



Midnight Sun

ISSUE

2

VOLUME 28

April 2015

Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

Knowledge Through Studies - at Any Level

In this issue we bring the first out of three presentations of SCoR scholarship recipients:

Blair went to Bodø, Norway, for studies at the University of Nordland;

Kjersten, too, went to Norway for a year at the folkehøgskole in Voss;

Greta spent a year at the folkhögskola in Sigtuna, Sweden.



Others have pursued their interests in Nordic matters by attending shorter courses in and outside of our province.

Find the application form on the [SCoR website!](http://scandinavianclubregina.com)

Scandinavian Club
of Regina



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SCoR

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Scandinavian Club
of Regina



Blair Hudyma - SCoR Scholarship 2008



Among today's SCoR members, Blair Hudyma is the latest to have been awarded assistance from the Club's scholarship programme to pursue his "wish to study some aspect of Scandinavian culture or who wish to travel to a Scandinavian country for further study." (SCoR Bylaws appendix)

Blair Hudyma has Norwegian family background through his mother. Since 2013, he has served on the SCoR Board of Directors; a way of paying back to the Club for the support he received through the scholarship program. Due to his Norwegian roots, he always wanted to go visit and learn more about the Old Country. In 2008 he got the chance to go to the [University of Nordland](http://www.uninordland.no), and stayed for seven months to study. His mother knew about the SCoR had been allocated, he had a key, but and came across the scholarship program



By the fjord. 2008

when searching online. The SCoR scholarship of \$500 was one of a number of scholarships he received to go to [Bodø](http://www.bodo.no), and it was a great help towards covering living costs. The Faculty of Sciences ran graduate courses in International Economics, and that's where Blair carried out his studies for the time he spent in Bodø. When he first arrived at the student housing which he

(Continued on page 7)

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



**Buy the
SCoR
Cookbook!**

The price for the cookbook is **\$15.00**, no tax.

Contact Kate Keyes by [email](#) or phone 306-584-0063, or buy the book at any SCoR function, Fishy Fridays and Nordic Knitting nights included.



Be a phoner!



Some members prefer to be notified by phone when major events are coming up. SCoR phoners are doing an important job to extend this information to everybody. A couple of the phoners have quit after many years of service - we need **you** to replace them! For details, contact Mavis de Bruin by [email](#) or ph. 306-570-9339.

Members' Matters

Nordic Knitters



Selected products from a few industrious Knitters' nights

Fishy Fridays



The new venue is obviously popular! Ricky's menu features a variety of fish (and other goodies), and the sound is at a level that allows people to talk!

On February Fishy Friday we were 19 people at Ricky's; the March event attracted 27 members and guests. That's a new all time high!



Thanks for a Job Well Done!

Midnight Sun wants to thank President Pearl Baumgartner and her crew: Jamie Struthers, Connie Grasdahl, Blair Hyduma, Kelly Nelson, Susan Bjorndalen, plus those not in the photo: Greg Swanson, Kim Rathwell and Ingrid Van Dusen. We are grateful for all the work you do and proud to have such great people to represent our Scandinavian heritage in Regina.



President's Corner

I have now almost completed my 2 year stint as president. Welcome, Greg Swanson, to that position! I hope many of you attend our upcoming AGM, to show your support for the Club. At that time, we hope to amend our bylaws, and welcome a new board member to our team.

In June, we will be holding our 3rd annual steak night. Please join us, along with friends and family, in celebrating four Scandinavian national holidays. All benefits will be added to our scholarship fund.

While game night folded, "Nordic Knitters" has proven to be a great success. (Thank you, Diane Swanson, for making the suggestion.) And while some members have unfortunately left us, happily new members continue to join. This has translated into membership numbers remaining

stable.

We are always looking for new ideas. We also need volunteers in any capacity, big or small. So if you have a particular

talent, or even just an idea you would like to share with us, please let us know. We also need help in finding a suitable venue for our fall dinner, at a cost pleasing to our members. Any takers?

Wishing you all good things,

Pearl Baumgartner



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Editorial



Looking at the activities of the Scandinavian Club of Regina over an average year, one will easily be impressed by the variety of events and activities. Sometimes events have to be cancelled because of weather conditions; sometimes activities do not attract the number of participants hoped for. However, the SCoR Board members have invested a great deal of work in preparing for every event - cancelled ones as well as those who attract good crowds; the phoners have contacted every member on their lists to ensure that everybody will be properly informed; website, Facebook page and magazine are being produced and maintained.

