish bands (Blue Eyed Sons, Grandmother Corn), RCMP Mountie, former NHL players and a Canada Day raffle - proceeds to benefit the Finnish-Canadian Society.

The two photos below are by a private citizen (me). *(That's Norma on the right in the photo below. HH)* I happened to be visiting acquaintances who took me there as a "surprise".



The joint Canada 150 - Suomi Finland 100 festival was well attended, with about a hundred people or so. They eventually congregated in a large white tent, away from the rather brisk breeze blowing off the harbour. Not to mention the refreshments served there, with the Guess Who playing in the background.



## The Montreal Norwegian Club Christmas Sale (by Per Talgoy)

The Montreal Norwegian Club Christmas Sale this year is Friday, **Nov. 10**, 5:00 to 9:00 PM, and Saturday, **Nov. 11**, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

I have taken orders in the past years from people that cannot travel to Montreal, but would like to buy some food items. They have a pre-order system this year with a **deadline of Oct. 15**. If people email me, [per.talgoy@nrc.ca](mailto:per.talgoy@nrc.ca), I can send them the list with prices from last year.

The Norwegian Church and Community Centre is located at 5065 Sherbrooke in Lachine. Take Hwy 20 to 55th Ave. Turn south to the first light, then left onto Sherbrooke.

## Ninth CNS President Haakon Aass: 1975-77 (by Hilde Huus)

Haakon Aass was born on a farm in Lena, Norway, about one hundred kilometres north of Oslo, on March 8, 1917. (When I looked up Lena on Wikipedia, I found it described as “a quite small place, even for Norway”!)



Norway has a wonderful online “digital museum” of old photographs and that is where I found the photo above, with the caption “Julaften på Sukkestad Midtre 1936” (*Christmas Eve at the Middle*

*Sukkestad Farm 1936*). Haakon Aass is the second from the left. He would have been only 19 years old at the time, and could not possibly have imagined the life and adventures that lay before him!

Haakon joined the Royal Norwegian Air Force and served as a pilot during World War II and later as an aeronautical engineer. My research found him on an unofficial list of personnel at “Little Norway” in Canada for the period 1940-46 (From the book: «The Spirit of Little Norway» by Edvard Omholt-Jensen 1986. The list was compiled and listed by Robert E. Haraldsen and updated in 2009.) It must have been while he was at Little Norway that he met Eleanor Griffiths, whom he married in 1942. The couple apparently emigrated to Norway after the war, but I found Haakon again in the 1950 University of Toronto graduate yearbook, under the heading “APPLIED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING.” He appears to have been on a sabbatical and was listed as “HAAKON AASS, Lena, Norway: Aeronautical.Future:-Return to Royal Norwegian Air Force.”

In 1955, Haakon and Eleanor emigrated to Canada for good. Haakon served first as a civilian in the Canadian Air Force and later as the engineer who was responsible for the successful adaptation of the crash position indicator (CPI) for Leigh Instruments. The crash position indicator is a radio beacon designed to be ejected from an aircraft when it crashes. This helps ensure it survives the crash and any post-crash fires or sinking, allowing it to broadcast a homing signal to search and rescue aircraft. When development was completed in 1959, the license was contracted to Leigh Instruments of Carleton Place to manufacture the system. Largely due to the success of the CPI, Leigh went on to become one of the largest Canadian electronics firms. Although most aircraft now carry non-ejectable beacons, ejectable versions are still built for overwater flight.

Upon retirement, Haakon started his own consulting firm, H. Aass Aero Engineering, which soon included international clients. He was apparently also a sailing enthusiast, as I found a reference to both himself and his son Carl participating in a sailing race near Bon Echo Provincial Park. He and Eleanor had built a cottage in the area in 1957. I would be very surprised if there wasn't also some cross country skiing done up at that cottage!

Haakon Aass died in Ottawa on November 20, 2000, leaving his widow Eleanor, their three children and several grandchildren. Eleanor later remarried and is still living in the Ottawa area.

## **Maud Returns Home** *(by Hilde Huus)*

*Maud*, named for Queen Maud of Norway, was a ship built for Roald Amundsen for his second expedition to the Arctic. Amundsen himself christened the ship with a chunk of ice and the following statement:

It is not my intention to dishonor the glorious grape, but already now you shall get the taste of your real environment. For the ice you have been built, and in the ice you shall stay most of your life, and in the ice you shall solve your tasks. With the permission of our Queen, I christen you *Maud*.

