

MIDNIGHT SUN

Regina Scandinavian Club Newsletter

June/July 2008

Exciting News!

A Cultural Awareness Committee is being created to re-ignite modern and traditional Scandinavian activities in the club.

Its objective is to educate, inspire and stimulate the learning experience about the Scandinavian culture. Storytelling and activities will be introduced to already existing events and new events will be introduced to capture the art of Scandinavian cooking, baking, crafts and rituals.

For those who are interested in joining to bring knowledge and enthusiasm to this group contact Ida Hallin at 531-4247

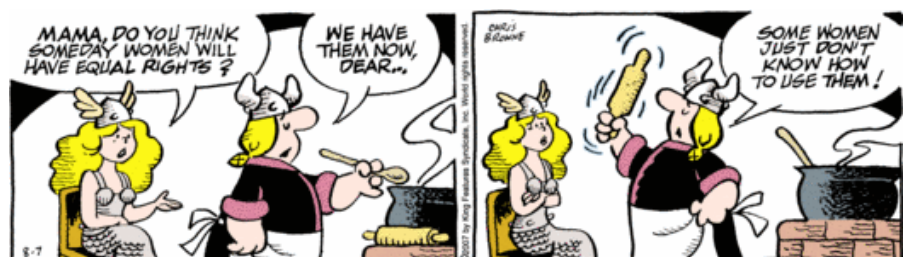
Highlights from the Annual General Meeting April 7th, 2008

New Board Member

Please join me to welcome Kim Gillies as one of our new board members and secretary. She will be replacing Sharon Shemenauer, who we would like to thank for her time on the board. Kim is a young female with Icelandic ancestors who will bring enthusiasm and an eagerness to embrace the Scandinavian culture

Mosaic

A decision was made in majority that we will not attempt to take on Mosaic for 2009. Many felt that the task was too large and time consuming and that the club no longer has the capacity to plan and execute such a big event. It was decided to instead work on recruiting younger members and increase our Scandinavian cultural awareness to bring back the energy and spirit.



Summer Highlights

Midsummer Eve

Midsummer is the one of the most popular festivals in Scandinavia. It is a celebration of the Summer solstice, the longest day of the year, and takes place on the weekend that falls between June 20th and June 26th.

The celebration of the Summer solstice is a very ancient practice, dating back to pre-Christian times. Many of today's customs have evolved from pagan times to when Midsummer was a fertility festival with many rituals associated with nature and the hope for a good harvest in the fall. Tribute was paid to the powers of the sun god with bonfires signifying the defeat of darkness.

Similar to most Scandinavian traditions and celebrations, meeting friends and family is as important as having plenty to eat on the table. Midsummer traditional delicacies are fresh potatoes with pickled herring or smoked fish from the nearby lake, the first strawberries of the season for desert, and some schnapps and beer to wash down the herring.

In Sweden people make flower garlands for their hair and home, dance around a decorated midsummer pole, while listening to traditional folk songs. Another tradition includes girls picking seven kinds of flowers, and while doing so, crossing seven fences. Then the flowers are placed underneath their pillow to bring dreams about their future prince.

In Norway and Denmark Midsummer Eve is celebrated with large bonfires. Danes, head for the beach, for picnics and songs. Witches are made of straw and burned on the bonfires as a remembrance of the witch burnings of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Among Danes and Norwegians Midsummer Eve is known as Sankthansaften, or St. John's Eve, and is celebrated on the eve of June 23rd. In Norway, Midsummer's Eve is also called "Jonsok", which means "John's wake," important in Catholic times with pilgrimages to churches and holy springs

In Finland, before 1316, the summer solstice was called Ukon Juhla after the Finnish god Ukko. When Finland was Christianized, the holiday was named Juhannes after John the Baptist (Johannes) in order to give a Christian meaning to the pagan holiday.