The Annual General Meeting is coming up. It is time for all of us to participate, contribute, and ensure that the Club can

continue its activities with a functional Board of Directors. A motion will be put forward to alter the bylaws to extend the number of board members by two. We are a migratory lot, people like to (and need to) travel to some place warmer, or to see relatives in the Old Countries, or for business, or for any reason that makes people want to stay away for a while. There have been times when the SCoR Board meeting has not had a quorum, which means that important matters for the Club have not been resolved. More elected members will distribute the work on more hands, as well as better ensure a quorum.

Attend the AGM and make sure the motion to alter the bylaws be adopted and the 2015 -16 Board of Directors be elected with sufficient votes.

And bring your dessert for the potluck!

Picture credits



P.1: ((Apple tree)
K.Mitchell;
Private pic.) courtesy
of Blair Hudyma; () ;
P.2: (Cookbook)
K.Nelson; (Knitting,
group) K.Mitchell
P.3: (P.Baumgartner)
T.Baumgartner
P.4: (School) Tomb
School; (Spring)
K.Mitchell
P.5: (Portrait)
Illustrated; (Ship)
www.warsailors.com
(Medal) Keystone
Press. Lond. (Couple)
Western Mail, Cardiff
P.6: (Björk) Páll
Stefánsson; (Cell
phone) Colourbox;
(Berry pickers)
Benjamin Suomela
P.7: (Private pics.)
courtesy of Blair
Hudyma; (University)
Study ranger; (Flower)
K.Mitchell
Other: Public domain



Spring in Dalsland,
Sweden



Options for studying in Norway

We bring a couple of options for taking up studies in the Old Countries.
During a recent visit to Norway, Nordmanns-Forbundet's magazine
Norwegians Worldwide was brought to our attention, and the # 2 issue of
last year brings an article about Norgesskolen.

At their February meeting, the SCoR Board of Directors received the Fall
2014 issue of *News of Norway*, a magazine distributed by the Norwegian
Embassy in the US. The theme is "Study in Norway", and it brings
interesting information for possible North American students.

Norgesskolen is run by [Nordmanns-Forbundet](#) who aims to maintain
contact between Norway, Norwegians
living abroad and friends of Norway
around the world.

Target groups for [Norgesskolen](#)'s three
week summer school in Norwegian
language and culture are children of
Norwegian parents or children who
wish to maintain contact with Norway
and Norwegian culture. The school is
located at [Tomb Agricultural School](#),
south of Oslo in Østfold county.



Classes are divided by age and
Norwegian language skills, and the
course focuses on:

- ◆improving language skills and
nurturing students' interest in
Norwegian language and culture;
- ◆developing knowledge and interest in
Norway;
- and more.

Norgesskolen courses are not among
the cheapest alternatives: Approx.
\$2,750 plus a signing up fee of \$90.

The fee includes:

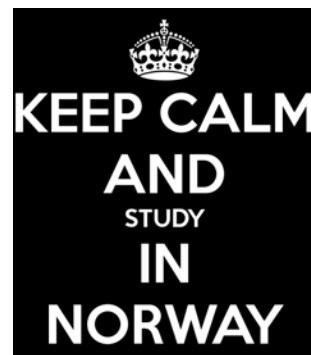
- Return transport Oslo - Tomb School.
- Room and board
- School supplies
- Tuition and after class activities
- Excursions.

In the [Fall issue](#) of [News of Norway](#)
three university students write about
their experiences of "Campus Norway"
says Murphy. First of all, "[--]education
is free here. The mere thought of this
completely blows my mind", says one
student. Norwegian universities and
university colleges offer "more than
250 master's programs and an
increasing number of bachelor's
programs taught in English". In addition
to the quality of study programs, the
students highly appreciate the
closeness to nature. Brigid: "The fact
that I could take [Oslo's metro] to these
gorgeous natural places and then turn
around and
take it back to
town to visit
high-quality
cultural
institutions
like the Opera
House made
me so proud
to call Oslo
my home".

Norway has a
wide international variety of students
enrolled at institutions of higher
education - more than 19,000 foreign
nationals. Stronger cooperation with
Canada has a high priority.

The magazine (p.6) brings brief profiles
of sixteen institutions of higher learning
throughout Norway.

The website studyinnorway.no has a
list of [scholarships](#) available for
students who wish to take part of their
education in Norway.

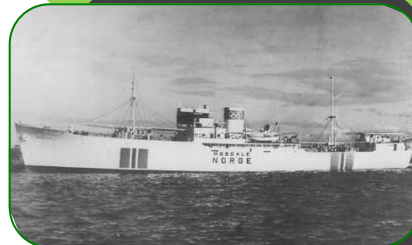




Fern Blodgett Sunde, "Sparks"

Regina Girl and WWII Heroine

Based on an article by Olive Roeckner, Kaslo, B.C



Fruit carrier M/S Mosdale

"Who says women didn't serve at sea in WWII?" This headline appeared a few years ago in the American magazine *Sea Classics*. In the article it is stated that "Few today realize that Norway's exiled wartime merchant marine allowed women radio operators to serve aboard with Norwegian-flagged merchant men." One of these women was Fern Blodgett from Regina, Saskatchewan.

