



Midnight Sun

ISSUE

3

VOLUME 27

July 2014

Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

The World's Largest Midsummer

The city of Alesund, Norway throws an annual Midsummer's Festival, featuring the world's largest bonfire, made of shipping pallets, recycled for this purpose so they can be



destroyed for temporary entertainment! The traditional bonfire, *Slinningsbålet*, is taken to the extreme. The base of the structure is approximately 20 m wide (65.6 ft). 30-40 people partake in the build on the small peninsula of Slinningsodden, and to light the structure someone must climb to the top to ignite it. If the fire doesn't burn from top to bottom things could end badly.

The record so far was set in 2010 with a



Theme: Midsummer



Members' Matters	2, 3, 7
President's Corner	3
Editorial	3
Theme articles	1, 5, 6, 7
Scandinavian News	4, 6
Upcoming Events	8

Midsummer in Scandinavian Art



Saint John's Day on June 24th was adapted by Christianity from the ancient Norse celebrations of Summer Solstice - the longest day of the year. Scandinavian artists have been inspired by the short, blond night, from the phenomenon of the sun and from the celebrations of

Anders Zorn, Sweden (1860-1920) *Country Festival*. 1890s. Zorn is



perhaps best known for his nudes depicting young women of the Dalarna area in Sweden, but he also painted rustic scenes like this picture of a



Midsummer dance.

Jón Gunnar Árnason, Iceland (1931-1989) *Sun Voyager*. 1990. This

(Continued on bottom of page 7)

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 25 members present at this year's AGM elected two new members of the SCoR Board of Directors: Susan Bjorndalen (Treasurer) and Connie Grasdal (Secretary). We extend a heartfelt thank you to John Edwardson and Larry Bristol who left after many years of serving the Club in multiple functions.



New Event Being Discussed

The Board of Directors is looking for new types of events which would attract SCoR members, old and young. Member activities are always on



the table for discussion. One idea for a new activity has been triggered by the fact that many people share an interest in digging up their Scandinavian roots. A

(More on page 3)

Members' Matters



2014-15 Board Members: Jamie Struthers, Pearl Baumgartner (President), Connie Grasdal (Secretary), Blair Hyduma, Kelly Nelson (Membership), Susan Bjorndalen (Treasurer). Not in the photo: Greg Swanson (Vice President), Kim Gillies (Past President), Ingrid

Steak Night

At the Tap: Members and guests enjoying the food



Food basket donated by the Norwegian Consulate

The Moment of Truth: Blair and Pearl pulling the tickets for the 50/50 draw





We had over 70 people in attendance at our steak night fundraiser. As well, the Norwegian Consulate graciously donated a wonderful food basket for our 50/50 draw. It was a popular item! Thank you to the Consulate, our volunteers, and to all those in attendance. We did a commendable job in raising funds for our blossoming student scholarship!

The future of our game/card night is uncertain, given the

President's Corner

low turn-out. I believe some of you would really enjoy this small social. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends, and to share in some laughter. Please give it a try - and help us survive! There is no obligation to come on a regular basis. Thank you so much Mavis for hosting this event!

Our Fishy Friday has now celebrated its one year anniversary. We have a core group of regulars and welcome any newbie's. Please join us for some good conversation, and a tasty meal out. Friends are most welcome!

In the last year we have had all 5 Scandinavian countries' national day celebrated with a flag raising at Regina City Hall. Hopefully this will continue as an annual tradition for many years to come.

After 20 some years, Larry Bristol has stepped down from the executive. We are very pleased, however, that Larry has agreed to chair our social committee. He also convened our recent Mid-Summer Fest. Thank you so much Larry for your many years of dedication and contribution to the Club!

I hope to see many of you at our annual Corn Roast at Candy Cane Park on August 24th.

(Continued from page 2)

Certificates of

Genealogical event is being planned for this fall/winter.