Fjallkona

On June 17th, 1944, Iceland regained its independence from Denmark and became the Republic of Iceland and Icelanders all over the world rejoiced. Ever since huge crowds gathers at the parliament building in Reykjavik by the statue of Jón Sigurðsson, the leader in Iceland's independence struggle.

On June 17th flags fly from every flag pole in Iceland and in every city, town, village and hamlet people come together to celebrate with parades, speeches, athletic competitions and dances. In Icelandic communities all over the world the Fjallkona, the Maid of the Mountain, is presented as the symbol of Iceland's natural grandeur and the spirit of her children.

Midsummer Fest

Sunday June 22nd, 2008
Willow Island
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- 2:00 p.m. **Games and Entertainment**
(Come early, bring games & join the fun)
- 4:00 p.m. **Supper**
(Hamburgers, hotdogs, cake, coffee, soft drinks & bottled water.)
- 5:00 p.m. **Camp fire with marshmallows to roast**

Guests are of course are very welcome

Bring your lawn chairs and remember that if it rains at 10 a.m. on June 22nd, the Midsummer Fest will be CANCELLED. Please call Ida Hallin at 531-4247 with your attendance numbers by June 18th if you have not been contacted by the telephoning committee.

Ferry ride charge: \$4 Adult, 12 yrs under FREE



Event Calendar 2008

June 22nd – Midsummer Fest
August 24th – Corn Roast
October 26th – Fall Supper

Announcements

*Our condolences to:
Shirley Vensland &
family of the passing
of her husband Peter
Vensland on April
10th, 2008, and*

*Alvina Fabian &
family of the passing
of her husband John
Fabian on April 15th,
2008.*

*All the best to Thelma
Grant who had a hip
replacement on May
1st, 2008*

Language Classes

*Swedish Classes will
be taught in the fall of
2008. Interested can
contact Ida Hallin at
531-4247.*

*Norweigan Classes
will also be taught in
the fall. Interested
can contact Lylah
Gess at 586-0406.*

*Exact dates will be
announced in the
august newsletter.*

Scandinavian Club of Regina



CLUB INFO

2007/08 EXECUTIVE

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------|
| PRESIDENT | Laureen Smith | 525-5183 |
| PAST PRESIDENT | Kelly Nelson | 584-2562 |
| VICE PRESIDENT | Dale Folstad | 789-3945 |
| SECRETARY | Kim Gillies | |

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|-----------|----------------|----------|
| TREASURER | Michael Larson | 546-3774 |
|-----------|----------------|----------|

DIRECTORS

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Brian Beck | 789-0662 |
| John Edwardson | 584-2246 |
| Ida Hallin | 501-8161 |
| Kim Gillies | |

MEMBERSHIP

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Larry Bristol | 586-1799 |
|---------------|----------|

PHONING COODINATOR

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Gudrun M. Jonsson | 586-7737 |
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SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF REGINA

P.O. Box 37182, Regina, SK S4S 7K4

THE VIKING CENTRE

1307 Ottawa Street, Regina SK

CLUB RECORDINGS

CD's \$1 clearance

Cassette \$1 clearance

Available from Thelma Grant 584-5442

Or Inge Ryan 545-9220

HONOURARY CONSULS

| | | |
|---------|------------------|----------|
| Denmark | Inge Ryan | 545-9220 |
| Iceland | Jon Orn Jonsson | 586-7737 |
| Sweden | Ronald Shirkey | 586-3817 |
| Norway | Heather Goranson | 790-9300 |

MEMBERSHIPS

\$25 Family membership

\$15 Single membership

All memberships are from January 1st to December 31st.

All expire on December 31st.

Contact Larry Bristol 586-1799

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available for persons studying Scandinavian languages and/or culture. Application forms are available by writing to the club or contacting an executive member. Deadline for receiving applications is April 30.

ADVERTISING

Club members may advertise in the Midnight Sun for only \$10. Please contact the newsletter editor by email midnightsunregina@hotmail.com or call 751-4846.