In 1954, the Norwegian publishing house Eide Forlag launched a book by Eiliv Odde Hauge, *Lykkelige Mosdale* (Lucky Mosdale) about the Norwegian merchant marine ship M/S *Mosdale*, which made numerous crossings of the Atlantic during WWII. On 76 of those wartime crossings, the ship's radio officer was a Canadian woman, Fern Blodgett, born in Regina, raised in Coburg, Ontario. At the outbreak of war, Fern learned that the merchant marine was recruiting wireless operators in Canada. She attended night school for 18 months, and received the 2nd class wireless operator's license and a call to go to sea on the very same day. Authorities were dismayed to discover that F. Blodgett was a woman. However, there was nothing in regulations to say that a woman could not sail as a wireless operator. Fortunately for her, the decision was left up to the ship's captain Gerner Sunde. The fruit carrier *Mosdale* couldn't wait any longer for a new "sparks", and Fern was signed on in June 1941. Fresh from radio school, with no experience in operating, decoding, or any of the other necessary work, Fern found herself in charge of *Mosdale's* radio shack. At first as the only operator, but later she became the Chief Operator with an English 2nd and a Norwegian 3rd.



As female ship radio officer, Fern Blodgett Sunde attracted international attention. Photo by anonymous photographer.

Of the half dozen fruit carriers from Norway to start the crossings in 1940, only *Mosdale* survived.

At 30, Gerner Sunde was rather young to be Master of a vessel. Romance flourished, captain and operator became engaged at the end of '41 and married the following year. Their honeymoon was spent at sea in convoy.

In 1943, when *Mosdale* was in the U.K., Capt. Sunde and others met the Norwegian Royals and were presented with medals by King Haakon VII.

Mosdale was a happy ship but the war's end came in time. Fern left the ship to settle down in her new homeland of Norway. Captain Sunde died suddenly of a heart attack and Fern was left to raise their two daughters alone. She died in 1991.

"Why should I not risk my life when millions of men are risking theirs. Is a woman's life more precious than a man's?"

Fern Blodgett



Fern B.Sunde receiving medal from King Haakon VII



Fern with her husband Captain Gerner Sunde.



Björk Exhibition

A retrospective exhibition of the work of Icelandic singer Björk will open in The Museum of Modern Art in New York this month.

"The exhibition draws from more than 20 years of the artist's daring and innovative projects and her eight full-length albums to chronicle her career through sound, film, visuals, instruments, objects, and costumes," a description on the museum's website reads.

(—)



Entry to the Björk exhibition is included with general museum admission. Timed tickets are required for the Songlines portion of the exhibition, and are available same-day and on-site only, at no additional charge.

The exhibition runs until June 7th.

Iceland Review



Cash-free Guinea pig

Horsens Municipality in eastern Jutland is aiming to be the country's leader in instituting a cash-free society. Politicians aim to introduce mobile payment solutions everywhere by the summer and eventually to do away with cash completely. So far 50 shops and 44 municipal amenities, including libraries and swimming pools, have made it possible to pay using Danske Bank's (Danish Bank) MobilePay app.



Pernille Perigaard, the head of the shopping centre City Horsens, considers the development inevitable. "It's the way things are going," she said. "Cash is on the way out at some point, and we want to be at the forefront of the development."

Mayor Peter Sørensen is spearheading the initiative and sees a number of advantages to doing away with cash. "Handling cash is time-consuming and involves a security risk," he said.

Danske Bank is delighted that Horsens and other municipalities are using their payment solution. Mark Wraa-Hansen, the head of the MobilePay department at the bank, said there is a lot of interest. "We are in dialogue with a lot of municipalities about mobile payment and all of them have responded positively to our contact," he said. "Some municipalities are able to take it to a whole new level, and in this respect, Horsens is way out in front."

<http://cphpost.dk/>



Foreign Berry Pickers

Representatives of the berry industry and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy have signed a letter of intent concerning the status of foreign berry pickers in Finland.

The berry companies have pledged to step up their efforts to promote the adaptation of the foreign employees to the local working conditions. Last year, a number of berry pickers reported net earnings of no more than 20 euros a day for their efforts in Finland.

The letter of intent is a result of a study carried out at the Ministry of Employment and the Economy last year.

"The goal of the agreement is to strengthen the position and earning possibilities of berry pickers (—) well as to harmonise the operating methods of the recruiting companies," says a government counsellor at the Ministry of Employment and the Economy.



