

On April 20, SCoR held its annual general meeting, and outgoing president Greg Swanson outlined the events of the year in his president's report. He pointed to the 40th anniversary dinner held September 17, 2016, as the highlight for him.

He reminded members that the bylaws of SCoR state that the objectives of the club are cultural and social. Greg explained that for him the club has been an important source of learning about Scandinavian language and culture. The members in attendance gave Greg a standing ovation for his work as president in the past two years.

Kelly Nelson delivered his membership report. At the end of 2016, SCoR had 78 paid family members and 29 paid single members. Ten new members joined last year, and five had joined as of April for 2017. On a less positive note, 34 members had not paid their 2016 fees.

Gary Carlson provided the review of 2016 financial statements. His only recommendations for change were

Annual General Meeting 2017



*At the 2017 AGM the board members in attendance gather for a photo.
Back row (l-r) Linda Wacker, Kelly Nelson, Lauren Carlson, Greg Swanson, Mavis de Bruin.
Front row (l-r) Andrea Ashton, Blair Hudyma, Kate Keys, Laurel Josvanger.*

minor changes on how revenue and expenses are presented and discussing whether lower cost alternatives for storage should be explored.

As of December 2016, SCOR had \$16,318 in total assets. Total income for 2016 was \$9,826, compared to expenses of \$11,227 for a net income of -\$1,400.

This is largely due to expenses

associated with the 40th anniversary event, which were agreed to by the board as appropriate in order to celebrate this significant milestone.

Kari Mitchell provided a SCoR Facebook page report showing 81 posts and 176 people following the page from April 2016 to April 2017. She encouraged people to share the Club's posts to get more followers.



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I sat down with our new president, Blair Hudyma, to interview him for his first message in this newsletter. Since he was incapacitated with an arm injury, it seemed like the right approach. Blair is currently Manager of the Lead Generation Team with the Ministry of the Economy. He is responsible for identifying and following up on investment leads in the province's priority sectors. As well, he has his Masters of Economics and Law, specializing in International Trade, from the University of Saskatchewan. Now on to the interview:

How Scandinavian are you?

My mother's family is Scandinavian. My grandfather's name is Thor. I attended university in Bodo, Norway in 2009-10, and also did some work in Oslo. While there, I met my mother's family who lived in Fresvik on the Songa Fjord in southern Norway.

Why did you go to university in Norway?

Bodo had a special program for international studies and one of my professors suggested that I

President's Message

should apply. I was the first Canadian student under the program to travel to Norway. I completed several graduate-level courses there in 2009-10.

What inspired you to get involved in the Club?

Four years ago when I started working for government I met Kari Mitchell's husband Michael who suggested I join the Club. He knew I had studied in Norway and that the Club was looking for new members. I went and they voted me onto the board. I have been involved ever since.

What do you like about being Scandinavian?

A lot of things. I like to think the Scandinavian social model is superior. In Canada we have a strong dedication to social consciousness. And Scandinavia is very similar. I am not a big fan of their tax system, but they do take very good care of their people.

What is your favorite Scandinavian food?

Farikal – Norwegian lamb and cabbage stew. It's simple and exceptional.

What are your hobbies?

I play a lot of sports, but right now I am on the DL (disabled) list due to injury. I've always played sports like baseball, hockey and soccer. I am an automotive enthusiast. I build all my cars. That's another hobby, building engines.

Tell me one funny story about your experiences in Norway.

I played university-level innebandy and hockey there. In general, their sports are much less rough, less contact. The Canadian hockey game is a bit rougher. The first time I stepped to the faceoff circle I tied up with a player from the opposite team. I put him on the ice and got a double minor for roughing for a move that is regularly done in Canadian hockey. But I also got a hat trick in that game.

What are some of the most beautiful places you have visited?

Sogna Fjord is renowned for its beauty.

Another place I really enjoyed was Stockholm's city hall, the Stockholm Stadhuset, a gorgeous landmark.

What do you see for the future of the club?

Our success is based around the events. That's where we get people not necessarily super involved in the Club. Most of our members are older in age. It would be good to get the children more involved. It's good to maintain these institutions because it's part of who we are.

Thank you to the members and the board, especially the former president. It's nice to know I have people like that behind me. I was honoured to be asked to take on the presidency.

SCoR Steak Night

The Scandinavian Club held another successful steaknight to celebrate Norway's national holiday, May 17, as well as the other Scandinavian countries' national days celebrated in the spring.

The supper at Nicki's was attended by 94 people. Susan Bjorndalen won the 50/50 draw. Neil McKellar won the gift basket donated by the Honorary Vice Counsel for Sweden.

