



Scandinavian Cultural Society Newsletter 2019

www.scandinavianculturalsociety.org

The AGM of the Scandinavian Cultural Society will be held at the Scandinavian Community Centre 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby on

Monday February 25th, 2019
at 7:00 pm to:

- 1) Consider the directors' reports
- 2) Consider Financial Statements for the year ended December 31st, 2018
- 3) Elect directors, Group A
- 4) Transact such other Business as may properly come before the Meeting.

Attendance at this Annual General Meeting is open to all group and individual members.

Dues may be paid at or prior to the meeting.

Dated January 21, 2019
By order of the Board of Directors
of the Scandinavian Cultural Society

*Thank you
Newsletter Contributors*

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The Scandinavian Cultural Society presents

Nordic Art & Photography Show & Sale

Saturday & Sunday, February 16 & 17, 2019

11 am to 4 pm

Scandinavian Community Centre
6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby BC



Hatzie Cottage by Aslaug Resok Boulter

Opening Reception 11:30 am Saturday, February 16th
Please RSVP

Coffee and light lunch noon to 3 p.m.

Entry forms: www.scandinaviancentre.org
Info or rsvp 604 522 4567 sonjabusch@hotmail.com

7 pm Saturday evening: A Force in Nature

Free award winning film on Icelandic artist Jóhann Eyfells

Supported by the Danish Canadian Community Centre





President's Message

Poul Erik Rasmussen

Photo Lars Larson

The first thing I think of as I write this message is how many people and groups there are to thank. Our members work hard all year especially those on our Board. Sometimes we have close to 50 member and non member volunteers helping with a single event such as our Sámi Culture and Design celebration. Thank you to everyone who helped. We are also grateful for the performers, presenters, and technical experts who donate their services. We see them for an hour but they write, practice, and study for days in preparation.

We are also appreciative of our financial support. The Province of BC Gaming Commission, the Danish Canadian Community Centre, and the City of Burnaby each give us grants that cover almost half of our expenses. Your membership fees alone put on a half day event such as our Player Piano Concert. Sometimes we share costs in partnership such as with the Icelandic Canadian


Check out our website for the latest info and photos
scandinavianculturalsociety.org

Club of BC for Leif Erikson Day. We are pleased to be part of such a helpful community.

We receive much positive feedback on the value of our events in developing awareness of our shared Nordic heritage and in helping to preserve it. These are our goals which we only achieve with your help. We appreciate your comments and your support. Our Community Centre Board sent us a note of thanks for our

work. They asked us to pass their appreciation on to you. Together we do creative, rewarding labour that looks like hard work, but really, we are just having fun. So continue to attend and enjoy our events. Please join us in support of Nordic culture in our Community Centre and around Vancouver.


Poul Erik Rasmussen, President
 Scandinavian Cultural Society



The Scandinavian Cultural Society
Presents

Sámi Celebration

1 pm to 9 pm, Saturday, Feb 2nd, 2019



Lloyd Binder 2017


Sámi National Day Dinner
with
Lloyd Binder
Inuvik Reindeer Herder

Dinner tickets \$30
604 294-0749
tolufsen@shaw.ca

Photos
Films
Talks
Displays
Furnished lavvu
Music
Sámi dress
Reindeer Dinner

social: 5pm dinner: 6 program: 7

Scandinavian Community Centre
6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, BC
scandinavianculturalsociety.org



Binder and 3000 reindeer

Nordic Spirit Festival 2019: Are We There Yet? How Nordic immigrants traveled to Canada

On April 13 and 14, 2019, the Scandinavian Cultural Society plans a thirteenth Nordic Spirit show on the methods of transportation used by Nordic immigrants as they came to Canada. We will focus on travel from the 1800's up to 1960's or 70's. Nordic immigrants used ships, trains and other methods, including airplanes. Flying was perhaps less fraught with daring adventure but there will still be tales to tell.

Part of every trip would include travel in the home countries, too, or to the United States first.

We are collaborating with Rolf Christensen who works with the National Danish Heritage yearbook. He is sharing his personal collection of photos of immigrant ships used by Danish and other settlers. He has gathered some stories from across Canada, too. We need to add our local community information.

So yet again, we ask to borrow your heritage photos to copy and display or even artefacts such as ship's dishes or special papers from American Ellis Island or Canada Pier 21. Your stories are perhaps the most interesting. What happened on the way here? Did you encounter danger, adventure, find a wife, or was it boring days of nothing much. Not likely the latter. We are interested in all.

