



Midnight Sun

ISSUE

2

VOLUME 26
April 2013

Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

The Finnish Sauna

Saunas have existed in many cultures, but it is in Finland that they have become part of the national culture. You can still find people in Finland who were born in the sauna which provided a clean, warm place where hot water was available.

It is estimated that there are two million saunas in Finland, not bad for a population of 5.3 million! They are to be found in city apartments and in country cottages.

Traditional saunas are heated by wood. The door is closed after the wood has burned down, leaving the embers to heat the sauna to the proper temperature, but giving a soft heat and the aroma of woodsmoke.

All saunas have rocks heated on the stove on which to throw water to produce steam which makes you sweat.

In the summer, you may also be handed a bunch of birch twigs which you dip in water and then gently flagellate yourself. This is not as kinky as it sounds - it stimulates the circulation and gives a fresh aroma.

Source: *This Is Finland*



Theme:

Life in Finland



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What is this with Finland and Hockey?

By Anna-Mari Honkonen Thomassen

It's a beautiful Sunday in March, the sun is shining and the sky is blue - fantastic winter weather - and we are watching TV: 50 km cross country skiing of Nordic Ski WC in Val di Fiemme, Italy.

That's the way we do it in the Nordic countries, at least in Norway where I am living now, in Finland where I spent my first 30 years, and in Sweden.

It's the eternal competition between Finland and Sweden, and Norway and Sweden. Due to historical reasons Sweden has always been like a teasing "big brother" to its neighbors in the east and the west.

Nowadays it's especially in the sport arenas where these three nations are fighting it out in a mixture of loyalty and envy, love and hate - and the media

love it.

I know that my mother and father are sitting in their living room too, experiencing these thrilling moments. Well, not quite that exciting moments anymore because Finland hasn't been doing too well in skiing sports after the 1990's.

My parents belong to the top tiers of the world's 75 years and above "sports' couch class". The worst moments for my mother's heart are hockey games between Finland and Sweden. If the excitement is getting too high and unbearable, she has to go out, get some fresh air and cool off. There have been some breathtaking last minutes or seconds of games when Finland has been leading with

(Continued on page 6)



Online: <http://scandinavianclubregina.com/Newletter.htm>

From the AGM

After the AGM elections, The Scandinavian Club of Regina Board of Directors consists of the following:

President (2 yrs):
Pearl Baumgartner;

Vice President (2 yrs):
Greg Swanson;

Past President (2 yrs):
Kim Gillies;

Treasurer (1 yr):
John Edwardson;

Secretary (1 yr):
Kelly Nelson;

Directors:

Larry Bristol (2 yrs);

Blair Hudyma (2 yrs);

Jamie Struthers (2 yrs);

Ingrid VanDusen (1 yr).

Membership Fees

The fees will stay the same as now: \$30.00 for families, \$20.00 for individual members.

AGM 2014

The date for the next Annual General Meeting is set to Monday, 14 April 2014



Members' Matters

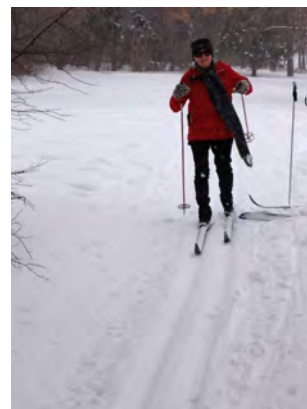
Annual General Assembly



Scandinavian Club of Regina Board of Directors 2013 — 2014

Absent when picture was taken: Kim Gillies and Blair Hudyma

Winter Outdoors Event



The sun did not co-operate, but everything else was there: Fresh air, hot dogs, hot chocolate, toboggans, skis... The turnout could have been better, but those who attended had a great winter afternoon in Wascana Park.

President's Corner

Greetings fellow Scandinavians!

We have had a good year! Our membership is climbing, and we boast a magnificent quarterly magazine.

Our focus this year is to increase our funds, and to increase our membership. We are hoping to have a presence in Mosaic again, after a long hiatus. We do not know at this point in time whether participation in Mosaic 2014 will be a viable option. Time will tell. I would encourage all of you to think about family members, co-workers, or friends you could possibly approach to become members of our club. We are also hoping to add a couple of fun events this year. We have a steak night planned for June 6th to celebrate Sweden's National Day (celebrated on June 6th) and Denmark's Constitution Day (celebrated on June 5th). And for the second consecutive year, we will be celebrating Syttende Mai (Norwegian Day). We are also giving some thought to a wine tasting night and/or a billiards' night.