Profit from the event is about \$700 to be added to the Club's scholarship fund.

Photo to the right: Kelly Nelson and Blair Hudyma.



Elsie May Quick - a Hardanger Ambassador

Elsie May came from Norwegian and Icelandic stock, but it took Elsa Rolin, a Danish friend of her husband, to introduce her to the joy and artistry of hardanger, the Norwegian style of cutwork and drawn thread embroidery.

She availed herself of every opportunity to hone her art during family sabbaticals at the universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota. The surrounding communities were hotbeds of Scandinavian culture. It became her passion to reclaim and rejuvenate the art in Canada, and over the next 50 years she taught thousands of students in classes across Canada and the U.S.

Her former home at 14 Culliton Crescent was the meeting place for those wishing extra attention and masters' level guidance in creating new and original uses for hardanger.

No less than three groups met at monthly intervals to hone their skills and to encourage one another. One group met for over 20 years!

She was invited to instruct at the Norwegian American Museum in Decorah, Iowa, the major repository of Nordic folk art in North America. Elsie May passed away in 2015 but her work lives on in the Museum, as well as in a number of church and university settings.



Photo from the Western Producer

News Shorts

By Kari Mitchell

Norway should be a climate example for the United States

Norway is a good example for our American friends that one can offer oil and gas while also focusing on renewable energy, says EU President Donald Tusk.

There are many ways a country can contribute to solving climate challenges. Norway is a good example of how one can be a potent provider of oil and gas, while also focusing on renewable energy. They should be an encouraging example for our American friends, says EU president.



Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg and European Union President Donald Tusk

He held a joint press conference with Prime Minister Erna Solberg (Conservative) after her visit in Brussels in May. They said that they had a good meeting,

and that the relationship between Norway and the EU has grown stronger over the past 25 years.

“Therefore, it is important that we continue cooperation to resolve global challenges, such as the climate issue. Norway will meet its targets under the Paris agreement together with the EU,” says Solberg.

Source: NTB Scanpix / Norway Today

Finnish kids create media buzz

Every spring a magazine written and illustrated entirely by schoolchildren arrives like a breath of fresh air. It’s a longstanding tradition, especially in southern Finland.

Called Kevätpörriäinen (Buzzing Spring Bee) and founded in 1949, the magazine is legendary for its jokes page; some of the material may even give professional comedians a run for their money. The publication also contains poems, stories, games and artwork, all produced by kids in grades one to six. All profits are

considered charitable donations and are distributed to schools for the benefit of the students.

As warmer spring weather reaches Finland, it is common to encounter groups of children selling the magazine. It’s not just child’s play – “grown-up” media often quote their favourite excerpts from Kevätpörriäinen on TV and radio and in paper publications. In honour of the 100th anniversary of Finland’s independence, the 2017 edition includes a section called “Top 5: Best things about Finland” and “My Finland.”



Top 5: Best things about Finland

1. The seasons 2. The homes 3. The friends 4. The schools 5. The families (Lilja, grade 1)

1. The forest 2. Berries 3. Animals 4. The food 5. Stuffed animals (Pinja, grade 1)

Source: This is Finland

Danish laid-back lifestyle “all the rage”

Move over Martha Stewart and Gwyneth Paltrow. The Danes have arrived! Media and lifestyle experts have become enamored with the Danish concept of “hygge,” pronounced “hoo-ga.” In Denmark, the word describes a

simple, cozy approach to relaxing to help Danes get through the long winter months. Think of curling up on the sofa with a cup of hot chocolate watching a fire blazing in your fireplace and you are getting the feel for hygge. You

can read more in The Little Book of Hygge, by Meik Wiking, the CEO of the Happiness Institute in Copenhagen. Is the Saskatchewan equivalent curling up on the sofa with a Great Western watching the hockey play-offs?



New building for Institute of Foreign Languages



Vigdís Finnbogadóttir

“My heart always starts beating faster when I go inside, it’s such a beautiful building,” says former President of Iceland, Vigdís

Finnbogadóttir. A new building was inaugurated this weekend at Suðurgata at the University of Iceland and was named in her honour.

The Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages is a research institute working within the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Iceland. The Institute is a research centre for scholars who teach modern languages and cultures, the classical languages, and translation studies. Since 2001, the Institute has had the honour of bearing the name of Finnbogadóttir, President

of Iceland 1980-1996. She was Iceland’s first female president and the first female president to be elected in Europe. Her avid passion for languages and the preservation of the Icelandic language is the theme of the new building, Vigdísarstofnun, which will host exhibitions on the world’s languages. Finnbogadóttir said that she hopes many foreign visitors will visit the building to see how their language is depicted in the exhibition.