Viggo Pedersen Travels to Canada, 1930

Viggo Pedersen writes in his book *Nybygger i Canada* that in the 1930's when his CPR immigrant ship *S/S Montcalm* landed in Saint John, British subjects disembarked first, and only then the rest of the passengers could leave. After having gone through Canadian customs, the newcomers would board the immigrant train. There were separate rail cars for each nationality. The rail cars at the front of the train were considered the most exposed and dangerous in case of an accident so Southern Europeans were put

there, followed by the Germans, then Scandinavians. The safest cars at the back were reserved for the British. Note below unusually high smoke stacks on his ship.



CPR's SS Montcalm
Giant smokestacks!

To share travel photos and stories:

cthauber12@gmail.co

Architect at Nordic Spirit 2019

James Bligh's images show on urbanism, architecture, and food is titled *Scandinavian Design: Lessons from Copenhagen to Kirkenes*. On April 13, 7 pm.



Mirrorcube Tree Hotel, Lule, Sweden

Nordic Spirit 2018: Nordics in Early BC Fishing



Leif Erikson Festival, 2018: Iceland

To honour Leif Erikson this year we focused on achievements of people of Iceland and those of Icelandic descent in Canada. We worked closely with the Icelandic Canadian Club of BC, a delightful creative group. Funding from Burnaby City, FestivalsBurnaby grant covered about 40% of our non food costs. We offered talks, photos, crafts, book displays, music, and Icelandic food. Our presenters were particularly enlightening.

Honorary Icelandic Consul in Vancouver, Glenn Sigurdson, described Gimli, Manitoba's Icelandic settlement from the late 1870's. Glenn grew up there, descended from early immigrants. He humorously transmitted his insider view. We toddled along after little Glenn, 'helping' his grandfather fish, and wheedling

cookies from Grandma. Fishing was unfamiliar work for his farming family but brought income in the difficult times and region. Read the story in Glenn's book *Vikings on a Prairie Ocean* (buy on Amazon). You will be right there. While reading, figure out how a

Leif Erikson Day 2019: Focus on Denmark

fisherman from Gimli got to be a noted Canadian and International mediation lawyer.

Erik Nelson, Seattle Nordic Museum Director, showed us his beautiful new building, designed as a community gathering place. Their current exhibition, on until April, has rare Swedish Viking archaeological finds, craft workshops, and visits by world renown Viking experts. I've got to hear, Neil Price. He spoke at

our Centre last year. He advises that bloodthirsty 'Vikings' series on TV, though quite a quiet man, himself. Erik would like to work with our Centre, sharing experts like Neil and exhibits when we can. See <https://nordicmuseum.org/>

A Copenhagen girls choir and our own Spelmenlag with Nordic Bleu gave concerts. After a roast lamb dinner, Dr. Donald Gislason, retired UBC musicologist and humourist, talked about the *Promises and Problems of a Viking Heritage*. No difficulty keeping awake. His wry comments and fascinating Icelandic facts kept us on chair's edge. A perfect after dinner speaker. Come again.

Carolyn Thauberger



left: Icelandic Honorary Consul Glenn Sigurdson and Carolyn Thauberger
right: 'Viking' John Cowen
below: helpers Diane Kilback, Jana Helgason, Maria Lakes, Anne Lipton
Photos above and below Bent Ostergaard



Spelmannslag and Nordic Bleu sounded particularly fine together
Photo Lars Larsen



Frederiksberg Sogns Pigechor from Copenhagen at Leif Erikson Day.
Photo Lars Larsen



Icelandic Fabric display
Photo Bent Ostergaard



Norm Eyford, ICCBC, thanks kitchen people: Chef Peggy Fridriksdottir, Dorrit Ilott, Maria Lakes. An important job.
Photo Lars Larsen

SCS/BCGS Genealogy at the Centre

All year the SCS sponsors a very active genealogy programme with members of the BC Genealogy Society. We meet at the Scandinavian Centre in the Icelandic Room where we have access to local BC records. Our experts help anyone with their Nordic family history and offer advice on genealogy websites and programmes, and now on DNA testing for genealogy. We are usually tracking down older family records overseas, and immigration dates and records, or 'lost' family contacts. In 2018, our members had the Genealogy Room open during Midsummer Festival and we participated in two other large



events, the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site's multicultural exhibit in May and the West Vancouver Memorial Library's Genealogy Fair in November. These events help promote Nordic genealogy and the many other activities of the Scandinavian Cultural Society.

Diane Rogers, BCGS

Player Piano Concert 2018

Our concert was a learning experience and certainly fun, though not many were there. Deborah Jones had the concert idea and organized our Centre's music rolls. Jarl Christensen and Pia Christensen 'played'. Solveig Karlgren came. Her family had donated the organ to the Centre, having bought it second hand long ago.