This will be my fourth year as a member of the club. When I joined the club, I knew very little about my Norwegian heritage. This past Christmas, I attempted to make kransekake, and was



thrilled with the result.

I take this opportunity to extend a big thank you to Fay Johnsen for her hard work as our treasurer for the past 2 years. I also extend a huge thank you to Brian Beck, for his years of dedicated service to our board. We will miss you both at our monthly meetings.

Welcome to Jamie Struthers and Blair Hudyma as our newest board members. I look forward to working with you both, along with all of our returning board members.

I hope to see many of you at our next event on May 17th!

Pearl Baumgartner

a budget, but that would not imply that the club could not start using one. Drawing it up would be an easy task, basing it on thorough Treasurer's reports from earlier years. If the club decides we have to make a surplus of so-and-so much, then we have to charge so-and-so much for participating in events. And we have to find other sources of revenue within the framework of our activities.

If it will take a bylaw amendment to introduce a budget into the SCoR economy framework — let us make that amendment. But that will hardly be necessary.

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Picture credits

P.2: (Board members, people) K.Mitchell; (Skier) M.Mitchell

P.3: (P.Baumgartner) T.Baumgartner

P.4: (Michelangelo) Casa Buonarroti, Florence;

(Winter) Lehtikuva; (Map) Yle

P.5: flickr

P.6: (Table) Wikipedia; (Portrait) OAUC

P.7: Courtesy of B.Linke

Other: Public domain

Editorial

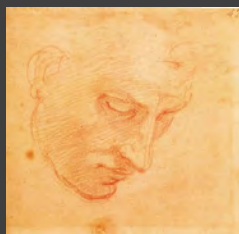


A year has passed since the 2012 AGM gave the SCoR Board a go-ahead to start looking at ways of getting the club back into Mosaic. The efforts have so far given the conclusion that we have a distance to go before reaching that goal — and the distance speaks "increased financing" and "increased membership". A look at the Treasurer's and membership reports at this year's AGM give us the numbers, so the conclusion is a sound one. The club is attracting

new members, but we are also losing old ones. And the club does not make money — nowhere near enough to cover the expenses for Mosaic participation.

A method for creating healthy finances in an organisation is using a budget to forecast revenue and expenses. And following up the budget in club activities and through the monthly Treasurer's reports. The SCoR does not have a budget. The club bylaws do not mention

Breezes of Renaissance in Helsinki



Michelangelo, one of the biggest names in the history of art, is visiting Helsinki! Until 19 May, Sinebrychoff Art Museum is showing "Michelangelo and the Sistine Chapel" in co-operation with Assoc. MetaMorfosi and the Italian Cultural Institute in Helsinki. It includes works which have never been seen in Finland before.

Drawings on display connect closely to Michelangelo's biggest commission, frescoes of the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City. In 1508, Michelangelo was commissioned to repaint the ceiling. Primarily a sculptor, he first refused but ended up painting a series of paintings that later have become his most well-known work - the world famous Genesis illustrations with more than 300 figures. The drawings and figure studies on display at Sinebrychoff Art Museum were an essential part of Michelangelo's preparation for this enormous work.

Source: Helsinki Times



Cloudy Winter

If residents of the Finnish capital feel like it seemed gloomy this winter, they are right. Measurements by the Finnish Meteorological Institute at Helsinki-Vantaa airport show that between the beginning of December and mid February, the capital region has seen the sun for only 50 hours.



The last winter that was cloudier during the same period was in 1987–1988 (48 hours of sunshine).

"Last winter was noticeably sunnier. By this time, we had had up to 92 hours of sun, almost 50% more than this winter," says Ville Siiskonen of the Finnish Meteorological Institute. He adds that cloudy skies are the norm during the winter months.

"Since the sun is not as strong during the winter, the ground freezes, that cools the air and the humidity in the air condenses into fog or clouds," he explains.