Source: Iceland Monitor

The Swedish hug

Just when you thought the Swedes were cold and ruthlessly efficient, the Swedish Hug comes along. This is how it works: If you talk to any Swede for more than five minutes, they automatically become your Hugging Friend Forever (HFF). You have to hug them every time you see them from that moment on (and again when you say goodbye). I’m serious!

My initial thoughts about this cuddly phenomenon landed me a place on breakfast TV talking about it with my hero - Magdalena Ribbing - who’s now apparently my HFF too. I still find the hugging to be a bit odd. But after four years in Sweden, I have learned to embrace both the habit and the Swedes. At last.

Source: Oliver Gee, The Local



Oliver Gee with Sweden’s Etiquette Queen Magdalena Ribbing

Iceland’s president takes shot at Canadian-style pizza

Our neighbours to the south are not the only ones with a president who likes to stir up controversy. Iceland’s president, Gudni Johannesson, has made clear his distaste for Canada’s most popular pizza – ham and pineapple. In February, he said he is “fundamentally opposed” to pineapple on pizza and would love



to see the topping banned. We wonder what his Canadian-born wife has to say on the matter.

- by Pam Bristol

40th Anniversary of HostFest in Minot

Yes, the exchange rate between Canada and the U.S. is less than ideal, but 2017 is a great year to visit Norsk HostFest – the largest Scandinavian Festival in North America.

This year the festival will be held September 27-30 at the North Dakota State Fair Grounds. HostFest president David Reiten says they have an extra special lineup of entertainers this year including the Oakridge Boys, Amy Grant, Celtic Thunder and the Doobie Brothers.

If you are looking for more authentic Scandinavian content, you can check out Alexander Ryak, a young violinist from Norway, who won the 2009 Eurovision talent competition, or Ingvar Olson, a talented vocalist who won Norwegian Idol in 2014.

There will be a Viking village where people who have traveled

from all over the U.S. will live for four days as their Viking ancestors did with no electricity or running water. As well, there will be a Sami village where indigenous people from northern Norway will demonstrate their traditional way of life.

Each of the five Scandinavian countries has its own hall at the event, featuring national foods, crafts, clothing and arts. Admission is \$40 U.S. per day. If you buy a \$67 U.S. ticket to one of the main concerts in the Great Hall of the Vikings, general admission is included.

If you can get your hands on a trailer or RV, the daily site rental cost is \$25 U.S., much cheaper than a hotel room, although David says many Minot hotels offer special deals for HostFest week.

Although organizers are a bit worried about the impact of the



low Canadian loonie, David says they are pitching the celebration as a “stay-cation” to their northern neighbours. “It’s cheaper than traveling long distances to places like Texas and Florida.” And, he adds, “We are the second happiest place on Earth, right after Disney Land.”

If you want to see for yourself, go to www.hostfest.com for more information. But book your tickets and hotel rooms early to avoid disappointment, he cautions.





Book Review

Defiant Courage

A World War II Epic of Escape and Endurance

By Carol Solberg

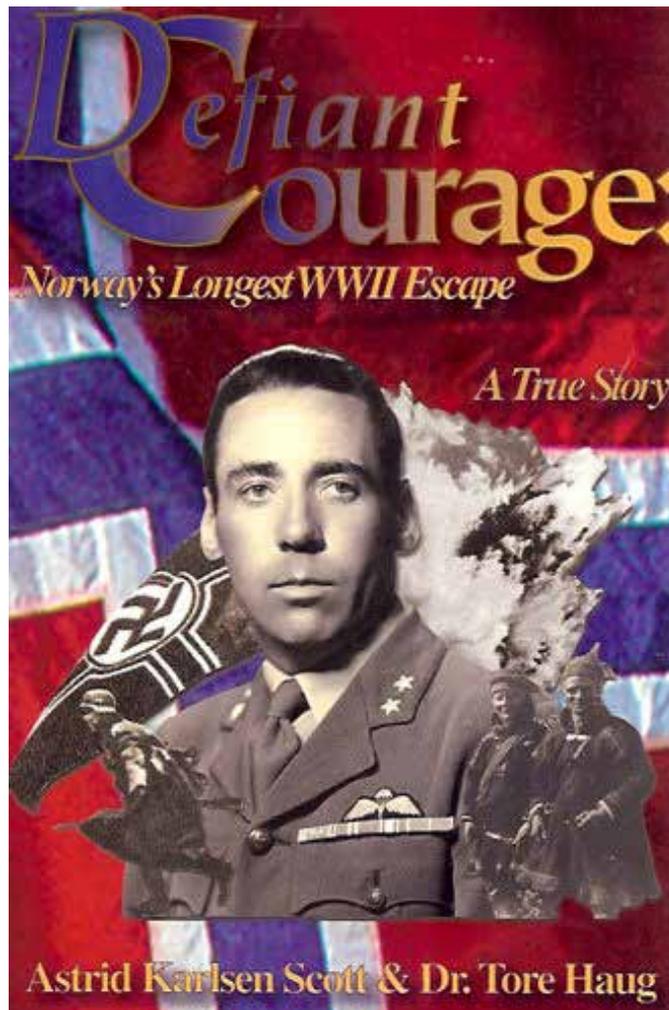
This is a true story of four men's attempt to thwart the German army and one man's escape to safety through northern Norway and Lapland to Sweden. The authors are Astrid Karlsen Scott, a native of Norway and president of Nordic Adventures, and Tore Haug, a second cousin of one of the heroes in the book, Ian Baalsrud.