Steen Larsen repaired the piano. He had been a pipe organ technician in Denmark. He said a player piano uses air pedaled into the cylinder and released through small holes punched in rolls of paper. Rushing air activates tiny hammers to tap the right keys.

The piano and rolls were invented in the late 1800's, John Stuart said, and people could then have live music at home. The actual performance of good players or composers such as Grieg, could be recorded. Thus the rolls reveal historic improvisation popular at the time. Rachmaninoff used

an inventive spin playing *Minute Waltz*. Gershwin fancied up his *Rhapsody in Blue*. We can even hear the style of famous older teachers like Liszt through their students.

Our own rolls weren't made by anyone famous, but we do have nearly a hundred thanks to Peter Praegel. Volunteers had cleaned the boxes of rolls out of our attic thinking they were junk. Peter spotted them ready to be hauled away. Close! Rolls can be worth hundreds of dollars. Not ours, however.

Aage Kalsen sang a few show tunes for us along with the piano. It was tricky to learn the improvised timing, frills, and repeats, but Aage is a practiced singer, and he sounded great. At the end of the afternoon we had a chance to stand around our piano and sing along. Such a joyful experience.

Carolyn Thauberger

Oh No! Trolls Again!

In 2018, several of you volunteered for that Midsummer troll minder job. Lucas Schmi-etenknop, Steen Larsen, Maria Lakes, Dianne Kilback, and Lars Larsen herded trolls from the attic to the garden. And back. Akiyo Okugawa babysat the trolls all day with Jaden Laprise and Koji Laprise. Big job. Trolls = **Trouble!**



u tink dat ve von cum dis yr. No. vE be der aftRol. Cee mud; hole famle cum. ukantaknispkchrsvoss



The troll garden is popular, full of lively kids and tired grandparents.



Steen Larsen shows how the Player Piano works.

photos this page: Arne Møllar



Sámi Design Show a Community Effort



The *Sámi Culture and Design* show last February was such a success. Everybody said so. It was the powerful feeling of community that people liked. Here is how we did it together.

Karen Sorensen, of Sámi descent, had ideas, and SCS members worked to organize with support from the American Pacific Sámi Searvi.

Ten guys put up the lavvu with poles from Steen Larsen's back 40. Our kids had a place to be. Ted Stroman gave the lavvu *Hygge*, and with Monica Jensen and her daughter, welcomed its visitors. Poul Erik slept in it on reindeer hides for two nights, guarding.

Sámi National Day dinner might be a Centre first. Laura Olufsen and Tor sold 143 tickets. It took weeks to locate reindeer meat from Lloyd Binder in Inuvik. An Air North pilot put it into Poul Erik's hands with apologies for shipping it back when they didn't get us by phone. It tastes better if it crosses the Arctic Circle thrice!

Gunnar Jensen and his wife spent hours slicing meat (and

finger) and came back next day to help Carolyn cook. Dave Buckman got fish. Several ladies baked pan buns. Bodil Neilsen made gravlaks. Even I, who can't cook, sautéed the reindeer, and made 200 panbuns, 150 desserts, also eight pulla and four banana loaves for the reception. Dorrit and Tula and

Sámi National Day Reindeer Dinner
Saturday, February 2, 5 - 9 pm
tickets \$30 contact Laura:
tolufsen@shaw.ca 604 630-3540

several Swedish Cultural Society ladies served from a roasting hot kitchen Poul Erik's crew set up tables in a record 12 minutes! Maureen and others set tables. Julie Whitehorn's son built tiny lavvu centrepieces. Microphones and laptops kept going, though it took both John Stuart and a Group of Seven. Mona helped tag artefacts and created cheese and fruit platters. Each of over 100 articles on display with one exception was returned to its owner thanks to Judith's meticulous data collection. Randall, Lars, Arne and Bent took pictures. Vivian sold coffee.

Our presenters did an exceptional job and got many compliments on their talking, playing, singing and dancing. We enriched our knowledge thanks to theirs.

You loaned us nearly 100 precious Sámi artefacts beautifully decorated. It was likely the largest such collection seen in BC. Or maybe Canada. That drum!

You all came, some of you in beautiful clothes. You enjoyed the show. At least 30 of you told me so. It was an outstanding example of us all working together to make something nice. That is just what we do at our Scandinavian Community Centre. Thanks.