Source: Yle

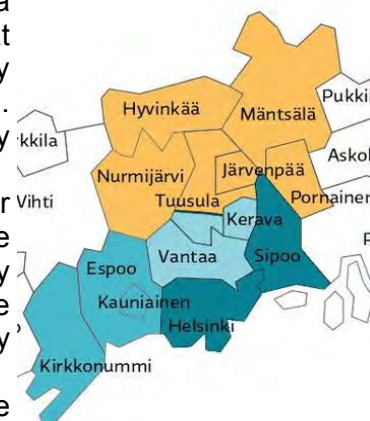
Helsinki City Merger Proposals

A working group set up to consider municipal mergers in the Helsinki capital region has recommended that the region's 13 current municipalities be streamlined to become four. Municipal mergers have been on the agenda for some time in Finland as a way to deal with demographic change in both rural and urban areas. In rural areas an ageing population brings challenges in providing services, which are funded by income-linked municipal taxes, while in urban regions population growth presents housing and transport challenges.

The group's report immediately drew fire both from aggrieved Helsinkians and from a small-town mayor. "One could ask, are services provided by Kerava poor?" asked Kerava mayor *Petri Härkönen*. "Should this kind of structure be taken apart? Would that lead to a better result? I highly doubt it." Helsinki mayor *Jussi Pajunen* also did not warm to the idea of four separate municipalities, as he claims it runs the risk of dividing the metropolitan area rather than uniting it.

Working group chair *Jarmo Asikainen* said that the group did not want to propose a model that would likely be rejected. "The only correct road is for us in the capital city region to be one city structure," said the mayor.

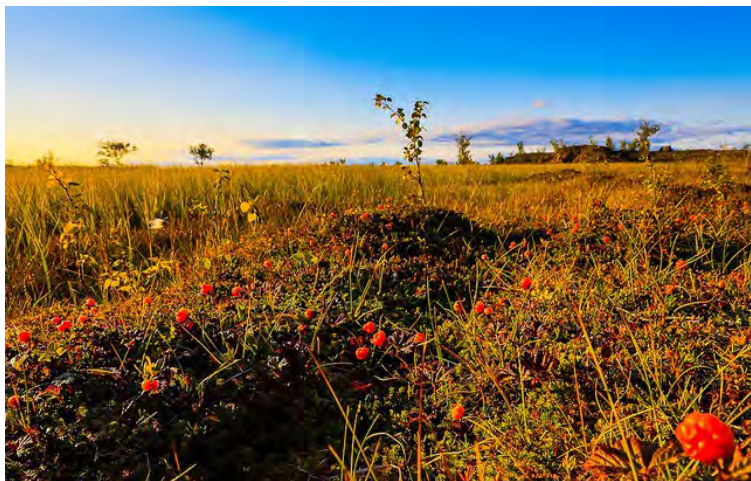
"Residents don't recognize municipal boundaries, so why shouldn't we have unified councils and responsibility."



Source: Yle

Picking Cloudberries in Kilpisjärvi

I was eleven and visiting with my mother's family in Northern Norway. That was a thrill in itself, and then my uncle and aunt took me on a road trip to pick precious cloudberries in the Kilpisjärvi district in Northern Finland.



What an adventure! There were five of us in my uncle's car: Three adults plus my cousin Ole and myself. Ferries and winding roads took us over fjords and mountains to the Finnish border. Problem # 1: There was no "N" on the car — the nationality plate that you had to have when crossing into another country. My uncle found a piece of wood, drew a big "N" on it with a pencil, tied it to the bumper, and off we went.

Kilpisjärvi was a scarcely populated area then, and I guess it still is. Forest and bogs and lakes, and LOTS of cloudberries! *Lakka* in Finnish. Virtually unknown outside northern Europe, in Scandinavia we treat these golden berries with a reverence normally afforded to highly coveted delicacies. And here we were, facing hectares of *jankka* — cloudberry terrain, less than fifteen minutes' hike away from the road. We had brought lots of picking cups as well as buckets and pails for the transport, the limit was set by what the trunk of the car could take. Some people we saw came with a bathtub in the back of their truck, with

the intention of filling it up with their cloudberry picks. I'm sure they knew what they were doing, too!

