



# Scandinavian Cultural Society Newsletter 2024

Spring 2024

**The AGM of the  
Scandinavian Cultural Society**  
6010 Kincaid Street, Burnaby, B.C.  
*was held*

**Monday, 26 February 2024, 7 pm**

*By order of the Board of Directors  
of the Scandinavian Cultural Society.*

### Agenda

- 1) Consider the directors' reports
- 2) Consider Financial Statements, year ending 31 December 2023
- 3) Elect directors, Group B
- 4) Transact such other Business as may properly come before the Meeting.

Attendance at Annual General Meetings of the SCS is open to all group and individual members.

**Next AGM** - February 24, 2025

**Please see p. 8 for:**

-Board members' names and contact information.

-Membership application form.

*Thank you  
Newsletter Contributors*

**Writers:** Carolyn Thauberger, Diane Rogers, Dianne Kilback, Judith Anderson, Rolf Christensen, Steen Larsen.

**Images:** Sussanne Hoiberg, Dianne Kilback, Carolyn Thauberger, Poul Erik Rasmussen, Bent Ostergaard.

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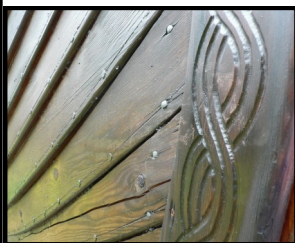
### A message from our President —

The year 2023 proved to be challenging for us as a group, since we were unable to organize either the Art Show or the Nordic Spirit exhibit. SCS, however, was represented at the Federation of Danish Associations, which includes organizations from all over Canada. The 2023 conference was held in Nanaimo B.C. The theme of the meeting was "The Settlement of Cape Scott" and SCS presented an impressive display of

rare pictures from the Colony's heyday.

The Federation's President, Rolf Buchard, promoted his newly published book, *The Pioneers of Cape Scott*.

We did, however, hold a successful Leif Erikson Day which featured some informative lectures on recent developments in Scandinavian and Baltic archaeology.



Carolyn Thauberger presented a significant discovery in Salme, Estonia, analyzed and published by researcher Neil Price. Judith Anderson offered insight into the application of DNA analysis to archaeology, in tracing European ancestors. The Viking buffet for supper was followed by our main event for the evening. Author Bill Arnott gave us a delightful talk on Viking folklore with a wonderful mix of information and good humour. Bill's *Gone Viking* trilogy was front and centre in his presentation, and his generous gift, a copy of *Gone Viking 2* for everyone present, was very well received indeed.

We hosted ongoing monthly genealogy sessions, held at the Scandinavian Community Centre by Poul Erik Rasmussen and Diane Rogers, assisting the public with tracing their family ancestry.

The ever-popular Troll Garden at the Midsummer festival is always a big hit with young members of our community.

Steen Larsen, President, Scandinavian Cultural Society



## Leif Erikson Day — 26 October 2024

Save the date! In cooperation with the Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia, the Scandinavian Cultural Society will celebrate Leif Erikson Day on Saturday, October 26, 2024. Please join us as we learn about Iceland’s unique Viking history with an afternoon and evening of talks and videos. We’ll share details of the program later.

And while we’re preparing for Leif Erikson Day 2024, there’s a bull we must take by the horns! All over the world, statues depict Leif Erikson wearing a horned helmet — despite the many experts who insist that Viking helmets never had horns. So, is there any evidence for Viking horned helmets?



*Leif Erikson statue, Gimli, MB  
Photo: Carolyn Thauberger*



In 1942, Danish workers digging peat near Veksø (Viksø) came upon two helmets decorated with elegant curved horns. At that time, there was no good way to date the helmets, so they were assumed to be from Viking times — major evidence supporting the horned-helmet idea. However, in 2019, a small clump of birch tar was found on one of the helmets, enabling archaeologists to date the helmets to about 900 BCE, nearly 2,000 years before the Viking period. Given that age, scholars realized that the helmets closely resemble ceremonial helmets from ancient Bronze Age societies of the eastern Mediterranean. They would have been decorated for ritual with feathers and horsehair, and utterly useless for combat. These artifacts had traveled a long distance from their origin, and were valued for their metallic content when they reached Denmark.