Carolyn Thauberger



You all came. How nice of you.
Photo Arne Møller

Your beautiful artefacts on display. Thanks.
Photo collages below: Bent Ostergaard



Join a Sámi interest group
cthauer12@gmail.com



This Mystery Package crossed the Arctic Circle three times in 2018.
Photo Arne Møller



Gunnar Jensen and his wife sliced frozen reindeer meat last year
Photo Arne Møller



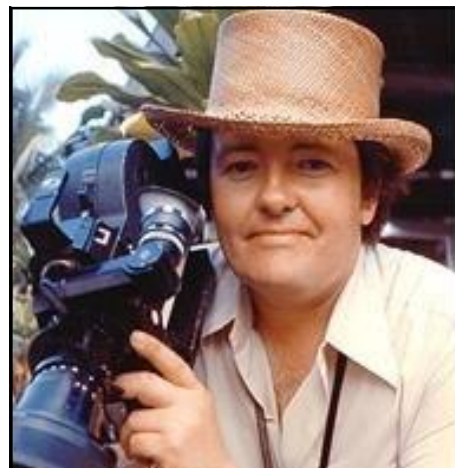
Poul Erik fixes most problems especially if they need hammering. Here, he is relaxing after a successful reindeer hunt.

Robert Asgeirsson, 1939 - 2018

We lost a friend and active member of our Scandinavian Cultural Society this year. Robert Asgeirsson was a founding member of the SCS back in 1985, and an active member ever since. He served as President for some years. He started the series “Nordic Spirit Heritage Images Festival” in 2007, producing the first show featuring our Icelandic Immigrants. He went on to produce parts of several more shows in the same series, working with the other Nordic groups to chronicle the history of various Scandinavian communities in B.C.

Robert was proud of his Icelandic heritage and active in the Icelandic community in BC. He gathered early photos featuring

Icelandic settlement and created the Icelandic Archives of BC which now at UBC.



Robert Asgeirsson was a professional camera man who lent his expertise to many SCS photo shows.

So you think it went well?

Every event has its little glitches. This year the Mayor was late. Our presenter was late. The video would not show on the screen. Five extra unexpected dignitaries came to bring greetings (Election year!).

Peter Prangel spotted the player piano rolls on their way to the garbage during attic cleaning. Our computer would not feed from our fancy new camera so people had to come up by turns to see the piano working. I offered to copy words off the Net to sing along. But the piano did not follow the usual word order. I played each piece ten times to match words.

We could not find 15 foot poles for the Sámi tent. Steen Larson had to log them off his back yard. I volunteered to cook the Sámi dinner, expecting 35 people. Laura Olufsen, wizard

saleslady, sold 143 tickets. I cooked for days.

It was Poul Erik who saved the dinner. Our frozen reindeer meat had arrived but somehow the airline didn't notify us. We waited. Finally Poul Erik drove to the airport. Clever detective work led him to the right airline office where he learned the meat had been sent back—to Tuktoyaktok! That's NWT!!! The airline thought they could get it back by tomorrow. Or the next day, surely. Poul Erik, in his gentle, polite way, mentioned that he might just sit over there on that chair in their office until the meat arrived. By 8 o'clock that evening the pilot himself put the package into Poul Erik's hands.

The smooth running events that you see from the audience can be quite exciting backstage.

Carolyn Thauberger

Scandinavian Cultural Society

6540 Thomas St., Burnaby, BC V5B 4P9

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, PROVINCE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Membership - 2019

Single Dues: \$15.00

Family: \$20.00

Help us by volunteering as:

- Board Member
- Event Organizer
- Event Worker

We appreciate the cooperation and support of organizations at the Scandinavian Community Centre, and acknowledge the assistance of the Province of British Columbia, the City of Burnaby, the Danish Canadian Community Centre, Burnaby Arts Council, and our members and friends. Thank you.



Scandinavian Cultural Society CONTACTS 2019

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Player Piano Expert: Steen Larsen
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"Host" Country: IHS, Norman Eyford
778-846-1894 neyford@dccnet.com

Scandinavian Cultural Society CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019

January 19, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
January 28, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
February 2, Sámi National Day Celebration.
February 16 and 17, Nordic Art, Photo, and Design
February 2, 7 pm, Force in Nature; film Icelandic art
February 23, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
February 25, 7:00 pm AGM and Meeting.
March 16, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
March 25, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting
April 13 and 14, Nordic Spirit Heritage Images
April 13, 7:00 James Bligh, Architecture
April 27, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
April 29, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
May 18, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
May 27, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
June 22 - 23, Midsummer Genealogy, Troll Garden
September 21, 1:00 pm Genealogy
September 30, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
October 5, Leif Erickson Day Festival.
October 25, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
October 28, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
November 23, 1:00 pm Genealogy Session.
November 25, 7:00 pm SCS Meeting.
Dates may change.
Confirm at: www.scandinaviancentre.org
or www.scandinavianculturalsociety.org