The Finnish League for Human Rights (FLHR) has demanded that a work permit scheme similar to that in Sweden be introduced in order to foster the rights of foreign berry pickers.

Most of the roughly 3,000 berry pickers who arrive annually in Finland are from Thailand. As they enter the country on a tourist visa, they lack the rights and legal protection afforded to those in an employment relationship.

Helsingin Sanomat



.. Blair Hudyma .. (Continued from page 1)

there was no mattress in his room! The situation was soon sorted out, and the student from Saskatchewan settled into his adventure of living in the exotic environment above the [Arctic Circle in Norway](#). He was even lucky enough to have a girlfriend from [Vestre Jakobselv](#) – a place almost as far north and east you can get in Norway – right there on the shore of the Barents Sea.

Student life consists of a balanced mix of duty and pleasure. Lectures, seminars and assignment writing - but also excursions, fjord fishing, sports and partying...and the chance to speak Norwegian, of course. While in Bodø, Blair got a pair of Norwegian skis of the Madshus make – used by so many cross country ski champions. (Among others, biathlon athlete [Ole Einar Bjørndalen](#) who has relatives right here in Regina). It was Blair's first time on skis in some twenty years! He also spoke about how amazing it was to be able to [snow skate](#) downhill to school - going back home was not quite at the same level of fun...



Norway was occupied by the Germans for five years during WWII, and all along the coast one can still see remains of "[Festung Norwegen](#)" (Fortress Norway), built to secure the occupants' stronghold of the North Sea and Arctic Ocean coastline. Most of Bodø was destroyed during a [Luftwaffe](#) attack on 27 May 1940. 3,500 people lost their homes in the attack. Blair found it very interesting to see the remains of bunkers and other instalments in the vicinity of Bodø. Blair had heard about [Little Norway](#), a training camp in Toronto for Norwegian

pilots during WWII. The Bodø based [Norwegian Aviation Museum](#) had a very special exhibit dedicated to Little Norway, and was another point of interest to be explored.



Flying high on the side of a lighthouse.

After the academic year was out, Blair made a tour by car from Bodø to [Trondheim](#), then to Bergen, and then onwards to [Fresvik](#), Sogn og Fjordane where his mother's family is from. Of particular interest on this trip was the Norwegian Black Metal scene in [Bergen](#). Blair is a great fan of [Black Metal music](#) - it is big in Norway. Bergen is actually considered the Black Metal capital of the world. But most important to him on this trip, was to visit the family homestead and meet relatives whom he had never known. To this day he often reflects on his amazing time in Norway, missing his family and friends, and dreaming of the days where he would lie in the grass along the ocean and think of how lucky he was to be there.



The University of Nordland, Bodø



Write!

Midnight Sun wants your input! Even though we are a quarterly magazine, appearing only four times a year, letters to the editor are most welcome.

Write to us!

Sole
searching?

We can help.



Pacific Fresh Fish
Corner of Robinson & 13th
306-525-9147



Fireweed near Bodø

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

Scandinavian Club
of Regina



Upcoming Events

For all events, check our [website](#) or 

Fishy Friday at Ricky's



First Friday of the month!
The back room at Ricky's Grill,
777 Albert Street, at 4:30 p.m
No need to sign up - just turn up!
Children are welcome.
Upcoming dates: 1 May, 5 June, 3 July

Buy the SCoR cookbook!

2015 AGM



Thursday, April 16th at
Whitmore Park United Church, 336
Durham Drive
Doors open 6pm, AGM starts 7:30pm
Let your voice be heard in Club matters!

Dessert potluck.

Bring your bottles and cans
for a "pick-up bottle drive"!



Buy the SCoR cookbook!

Steak Night



On Wed. June 3rd, 5 - 8pm,
we celebrate the National Days of
Norway, Denmark, Sweden & Iceland
at **Nicky's Café**, 1005 8th Ave.
Tickets: \$20, beverage not included.
Deadline for payment: Thu. May 28th.
Look out for more information later on
website, Facebook and by phoners.

Buy the SCoR cookbook!

Midsummer Fest



Sun. June 21st in Candy Cane
park 2 - 5pm
Adults \$10; children 12 & under free;
Hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie tray,
coffee, tea, soft drinks, & possibly
watermelon for dessert;
Bring your lawn chair!
In case of rain at 10am, the function will
be cancelled

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Any views expressed in individual articles do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Scandinavian Club of Regina

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Secretary	Connie Grasdahl	306-359-1031
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Scandinavian Club
of Regina



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Membership Fees

Family membership \$ 30
Single membership \$ 20
Student membership \$ 10

Membership starts January 1, expires December 31.

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