*Source: Smithsonian Magazine January 10, 2022*

### Be part of this exciting event!

Please join the team planning Leif Erickson Day 2024! There are plenty of jobs, small and large, that you can help with — from kitchen creativity to publicity to technical assistance with videos and PowerPoint presentations.

Contact Carolyn Thauberger  
[cthauber12@gmail.com](mailto:cthauber12@gmail.com)



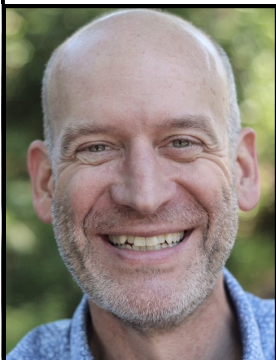
## Leif Erikson Day, 21 October 2023

Leif Erikson Day 2023 found us digging deep into the theme “Interpreting Recent Norse Archaeology”. Carolyn Thauberger presented intriguing new discoveries from Viking sites, including the grave of a Viking woman who apparently was a warrior. In analyzing such sites, archaeologists employ a number of high-tech tools that allow them to deduce accurate details about dates, origins of materials, and life histories of ancient people. Updating the audience on these amazing technologies, Janet Gabites explained how geochemical analysis can pinpoint the sources of rocks and other archaeological materials. Judith Anderson described how archaeologists use DNA analysis to identify populations and their movements, as well as family relationships.

Pia Christensen organized a fine book display from the Scandinavian Centre library.

After a Viking-menu buffet supper catered by Carolyn, we were treated to a fascinating presentation by author and adventurer Bill Arnott. Bill has traveled extensively in the North, visiting Viking sites and collecting stories. He has written several books about his adventures and graciously presented each audience member with a copy of his latest book.

Visit Bill’s website: <https://billarnottaps.wordpress.com/>



## Nordic Art and Photography Show 2025

The Scandinavian Cultural Society presents

### **Nordic Art & Photography Show & Sale**



"Skagen where the Sea's meet" by Sussanne Hoiberg in 1989

**Saturday & Sunday**

**April 26-27, 2025 from 11am to 4pm**

**Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, BC**

**Calling all ARTISTS** with Nordic Heritage  
and artworks that represent a Nordic Style or theme

**Theme: Past, Present and Future**

We invite our exhibitors to share where their artistic talents came from, perhaps a Scandinavian ancestor or artistic family member, or an inspiring Nordic travel experience, or the twists and turns of a dream or saga. Contributing artists might consider showing an artwork from the start of their career, and compare it with their current creations.

More information and details coming soon. Please remember to save this date in 2025!

**Inquiring artists who would like to reserve their space at the show may contact  
Sussanne Hoiberg at [vendelarts@gmail.com](mailto:vendelarts@gmail.com)**

**Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, BC**



## Danish Federation Conference 2024, Toronto, ON

Danish Federation Conference, Toronto, ON  
Thurs May 23 to Sunday May 26, 2024  
Novotel Hotel, Toronto

Our Conference is coming up soon! Please mark the dates on your calendar!

Our annual Danish Canadian Conference will be held from Thursday, May 23 to Sunday, May 26, 2024. The host is the Danish Lutheran Church of Toronto which is preparing an exciting program with a speaker from Denmark, a dinner and dance, Danish lunch with open face sandwiches, an exciting bus tour, a Church Service, as well as a Pass Lake presentation, as this proud Danish settlement was founded exactly 100 years ago this year. In addition there will be a Danish Canadian Museum update and presentation, with the usual animated auction. Most of the meetings will be held at the Church which has just been renovated, with the installation of new chairs, lamps and artwork imported from Denmark.

The Church has booked a block of rooms at the Novotel Hotel near the Church, where rooms for delegates are only \$229 per night. The Saturday night dinner and dance will be held at the hotel.