Ian was a dreamer and a schemer who wanted more than anything to have a free Norway once again. With three friends, he went through survival training and with little or no official support set off up the coast in a fishing cutter to attempt to establish a headquarters from which to sabotage German activities.

In March 1943, they anchored in the quiet waters of Toftefjord. Suddenly they were attacked by a German boat. They had been betrayed. Ian was the only one who escaped; the other three were taken captive, tortured and killed. Ian had been wounded but managed to swim to shore and began his

unbelievable journey.

Northern Norway has exceptionally difficult terrain.



Fjords cut deeply into the coastline, and mountains climb almost immediately from the coastal areas. Ian was fortunate to

find about 60 people to give him aid during his struggles to get to Sweden and freedom.

Farmers, villagers, fishermen and Sami all provided him with food, clothing, shelter, and even a pair of skis. This was all done with full awareness that they were risking their lives and their families' lives if they were caught.

Ian spent many days hiding in the rugged mountains with little or no human contact. Some days he found a cold refuge in snow caves. Frequently he was without food. Twice he was forced to amputate his own toes due to gangrene setting in after his feet were frostbitten severely.

While this book may not be one for the squeamish or faint-of-heart, it is a rewarding read. The sheer will power and courage shown by Ian Baalsrud is rarely seen and should be recognized and appreciated.

Any who have an interest in Norway's history or in stories of outstanding bravery will find this book worthwhile.

COMING EVENTS

Mid-Summer Fest

June 25, 2-4 p.m.
Wascana Park, near Candy Cane
playground

Fishy Friday

July 7, 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Ricky's Grill, Seven Oakes Hotel
Held every first Friday of the
month

Nordic Knitters

July 11 and 25, 7-8:30 p.m.
2600 Arens Road
Press top buzzer for entry.
Event held in the activities room
(Nordic knitters held every 2nd
and 4th Tuesday of the month)

Fishy Friday

August 4, 4:30 to 6 p.m.
(see details above)

Nordic Knitters

August 8 and 22.
(See details above)

Corn Roast

August 27, 2-4 p.m.
Wascana Park, near Candy Cane
Park



-by *Greg Swanson*

Dianne and I are very excited about the SCoR bicycle trip in Denmark, one of the world's happiest countries.

Since this is the first year we have tried the trip, there are only four people going, with Andrea and Terry Ashton joining us. After they see the adventures we have, we hope to get more people for future trips.

Cycling starts on August 21 from Copenhagen as we head up the east coast of Zealand toward Helsingør and Hamlet's castle (Kronborgs slot), and the Maritime

Museum, Karen Blixon's museum (author of *Out of Africa*). Along the way north, I am sure we will stop in at the museum of modern art (Louisiana). The trip south will be on the inland route and takes us past Frederiksborg Castle, Fredensborg Castle, and Esrum Abbey. We return to Copenhagen on August 25.

The pace will be quite leisurely, as we cycle on average 31 kilometres per day. Watch the Club's Facebook page and website August 20 to 26 to keep up to date with how the trip is going.



SCOR's newsletter *Midnight Sun*, is published quarterly, with Pam Bristol as editor and Andrea Ashton as designer. Pam encourages you to share story ideas with her at pam.bristol@sasktel.net. She wants stories about ALL Scandinavian countries.

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Website: <http://scandinavianclubregina.com>

Email: scormembership@gmail.com
scoreventsregina@gmail.com