Past SCoR Board and committee members have been honoured with the Club's Certificate of Appreciation. The Board of Directors is happy to be able to show this token of gratitude towards members of the Club who have taken on responsibilities and donated generously of their time to make the



Editorial



Scandinavian Club
of Regina



The Scandinavian Club of Regina was founded in 1976 and can soon look back on forty years of existence as a forum for people of Scandinavian (Nordic) descent or with an interest in Scandinavian culture. Many of the founding members are still active in the Club. Whereas membership has gone down somewhat compared to the enthusiastic beginnings, we have seen

a stabilization and even a small rise in later years. This is interesting and gives food for some thought. It would seem quite natural that younger generations, farther and farther away from the original immigrants, would lose some of the identification as descendants from the Old Countries. On the other hand, there has been an increasing interest during the last decade or so in genealogical research. Fluctuations in membership numbers could



be a result of both phenomena.

One characteristic of an ailing Club would be difficulty in finding candidates for positions on the Board of Directors. A quick look at the picture on page 2 will help reassure any sceptics: we have a very healthy mix of "old" and new people who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of continuing to secure a



Ottawa Names Streets After Swedish Cities



On May 21 at Ottawa City Hall, Mayor Jim Watson, Deputy Mayor Steve Desroches and Ambassador Teppo Tauriainen unveiled three new streets named after Sweden's largest cities.

The streets are located in the community of Riverside South and will be named Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. In his speech, Mayor Watson highlighted the strong ties between Ottawa and Sweden, including the presence of companies such as Ericsson, Volvo, IKEA and H&M, as well as the local Swedish community and of course the Ottawa Senator's Swedish

Viking museum selling



Roskilde's Viking Ship Museum is offering the public the chance to buy a Viking longboat via its online shop.

Nordic Culture's marketing director Anders Roge explained that the popularity of the Vikings is continuing to grow so they believe the opportunity to purchase an authentic Viking boat online is sure to be a great success. He said that the custom-built ships should be able to fulfill a childhood dream, and could be used in a company's marketing strategy or taken for a weekend cruise by families and



friends.

The custom-build vessels come in a range of models, with the almost 10-metre [Norwegian] Gokstad Ship – used for exploration, warfare, trade and commerce during the Viking Age – being among the most spectacular.

Roge pointed out that the popularity of TV series 'Vikings' as well as the success of the National Museum of Denmark's Viking exhibition, which has been displayed in Berlin and London, proves that current interest in the Vikings' history and culture is on the up.

The Viking Ship Museum is renowned for using the Vikings' shipbuilding tradition to recreate the old wooden boats for exhibitions and research, but its new move will extend to companies



Crown Princess

Norwegian Crown Princess Mette Marit was one of the keynote speakers at the opening of the UN High Level meeting in New York (in June) on Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the Post 2015 Agenda.

In her role as UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador the Crown Princess held the opening statement after Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and President of the General Assembly John W. Ashe. The Crown Princess spoke about the importance of ending aids as a safeguard to ensure human rights for all. -We need to finish the "unfinished" agenda for MDG 6. We need to maintain a strong focus on health beyond 2015.

In her statement, the Crown Princess emphasized how ending the AIDS epidemic needs to be a part of the Post 2015 development agenda. -We cannot afford to allow the global AIDS response to lose its momentum. We need to maintain a strong vision, remain committed to our ideals and be decisive in our actions. Ending the



AIDS epidemic is possible, said the Crown Princess.

It is very important for me to focus on the fact that young people do not have access to the information they need about health and HIV/AIDS, she said to

Midsummer Traditions of Lore



Summer officially kicks off, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, on Summer



The word *solstice* derives from the Latin *sol sistere* - "sun stand still". On that day, the North Pole is tipped more toward the sun than on any other day. Because of the earth's tilt, the path of the sun across the sky rises in the lead-up to the summer solstice, and then begins descending for the rest of the summer. At high noon on the summer solstice, the sun appears at its highest point in the sky.

The celebration of the Summer solstice is a very ancient practice - the Scandinavian Midsummer traditions stem from pre-Christian, pagan times, showing the defeat of darkness to the powers of the sun goddess *Sol*. However, the church decided to give it a Christian connotation by associating Midsummer's Eve with John the Baptist's birthday, June 24.