In connection with the Conference the Danish Federation and the Danish Canadian Museum will hold their Annual General Meetings, where everyone is welcome. The Conference will end Sunday afternoon, after a mouthwatering Danish lunch, with the Fane and Mailbox being handed over to the next Conference host.

As already announced, immediately after the Danish Canadian Conference, starting Monday, May 27, the Danish Federation will hold its fun-filled Seminar at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Niagara Falls.

Rolf Buschardt Christensen  
President, Federation of Danish Associations in Canada  
robuch@ca.inter.net  
<https://www.danishchurchtoronto.ca/conference>



## Midsummer Festival in Saskatchewan



*Carolyn Thauberger, our faithful Saskatchewan correspondent, writes:* Dubuc Midsummer Festival. This festival was in my Dubuc back yard. There were 17 Nordic flags in the trees. A fight group came to teach Viking swordplay. My granddaughter Sylvie was dangerous. If I hadn't thought to use pool noodles for her sword, that enemy Viking would have lost a leg at least.

*Editor's note:* A girl is supposed to put 7 different wildflowers under her pillow in order to dream of her future husband. Sylvie has settled down with just 2 species in the lily garden, but her dream seems happy, nonetheless.





## Travel reports from our members



What’s this? Visiting Louisiana to see art from Georgia — in Denmark?? Did someone mistake Zealand for Dixieland? No, Bent Ostergaard toured the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Humlebaek, Denmark, and shared his photos of their exhibit of rarely-seen masterpieces by the Tbilisi painter Niko Pirosmani (1862-1918), a prominent figure in early modernist art. The Louisiana Museum enjoys a stunning setting on the northeast coast of Zealand. Like the museum, Denmark has always looked out beyond its coastlines, embracing ideas and art from all over the world.



Photos: Bent Ostergaard. Left—Pirosmani’s “Georgian Woman with Tambourine. Right—Louisiana Museum vista.

But travel can also teach us how violent and unpredictable life was in the past, even in the fortunate Nordic lands. Poul Erik Rasmussen visited the island of Gotland, off Sweden’s east coast. It is bucolic now, but for millennia Gotland’s position in the Baltic made it a crossroads for trade—and greed.



While Europe recovered from the Black Death in the mid-1300s, the Hanseatic League made Visby, Gotland’s main town, its local headquarters. This sparked the displeasure of Denmark’s King Valdemar Atterdags, who coveted control over the Baltic. In 1361, Valdemar sent an army to invade Gotland. The Danish troops, armed with crossbows and other state-of-the-art weapons, overwhelmed the resistance put up by the local farmers in a bloody massacre at Mästerby, where a stone cross stands today to commemorate the tragedy.

Fearing destruction of their town, the people of Visby opened the gates and surrendered treasure demanded by Valdemar – three barrels filled with gold and silver. Ironically, as the Danes set sail with the treasure, the ship carrying the booty sank off the Gotland’s west coast. It is said that one can still see the lost treasure sparkling in the depths when the moon is full.

Gotland Photos: Poul Erik Rasmussen. Left—Runestone, 8th century. Right, above—Bronze-age stone grave, shaped like a ship. Right—Mästerby Cross.





## Runeberg Day 2024

Canadian Friends of Finland held our 2024 Runeberg Day celebration at the Scandinavian Centre on Sunday February 4. Johan Ludvig Runeberg is known as the national poet of Finland, and his birthday, February 5, is celebrated every year.

After national anthems, Dianne Kilback welcomed the audience. The Runeberg Chorus sang “Bevara Gud vårt Fosterland” with lyrics by Runeberg, followed by well-known works such as “Finlandia” and “Laulu Vuokselle”, a composition expressing Finland’s wish for independence.

Dianne Kilback gave a presentation about J.V. Snellman, an influential contemporary of Runeberg. Snellman was known for promoting Finnish as an official language in Finland. Swedish was the official language at the time, but Snellman felt that it did not bode well for a democratic society if Finnish was not legitimized, since the majority spoke Finnish.

