



this issue

Message from the President	1
Scandinavian News	2-3
Genealogy	4-5
Member News	6-7
Upcoming Events	8

Message from the President

I hope you had a wonderful summer. Although the weatherman gave us a cool summer, he did cooperate for our outings.

68 members attended our Mid-Summer Feast. I hope everyone enjoyed their time at this function so let us try and encourage more members to attend next year. Also, some members of the club, spent the week-end at Buffalo Pound Park to celebrate a traditional Mid-Summer Fest with games and a bonfire. Let us try and build on this activity for next year. We'll start plans early to allow more people to plan for it to attend. Stay tuned for more information.

We also had a very successful Corn Roast. 87 adults and 9 children attended. A slight increase in price for this year's event had initially been approved. However, I spilled coffee all over Larry's notes. Larry, not being able to read his

notes, agreed to keep last year's price. I think I therefore deserve a "thank you". It was a beautiful day to be in the Park so thanks to everyone who attended.

Just a short reminder with regards to our membership. We still have some members that are delinquent with their membership dues. Would you PLEASE look after this matter A. S. A. P.. Thanks. It would make Larry's life a lot more pleasant.

The Viking Centre will be closed in the near future. Anyone who has donated books, etc. to the club and wishes to get them back, please contact one of us and we will make arrangements for you to pick them up. Most of our furniture has been donated to the Sukanen Museum near Moose Jaw. They will also take our books, etc. if no one wishes to claim them.

Continued on page 7....



Sweden's Princesses Engaged!

These Swedish Princesses can't seem to stop getting engaged! First, Crown Princess Victoria and her boyfriend Daniel Westling who is getting married on June 10th 2010. Now Victoria's younger sister, Madeleine, has announced she's marrying her boyfriend Jonas Bergstrom. The two have been a couple for almost eight years and it are believed that the reason that they have not been engaged before is that it would have been considered inappropriate for the princess to be engaged before her older sister, Crown Princess Victoria.

According to the Swedish constitution, any engagement of a member of the royal family needs the approval of the government.



Spel – a true Norwegian summer tradition

Club Member Kari Mitchell attended the opening night of 2009's Seljordspelet performed by the shores of Lake Seljordsvatnet

Spel is the Nynorsk (New Norwegian) word for an annual open air theatre performance with plays taking their subject from local historical events or from myth. Through the summer months of June, July and August these shows are being presented at around a hundred fjord, valley and mountain venues all over the country - attracting locals and tourists alike. Some have been running for decades, others emerge as local cultural volunteers come up with ideas for something that may turn into a spel tradition. More often than not, the director and the actor playing the main character are professionals, whereas the spel is inhabited by amateurs in all other roles. The two longest running spel traditions are Olavsspelet with «Spelet om Heilag Olav» at Stiklestad (1954), and Seljordspelet (1961) at Seljord in the county of Telemark.

Midnight Sun's contributor attended the opening night of 2009 Seljordspelet, performed at a beautiful venue a stone's throw away from the shores of Lake Seljordsvatnet with its sea serpent Selma. Playwright Elisabeth Hagen has written «Soga om Olav Mannslagar» (The Story of Olav Manslayer), a new dramatization of the seventeenth

century criminal case of Olav Garvik – based on oral tradition as well as lawsuit documentation. The spel only runs for three nights, and opening night saw a full 'house' under the open sky and the walls of Seljord church, dating from 1180. The entrance fee included beverage and nevatmat – «finger food» in the local dialect – which people enjoyed at sunset seated at long, wooden tables around fireplaces.

The main part of Olav Garvik Mannslagar was played by Torgeir Fonnid, ensemble actor at Det Norske Teatret in Oslo.

“two longest running spel traditions are Olavsspelet and Seljordspelet”

Director: Tor Arne Ursin of Teater Ibsen in the city of Skien. Some of the local amateurs have been doing spel for many years, and they played together excellently with the professionals.

The dramatic end of the play – the trial and beheading of the Manslayer - occurred when it was almost completely dark, by floodlit church walls and with searchlights on the final scenes. Effective and a bit eerie!

Next year's Seljordspelet will be a play about sea serpent Selma, written by Lars Vik.

Election time!