Problem # 2: Mosquitos. There were zillions of them! We had fingerless gloves and hats with nets, but sometimes the swarm of bugs was so thick we could hardly see. So we tucked our

trousers into our boots and survived the attacks. However, my uncle had two small uncovered spots under the clasps of his knee breeches, and he had two enormous swellings from all the bites. He didn't seem to care.

My uncle and cousin slept in the car (don't ask me how!), and we three females shared a beat-up old tent. I cannot remember how the other two fared, but I slept through the night like a log. After two days of picking we had filled all our buckets and pails and even the coffee container.

There was still so much cloudberry left in the area that you could hardly see we had been there. And there were people arriving all



(Continued on page 6)

Finland's National Anthem

English Text:

Our land, our land, our fatherland,

Sound loud, O name of worth!

No mount that meets the heaven's band.

No hidden vale, no wave-washed strand.

Is loved, as is our native North.

Our own forefathers' earth.

Thy blossom, in the bud laid low,

Yet ripened shall upspring.

See! From our love once more shall grow

Thy light, thy joy, thy hope, thy glow!

And clearer yet one day shall ring

The song our land shall sing.

Original Finnish Text:

Oi maamme Suomi, synnyinmaa,

soi, sana kultainen!

Ei laaksoa ei kukkulaa,

ei vettä, rantaa rakkaampaa

kuin kotimaa tää pohjoinen, maa kallis isien.

Sun kukoistukses kuorestaan

keerrankin puhkeaa;

viel' lempemme saa nousemaan,

sun toivos, riemus loistossaan,

ja kerran laulus, synnyinmaa,

korkeemman kaiun saa.

Story about Stories?

In the next issue of Midnight Sun we will focus on oral tradition. How did our ancestors bring forward their family histories, their descriptions of the home back there or their folk tales from the Old Country? Do you, or did you, have a storyteller in your family? Tell us about it:

kar-mit@hotmail.com
or 306-565-2450



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season.



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(Continued from page 1)

What is ...

one or even several goals – and they have lost.

World Championships 1995	Country
Gold	 Finland
Silver	 Sweden
Bronze	 Canada
10	 Norway

Why hockey? Finland is a small nation. It's not possible for Finland to win at football. Climatic conditions and the availability of ice halls obviously have affected the spread of hockey. Finland has had and has its moments in individual sport disciplines, but hockey is the only team sport where we have a chance of winning in the Olympics and World Championships. They say that the first hockey game in Finland was played on a frozen lake on 15th January 1928. Finland played in its first WCs in 1939 and lost all its games.

There's a long ways between 1939 and 1995, but every bitter loss was forgotten in May 1995. The whole

nation was united when the arch enemy Sweden was beaten by Finland 4-1 in 'Globen' Arena in Stockholm in the WCs final. Finland won for the first time.

I was watching the game on TV with my friends in Helsinki, but when the game was over we hurried downtown and I have never before or since experienced that kind of mass celebration. There were tens of thousands of happy people in the streets of Helsinki. and everybody felt they were part of something special. We were celebrating together regardless of who we were, hockey fan or not, just smiling, yelling, hugging, having fun and for a short moment enjoying being number one in the world.

Like our ancestors have said: "We cannot be Swedes, we do not want to be Russians – let us therefore be Finns."



Anna-Mari Honkonen Thomassen is a Finnish immigrant married to a Norwegian, living in Drammen, Norway, working at the Oslo and Akershus University College.

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Picking...

the time.

Driving back across the border and over the mountain we realized there was a Problem #3 coming up: The right hand side front tire was worn almost through and had a big "swelling". The gravel road on the precipice of a steep mountain side was winding, narrow and l-o-n-g as we sat "lifting" the car by the sides of our seats to ease it down the mountainside. And just as we

reached the Skibotn valley, the tire exploded! We had to wait for seven hours for a new wheel by bus from Tromsø—and we lost the last ferry to Narvik, so we slept in a barn by the roadside. But that was okay.

We did not meet any Finnish people other than the berry pickers, and we did not speak any Finnish, but even to an eleven year old Norwegian the beauty of the land was obvious. The enormity of what the land yielded was overwhelming and unforgettable.