Yasushi Ishimura and Kaoru Henry sang two solos composed by Eino Leino, “Nocturne” and “Pastorale”, with visuals prepared by Yasushi.



The grand finale was Sibelius’ “Valse Triste” performed by Janet Mowatt, with an overhead video prepared by Yasushi Ishimura.

The celebration ended with everyone enjoying coffee and Runeberg tarts.  
*Dianne Kilback*



## Genealogy — Scandinavian Cultural Society & BC Genealogical Society

The Scandinavian Genealogy Group continued to meet at the Scandinavian Centre in 2023 and we are able to offer Zoom to those who can't attend. Members volunteered for us at the Abbotsford Family History Day in May, Midsummer Festival in June, and Eurofest at the Country Festival in Maple Ridge in July. We will be at those events this year too.

We had a good number of research requests this year. Don't wait if you have a question or need assistance — you can contact us almost anytime. We love family history puzzles!



The Genealogy Group meetings at the Scandinavian Centre in 2024 are usually the second Saturday of the month from 1-3 pm Pacific time. We welcome visitors.

Contact:

Poul Erik Rasmussen -- [sonofrasmus@shaw.ca](mailto:sonofrasmus@shaw.ca)

Diane Rogers -- [diane\\_rogers@shaw.ca](mailto:diane_rogers@shaw.ca)

*Photos: Diane Rogers*

## Genealogy — Swedish Heritage Society



The Swedish Heritage Society also offers help with family genealogical research online through sites such as Ancestry, FamilySearch, etc. The Museum has a subscription to

ArkivDigital, which allows access to Swedish archival records. Michelle Mikacevich is available, by appointment, to guide/teach people how to use the archive and to do their own searches.

You can reach Michelle at: [appointments@swedishheritagebc@gmail.com](mailto:appointments@swedishheritagebc@gmail.com)

## Scandinavian Cultural Society

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership - 2024

### Dues:

Individual \$15

Family \$ 20

**Donations** are always welcome!

### Help us by volunteering as:

- Board Member
- Event Organizer
- Event Worker

We appreciate the cooperation and support of the Scandinavian Community Centre and its associated organizations, especially our membership hosts, Danish House Society and the Icelandic Canadian Club of BC. We also acknowledge the assistance of the Danish Canadian Community Centre, the Province of British Columbia, the City of Burnaby, Burnaby Arts Council, and our Members. Thank you.

## Scandinavian Cultural Society CONTACTS 2024

### Executive:

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**Art Show 2025:** Sussanne Hoiberg

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## Scandinavian Cultural Society CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

20<sup>th</sup> January, 1:00 pm. Genealogy Session

29<sup>th</sup> January, 7:00 pm. SCS Meeting

10<sup>th</sup> February, 1;00 pm. Genealogy Session

26<sup>th</sup> February, 7;00 pm. AGM and Meeting

9<sup>th</sup> March, 1:00 pm. Genealogy Session

25<sup>th</sup> March, 7:00 pm. SCS Meeting

13<sup>th</sup> April, 1:00 pm. Genealogy Session

29<sup>th</sup> April, 7:00 pm. SCS Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> May, 1:00 pm. Genealogy Session

27<sup>th</sup> May, 7:00 pm. SCS Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Midsummer Festival

Genealogy Room, and Troll Garden

14<sup>th</sup> September, 1:00 pm. Genealogy Session

30<sup>th</sup> September, 7:00 pm. SCS Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> October, 1:00 pm. Genealogy Session

26<sup>th</sup> October. Leif Erickson Day

28<sup>th</sup> October, 7:00 pm. SCS Meeting

9<sup>th</sup> November, 1:00 pm. Genealogy Session

25<sup>th</sup> November, 7:00 pm. SCS Meeting

26-27 April 2025. Art and Photography Show

*Confirmation and info:* [www.scancentre.org](http://www.scancentre.org)

[www.scandinavianculturalsociety.org](http://www.scandinavianculturalsociety.org)