The date for this year's general election in Norway was September 14th 2009 – which means that the electoral campaign has been a highly noticeable part of people's everyday life during this summer, and especially since the beginning of August. Norway has a general election every four years, and the last general election of 2005 gave majority to the red-green coalition between the Labour Party, the Socialist Left Party and the Centre Party. The big issue now will be whether the coalition will obtain continued voters' trust. Failing that, the centre-right side of Norwegian politics will probably have to form some kind of coalition to be able to establish a new government.

C - r - a - w - l - i - n - g discomfort!



*Picture:
Illustration from
the Norwegian
Institute of Public
Health*

There is no West Nile virus in Norway, but holiday makers in eastern and southern areas, and along the coast as far north as the Trøndelag counties, fear one pest more than others: The boreal tick (*Ixodes ricinus*). This blood-sucking mite is known world wide, and carries different diseases like Lyme borreliosis and TBE (form of encephalitis). The creature will crawl

in the grass or on bushes and trees, waiting for a warm-blooded creature to pass by. Luckily, this summer's apprehended peak invasion brought fewer tick bites than what was expected – probably because of the wet and rainy weather in many parts of the country.

Alternative energy source



Photo: Scanpix

Denmark is building up large numbers of offshore windmill parks. In mid-August Copenhagen based newspaper Berlingske Tidende (BT) brought news about a new type of mini windmills which may be used by companies and private property owners in Copenhagen, meant to produce energy for local use and induce climate awareness in the city's inhabitants. City Hall welcomes the initiative – mainly because of its potential for creating a public opinion around alternative energy sources.

Iceland has applied to become a member of the European Nations.

The EU must approve the bid, and then it will go to the Icelandic people for a vote in a referendum.

The Sunshine Boy

Kate Winslet will be the English voice for an Icelandic documentary on autism, The Sunshine Boy. This documentary premiered at the Toronto Film Festival on September 12th so make sure to look for it next time you are wishing to watch a movie.

100 Most Powerful Women

Iceland's Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir has made the Forbes magazine's "100 Most Powerful Women" list. She is Iceland's longest-serving parliamentarian; in February 2009, and she became the nation's first female leader. She is ranked 75th on the Forbes power list.

Call to all artists and crafty people:

It can be hard in the middle of the prairies to learn a traditional Scandinavian skill, so if you are willing to volunteer your skills and a bit of your time, please let us know. We would love to offer classes in traditional Scandinavian crafts for those who want to explore their culture and so this heritage is not lost.

The club website will be updated on any future craft sessions that the club can offer.

Please call Kim Gillies at 531-9794 or e-mail kimberleygillies@gmail.com



Genealogy

Ever started track down your family tree but given up? Hang in there: we have the tips for you to succeed!

The history of mankind is also a history of moving, migrating, fleeing, being deported or otherwise changing place of residence. All over the world people will count their relatives among people of countries different from where they reside. Depending on circumstances around the migration process, their footprints can be more or less easily tracked. Why did they move away from «The Old Country»? How was their name changed when reaching «The New World»? Did they keep in touch with their family?

Genealogy is the 'knowledge about descent' and has for the last few decades gained increasing interest world wide. In North America, every person except perhaps those of First Nations peoples, can trace their ancestry back to a different continent. In Canada, the census of 2006 shows the highest proportion of the population born outside the country in 75 years, so people are definitely still migrating. But with modern means communication, chances are their descendants will find it easier to keep track of their origins.

There are two main methods

in genealogy: Pick a person (or a couple) in the past and track all their offspring. That can turn out to be quite the challenge. Or – go back into your own family's past and find as many generations as possible which is an easier task and a good way to start for new hobby genealogists.

One of the main genealogical sources is the parish registers. In the early days of genealogy, searching through them could be a difficult and time consuming task. However, in this day of age it may still take time, but modern genealogical tools give easy access, and lots of different computer software or web sites that will help the aspiring genealogist through the process.

“...go back into your own family's past and find as many generations as possible...”

Norway & Denmark

Norway and Denmark share a four hundred year long history – basically starting with the forming of the Kalmar Union in 1397 and lasting until the Treaty of Kiel (end of Napoleonic Wars) in 1814. Chances are that if you have ancestors in Norway, originally they are Danes or vice versa. On the whole, in many family trees in the whole of Scandinavia as defined by

our club) one will find people from the other countries in the region.