Kari Mitchell



My Trip to Finland by Blake Linke



People's connections with Finland can be of any nature. Some were born there, some have Finnish ancestors, some visit as tourists. This Reginan went to Turku (a.k.a. Åbo) as a student of Business Administration

From August 10th to 20th of 2012, I attended the final course of my Master's of Business Administration program from the University of Regina. This course was a travel study course to Finland & Estonia. My professor for the course, Dr. Ron Camp III, chose the destination of Turku, Finland as he has taught classes at the local university and knows the city well. The one thing I know I learned from the course: I may incorrectly assess what I saw, but I know I love Finland.

It was interesting to learn about [Finnish culture](#). Finland has been conquered by two giants – Sweden and Russia – at various times in [its history](#) and to actually achieve independence (in the early 1900s), they had to be creative and find ways to “punch above their weight”. Culturally, I would generally describe Finns as feisty, whimsical, respectful, practical and engaged people. They have no time for political correctness and they're very direct in their communication; we Canadians may find this rude but the Finns genuinely don't mean anything personal, they simply stick to the facts and provide emotionless information. There seems to be the general belief that everybody's time is valuable as business meetings always start on time.

There also seems to be a strong belief

in quality goods & services and equality among people. The best example of how these two concepts tie together is with cars; it was quite common to see luxury brands like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes, but never the



Arriving in Helsinki

most expensive, high-end model of a luxury brand. Ostentatious displays of wealth seem to be taboo as there is a resistance to appearing economically superior to anyone else. I told a relative that we didn't see big box stores while in Finland, to which she said, “You mean they actually believe in quality? I have to go there!” With a dense population and greater public transit use, most shopping occurs in a city's downtown core; with the exception of IKEA, big box stores aren't really the norm from what I saw. It makes for a very interesting atmosphere.

If you get a chance to [go to Finland](#), I strongly suggest you go.



The academic history of Turku reaches all the way to the 13th century, when citizens of Turku went to study in the universities of Central Europe. In 1640, Finland's first university, the Royal Academy of Turku, was founded by Queen Christina of Sweden.

The University of Turku, *Turun yliopisto*, was founded in 1920 and was Finland's first Finnish university.



The City of Turku came into existence at Koroinen, a few kilometres from the Turku market square. Trading took place on this historic site as early as in the 1150's, and in 1229, the bishopric was transferred there. This year is regarded as the year in which the City of Turku was founded.

In 1827, a large section of Turku was destroyed in a fire. An altogether new town plan was drawn up the following year.

**Do we have your
email address?**



Information by email will reach you faster and can save considerable mailing expenses for the club. Make sure we have your updated information. If we don't already have your email address, you may consider sharing it with SCoR.

Please observe

We would like to remind our members that guest numbers for catered events are submitted one week in advance. The caterer will order the food and SCoR will be charged accordingly. If you are unable to attend an event after you have been included in the final numbers, the club will have to bill you for your meal.

Thank you for your understanding.

Upcoming Events

Syttende Mai Celebration



Time: Friday, 17 May,

5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dessert Potluck!

Venue: 2047 Rae Street. Parking at rear

Tickets: \$ 10.00. Children 0 to 15: Free.

Program: Children's Parade, Music, Norwegian Storyteller and more.

If it's raining at 3:00 p.m. that day, the event must be cancelled.

Mosaic

Time: Friday 31 May to Saturday 1 June.

Visit as many venues as you can!

Bottle Drive Fundraiser TBA

**Updated events info on SCoR home
and Facebook pages**

Steak Night to celebrate Denmark's and Sweden's National Days



Time: Thursday , 6 June between
5pm - 9pm.

Venue: Press Box, 909 Albert Street

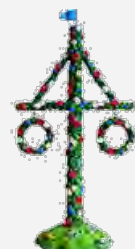
Tickets: \$20 — by 31 May.

Steak comes with homemade fries, salad, & pop or beer. Veggie burger or chicken can be substituted with a minimum 5 day notice. We are trying to raise funds for re-entry into Mosaic, so there will be a 50/50 draw.

Contact Pearl at 306-761-0678 for tickets.

Midsummer Picnic

Time and venue: Sunday
23 June at Candy Cane
Park



Midnight Sun Issue 2, Vol. 26; April 2013

Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

2013-2014 Board of Directors

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Membership Fees

Family membership \$ 30

Single membership \$ 20

Membership starts January 1, expires December 31.

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**Any views expressed in individual articles do not necessarily
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