After her Arctic adventures, Maud ended her working years with the Hudson's Bay Company as a supply ship for company outposts in the western Arctic. In the winter of 1926 she was frozen into the ice at Cambridge Bay, where she sank in 1930.

In 2011 Norwegian company Tandberg Eiendom AS<sup>[6]</sup> announced a plan to return *Maud* to Norway.

It was a daunting task to bring the Maud back up to the surface and prepare her to be towed back to Norway. If you would like to read about the recovery operation, I recommend the [Maud Returns Home](#) blog.)

The *Maud* is being towed east by tugboat, through the Northwest Passage. It will spend the winter in Greenland before heading back to Norway, where it will be on display at the Fram Museum, along with the *Gjøa* and the *Fram*, both of which were also used by Amundsen in his explorations.



*This is how the Maud looked after she was hauled up onto the ice:*

## Upcoming Events of Interest

- **Finnish Thanksgiving Church Service** on Sunday, **October 1**, 3:00 PM at St Peter's Lutheran Church, 400 Sparks St. Ottawa. Everyone is welcome! Note:
  - enter from parking lot side door only
  - don't forget the parking permit for your car
  - doors are locked for safety reasons during the service
- **The Danish Club of Ottawa's Harvest Church Service** Sunday, **October 1** at 2:30 PM at St. John Lutheran Church Hall, 270 Crichton Street, Ottawa. Pastor Kenneth Berg to deliver the sermon. "Hyggeligt samvær" in the Church Hall afterwards with home-baked delicacies. All welcome.
- The National Arts Centre **Ideas of North Festival** runs from **October 3 to 14**. "Morning to night, explore perspectives on the North through music, architecture, digital installations and the culinary arts. Enjoy both free and paid events in this immersive festival in celebration of Canada's 150th and Finland's 100th birthdays. Make yourself at home in Canada's living room." For information on the exhibits, concerts, parties, and more, and to book tickets, go to <https://nac-cna.ca/en/orchestra/packages/ideas-of-north>

## 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 [communications@nordicsociety.com](mailto:communications@nordicsociety.com)

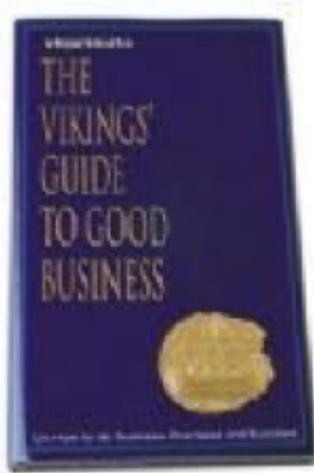
## Canadian Nordic Society Co-ordinates

Our website is [www.canadiannordicsociety.com](http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com), and you can contact us by email at [info@canadiannordicsociety.com](mailto:info@canadiannordicsociety.com).

The CNS council list, including email addresses and phone numbers, is available at: <http://www.canadiannordicsociety.com/council.html>

And the CNS has its own, very active, [Facebook](#) page.

## **Gudrun Publishing**



Gudrun Publishing was established in Reykjavik in 1992. Gudrun books are now represented in museums and bookshops right across Scandinavia and all over the world.

Our focus is on books about Scandinavian literature and culture. We offer a number of series on these topics. The best-known is called "The Viking Series". It includes the "Vikings Guide to Good Business", "The Sayings of the Vikings", "The Viking Gods", and many more.

Children can learn about Nordic mythology in "The Adventures of Thor the Mighty".



Gudrun Publishing also offers the book series "Art Souvenir". They introduce the reader to different Scandinavian artists and art genres, for example Edvard Munch and Viking Art.

To view the books we have on offer, please visit our website [www.gudrunpublishing.com](http://www.gudrunpublishing.com)

## **Join CNS or Renew your Membership**

You can join CNS or renew your membership online, by mail, or in person. We encourage you to pay online using PayPal. This is the quickest and most efficient method.

### **Online**

To pay 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 pay in person when you attend one of our luncheons or speaker events. Please speak to any one of our Council members.



# Canadian Nordic Society

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

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

## Membership Application/Renewal

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

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

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Membership \$45, Individual Membership \$30, Student \$20**  
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