Iceland

Tracking down your family tree will be easy if you have Icelandic ancestors since Iceland has a long tradition of literacy, which means a long tradition of record keeping. It is said the Iceland's history records goes all the way back to the ninth century. One natural reason is the isolation of the country which made it easier to contain and maintain the documentation. The Icelanders pride is the other reason. When emigration started in the past century their pride was retained, once immigrated, by writing books of the stories of their ancestors from their past land. Consequently, one of the best examples when looking at Icelandic history is the Icelandic River Saga which has stories of life in the old country right before the major immigration. The majority of Saga is filled with stories of families that left Iceland so tracking down family members becomes relatively easy. Especially if you have family that landed in Gimli, Manitoba, as "The Gimli Saga" give an in-depth account of the early days of settlement.

Sweden

Many Swedes changed their names upon arrival in the United States, whether for the sake of convenience of spelling, the desire to anglicize their names, or the need to drop Swedish

names that in English had a peculiar sound or a derogatory meaning. Included in this latter category would be such names as Hellberg, Hellqvist, Högberg, Högström and Röt.

There are a many more great examples, including the following: Persson was changed to Perkins, Olsson to Oliver or Wilson, Sjöstrand to Seashore, Berg to Berry or Barry, Löf to Leaf, Björkegran to Burke, Löfgren to Lovegreen, Stadig to Sturdy, Sköld to Shold and Stålhammar to Steele. Patronymics like Johnsson, Jansson, Jeansson, Jonasson, Johansson, Johanesson and Jonsson all fused into the form of Johnson.

If the Swedish ancestor was a woman who married in the United States or Canada, it is important to know her maiden name as originally recorded in Sweden. Many female immigrants of the last century used the older patronymic that ended in -dotter, as for example Andersdotter, Persdotter, Jansdotter, Karlsdotter and Samuelsdotter, indicating that they were daughters of Anders, Per, Jan, Karl or Samuel, respectively. Often these women changed their names to the easier -son form.

As you would have realized by now the topic is huge, and we could go on forever. The great thing is that you are not the first one to try to find your ancestors, there has been many more before you who have paved the path. We wish you good luck!

Genealogy Classes

If you are interested in taking a class in tracing family history, the University of Regina has a class for you. It runs Tuesday mornings in September to November, and space is limited.

If you are interested in this class, contact the Continuing Education Department at:

www.uregina.ca/cce

Email: cce@uregina.ca

Phone: (306) 585-5801

Useful Genealogy Links

There are an unlimited amount of resources to trace you ancestors. If you are interested in knowing more about this topic please refer to the Scandinavian Club of Regina's web site under "links" at www.scandinavianclubofregina.com

Missing Chair

Chairs are missing their owners! At the Midsummer Fest two green canvas / grey metal frame chairs (like the one in the photo) wandered off and have not been seen since. If you know of their whereabouts, please call the Nelsons at 584-2562.



A Huge THANK YOU...

...to the Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages (SOHL) for being a supporter of the Scandinavian Language Classes!

Each year we receive financial support for the cost of materials & memberships.

Up close with Øyvind Næss... ardent hobby

genealogist in Holtålen, Norway.

Øyvind Næss is an ardent hobby genealogist living in the RM of Holtålen, Norway. He works as Head of IT for the local council, but since the age of 25 he has been interested in research into his own, and later also his wife Grete's family lines.

What triggered your initial interest in genealogy?

I happened to come across local history books (bygdebøker) from the valley of Engerdal where my mother Petra came from. The bygdebøker tell you in great detail who lived at the farms for generations, but also details about people's lives. Then for a number of years I didn't do much research, but moving to Holtålen made me start afresh. Bygdebøker form a central part of library collections of small communities like here. I was also lucky in that I could continue building on the extensive work done by my great aunt Lisa on father's side of the family.

Then I started looking into Grete's family. The research took me to Trysil and other valleys, to the Finnskogen area, to Finland and Sweden. We have traveled to local fairs and have made international contacts. We have also been able to visit distant relatives in Finland

Extensive genealogical findings result in data on lots and lots of persons. In my opinion, this is where you



get the real good use of information technology. For the research itself you have limited use of digitised parish registers or other sources – they really call for a high level of expertise or long practice to be of help. But there are computer programs which can help organizing data and constructing family trees, things that had to be done by hand earlier.

Have you met experienced any difficult phases in your work?

Yes, it is quite odd that on my paternal grandfather's side of the family things have been fairly easy down to a certain point, whereas on my paternal grandmother's side I met a full stop beyond her father – my great grandfather. He and his wife turned up in the industrial city of Drammen, but beyond there – nothing.