St.Hans/Jonsok/Midsommar is one of Scandinavia's most popular festivals. In Sweden, it ranks right along with, or perhaps over, Christmas.

Maypole (majstång). Decorated Midsummer poles are most common in Sweden, but are also raised in Finland.

People dance around the pole, singing (or listening to) traditional songs known to all.

Bonfire. They are a part of the celebration in Denmark, Norway and Finland. Among Danes, burning of straw witches on bonfires is done in memory of the Church's witch burnings of the 16th and 17th century.



Magic. Midsummer was originally a fertility festival with many customs and rituals associated with nature. As in many other countries, the magic of Midsummer includes divining the future, especially one's future spouse! Young girls will pick seven different flowers and hide them under their pillow. The one they dream about that night is the one they will marry...

Organized Midsummer



events are not as common in Iceland as in the other Scandinavian countries. In recent years, however, Viking Solstice Festivals with authentic clothing, jewellery, crafts, food and drink, etc., have taken hold in Iceland.

Like in every major Scandinavian tradition, celebrating with others goes hand in hand with good



Picture credits

P.1: (Girl) Linda Nelson, Pinterest; (Bonfire) vg.no

P.2: (Directors) M.Mitchell; (Guests) P.Baumgartner; (Basket, draw) S.Bjorndalen

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

P.4: (Streets) Erik Palm

P.5: (Flowers) Bestemor Drillo; (Food) charls; (Glass) Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

P.6: (Group) Ivar Aaserud; (Girl) Milla Takala / Lehtikuva

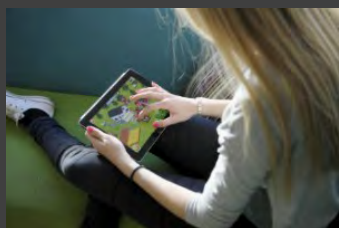
Other: Public domain

Finns Spend More on Culture and Recreation



Finnish households spent an average of 3,6 euros on culture and recreation in 2012, indicates a report published by Statistics Finland.

The report indicates that the spending of Finnish households on culture and recreation increased by 40 per cent between 1990 and 2012, with their spending on audiovisual and computer equipment rising particularly – from less than 90 euros in 1990 to roughly 530 euros in



2012.

Elsewhere, Finnish households spent some 311 euros on television licences, subscription fees and other audiovisual contents, television licences accounting for a lion's share, 230 euros, of the total. Subscription fees, in turn, cost the average household 74 euros per year. [—]



Sankthans Celebration on My Street

Sanatorieveien (Sanatorium Road) where I grew up in Drammen, Norway, was the last street on the north hillside of the Drammenselva River.



Sanatorieveien neighbourhood, Sankthansaften (Midsummer Eve) 1953 or –54. Young Nils performing. That's my father there on the far left with the white hat. My

I believe the tradition actually started in May of 1945, when everybody brought out their much hated black window blinds - which everybody had to use during five years of German occupation - and burned them in an open, stony space between our houses and the forest. I cannot remember that (I was probably asleep), but then the neighbours found out that they would make this our site for Midsummer bonfires. And so it was. For years and years until city planning developed a new subsection on the hill up from our house, and bonfires did not really agree with that setup...

For as long as I lived there, though, that was where we gathered for the celebration of Sankthans. To us kids, it

meant we could dress up in any outfit that we could make out of what we found in closets and drawers. Growing up in post-war Norway meant that there was no abundance of toys or playgrounds - or anything, for that matter. So we dressed up. On this particular Midsummer Eve, my friend Vera and I put together different pieces from our mothers' wardrobes, put brown makeup on our faces, and hoped we would look like gypsies. Yes - we got away with that kind of thing in those days...

Everybody brought food, of course. We did not barbecue - I don't think that had even been introduced in Norway in

(Continued on top of page 7)



.. Sankthans ..