Any particularly interesting facts?

There are interesting histories everywhere. Great aunt Lisa's work spans all the way back to the 14th century to a Swedish noble family by the name of Lejon. There is also a link to Denmark, to someone who was allegedly the queen's personal doctor and who conspired with her against the king - - - but there I have come up

against a stop too. So far.

Is there great interest in genealogy in Holtålen?

Not so much locally, but definitely in the county of Sør-Trøndelag where you find geographically and economically diverse local communities in valleys and mountain areas as well as on the coast – and in cities, industrial towns and rural areas.

The attraction of this hobby is of course the knowledge you accumulate of your own background, but even more so the insight you obtain into historical perspectives, locally as well nationally and on the Nordic level. For Grete and myself it has led to extensive travels, we have called on places mentioned in the records we have found, and we have met with people in other countries with whom we share an interesting hobby or even family bonds.

Øyvind Næss is first cousin of Kari Mitchell. RM of Holtålen: <http://www.holtalen.kommune.no/Information-in-English/>

end.

Hils fra John

.... *Continued from Page 1*

All other papers, photos and newsletters, will be taken to the archives.

Our Fall Supper is in the planning stage as we write. It will be held again at Luther College as in the past. However the cost keeps increasing and we may have to look for another venue for this event. With the ever increasing costs, fewer people are attending our functions. So we must try to keep our costs down and membership attendance up. The phoning committee will be contacting you shortly.

We will be discussing the Christmas Party at our next meeting in October. For the members information, we have rented meeting room space from the City of Regina. We now meet at the South Leisure Centre Boardroom. This is a very substantial savings to the Club.

As this will be the last newsletter for this year, on behalf of the Club executive, I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

Web site Updates

The Scandinavian Club of Regina has a new web site. The club's executives have been working on ways to increase our clubs membership, and we hope the new web site will help.

The site is a work in progress and will be evolving over the next year. The purpose of this site is to give the greater public an understanding of our club, our history, and our future, and in turn give club members the ability to tell our stories. We have the basic club information up running and in time, this will expand.

Please take some time to visit our site and give some advice on what you would like to see included. If you have information that would like to contribute please let or if you have concerns about information on the site please feel free to contact me. Comments can be made through the e-mail address at the bottom of the home (first) screen. Please include your contact information so I can follow up on your comments.

This site belongs to all of us so please help to make it the best it can be.

Thank-you Kim Gillies

Language Classes

"... it's important that people are able to retain their traditional languages ... because there is a sense of self pride and, as well, cultural strength," says Heather Robison, the Multicultural Council's Diversity Manager.

We're starting up again!

Norwegian Classes

Conversational Classes starts on October 8th, 2009, at 7 pm.

Beginners classes starts in January 2010.

Contact Lylah Guess at lcguess@accesscomm.ca or call 586-0406 if you are interested in any of the above classes.

Swedish Classes

Conversational Classes starts on October 14th, 2009, at 7 pm.

Contact Ida LeRuyet at i_hallin@hotmail.com or call 757-7708 if you are interested to join the Swedish Classes.

Upcoming Events

Fowl Supper

Sunday **October 25th** at Luther College at 6:00 p.m, doors open at 5 p.m.; Jon Jonsson will be the guest speaker. Menu: dinner rolls, tossed salad and fresh vegetable tray, roast turkey, gravy and dressing, baked potato, peas and carrots, apple crisp. The cost for this delicious meal will be \$20.

Christmas Party

Sunday **December 13th** at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Come and join us at noon to get into the Christmas spirits. There will be a relaxing afternoon with traditional Scandinavian Christmas baking, crafts for the kids, rhymes and jolly music for those who attend*. The "official" event will commence at 3 p.m. with a visit from Santa as well as a sit-down to enjoy all our baked goodies. Don't miss out! Deadline to sign up for the afternoon activities is December 8th to i_hallin@hotmail.com or call 757-7708.

If you are planning to join at a later hour, 4 p.m., you'll bring your own treats to add to the for a dessert potluck.

*For low registration the afternoon will be cancelled.



SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF REGINA
P.O. Box 37182, Regina, SK S4S 7K4

For any questions or further information regarding this newsletter please contact Ida LeRuyet at 757-7708 or i_hallin@hotmail.com