(Continued from page 6)

the fifties. But there was no lack of delicacies. Waffles were brought up from our houses, fresh from the stove. Sandwiches, cakes and cookies, tea and coffee, pop, homemade juice - and "juice" for the adults.

We kids would perform: songs, skits, jokes. If any of the adults performed, we just loved it!

It never gets really dark on June 23rd, just a few hours of dusk, so to let the children enjoy the 'Sankthansbål', they would light the bonfire with the sun still out. Which meant we didn't see too much light from the flames, but no Sankthansaften without a bonfire! When we grew old enough to stay up late, we would see other bonfires along



the river and out by the fjord from our perch high up on the hillside. People who owned boats, mainly smaller wooden motor boats of the "snekke" model, would obviously find a place by the water. But we could see it all from the edge of the forest!

23 June would very often be the last school day before the long summer holiday, so we kids could sleep in the next morning. Not so for our fathers. Very few of the mothers had jobs outside of the home back then, but for the breadwinners,

the next day was a working day like any other day - unless the 24th was a Sunday. (Saturdays off work didn't happen in Norway until well into the 60ies). But it was the fathers who sat up all night, watching the dwindling fire



..Midsummer Art..

(Continued from page 1)



sculpture of a viking ship heading into the sun is the most photographed public work of art in Reykjavik.

Eero Järnefelt, Finland (1863-1937) A *Midsummer Night's Moon*. 1889. Järnefelt was especially inspired by nature. You can feel the total stillness under the full moon on a light, Nordic night.

The following work is by Danish painter Lauritz Regner Tuxen (1853-1927). He was associated with the *Skagen* group



of artists, and his picture *Midsummer's*

SCoR Needs Volunteers!



The Board is working on re-establishing the SCoR student scholarships. It is not just a matter of raising the money, we need to look into possible bylaw amendments. For starters, we want volunteers for a subcommittee to prepare this for the 2015 AGM.

Contact one of the Board members at the next Club event, or find contact information on page 8

Sole
searching?
We can help.



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

Do we have your email address?



Higher mailing rates were introduced by Canada Post earlier this year. Please consider the option of receiving *Midnight Sun* online, thus saving expenses for the Club.

Test it out via the SCoR website under 'Newsletter'!

Make sure you share your email address with SCoR or check that we have your current email

Upcoming Events

Corn Roast

Sunday, August 24th in Candy Cane Park.

Make sure you reserve this Sunday -

don't miss out on the chance once again to enjoy the SCoR culinary signature: superb barbecued corn!

Details later on the SCoR web and Facebook pages.



Fowl Supper

October.

Details later on the SCoR web and Facebook pages.



Share SCoR events with your family and friends!



Fishy Friday at the Freehouse

First Friday of every month at 5pm at Cathedral Village Freehouse,



2062 Albert Street. No need to sign up - just turn up! Upcoming dates: Aug.1st, Sep.5th, Oct.3rd.

Game Night

Third Thursday of every month at 7pm.

Venue: 2600 Arens Road; use the buzzer marked "Activity room only".



Bring snacks (optional); coffee and tea will be supplied. Your friends are welcome!

Upcoming dates: Aug.21st, Sep.18th, Oct.16th.

Midnight Sun Issue 3, Vol. 27; July 2014

Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

2014-2015 Board of Directors

President	Pearl Baumgartner	306-761-0678
Vice President	Greg Swanson	306-586-9737
Past President	Kim Gillies	306-531-9794
Treasurer	Susan Bjorndalen	306-540-4637
Secretary	Connie Grasdahl	306-359-1031
Directors	Blair Hudyma	306-543-6084
	Kelly Nelson	306-584-2562
	Jamie Struthers	306-949-5608
	Ingrid VanDusen	306-949-6064



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

Membership Fees

Family membership \$ 30
Single membership \$ 20

Membership starts January 1, expires December 31.

Contact us:

SCoR contact email
scormembership@gmail.com

Membership contact
Kelly Nelson
Phone 306-584-2562
Email kndn83@gmail.com

Midnight Sun editor
Kari Mitchell
Phone 306-565-2450
Email kar-mit@hotmail.com



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