



## Growing up in Sweden

Of the 9.5 million people living in Sweden, 2 million are under the age of 18. Most of them take for granted the fact that they can enjoy free schooling, an active social life, as well as easy access to nature.

Swedish law ensures that children are well protected and their rights are defended. In 1979, Sweden became the first country in the world to make beating or spanking children a criminal offence.

In 1993, the Swedish Government appointed an Ombudsman For Children who is obliged to follow the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Sweden was one of the first countries to sign up.



## Theme: Life in Sweden

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## Time Travel by Britt Holmström

**What to write about? Childhood memories? Summers on an endless beach? Dancing around majstången at Midsummer? All that sounds mythical now. I haven't lived there for forty years.**

My favorite memory is more recent. When I visited Malmö a few years ago, I went to a cello recital at Caroli Kyrka, a red brick church in the center of the city, built in 1880. I went for two reasons. One: I like cello music. Two: Although I had never set foot in the church, I had been in it once before, carried in that time, being only a few weeks old. It felt peculiar sitting in that church, everything made of painted wood; plain and Lutheran. Two students from Musikhögskolan were playing Chopin's Sonata for Cello and Piano in G Minor. Accompanying the music was



*Britt by a stone erected in memory of women burnt as witches, subject of her latest novel.*

an evening sunbeam travelling across the room towards the altar. As the Sonata reached the largo, the sunbeam reached the baptismal font and lit it up. It was a special moment. I have lived in Canada most of my life, yet that baptismal font and I had a connection; I was baptized there. I felt a sudden sense of belonging, of still being Swedish.

I left the church, lightheaded, walked past St. Petri Kyrka, where the row of trees stood laden with pink clusters of flowers. I stopped, reached

*(Continued on page 6)*



# Members' Matters more on pp. 5 & 6

## The Annual SCoR Corn Roast Event

### From the SCoR Board

### Membership on the Rise!

Larry Bristol reports: As of September 5th SCoR membership counts 167 active members. That is the highest since 1996!

Do we hear 200?  
.....

### New Phoners' Coordinator

Carol Solberg is taking over as coordinator of the Phoning Tree after Guðrún Jónsson

### Cookbook!

#### Christmas present idea:

Kim is working steadily on the club's new cookbook — and it is expected to be out by **December 1st**. The ideal present this Christmas for any Scandinavian cook!

Look for Mosaic updates on our website!

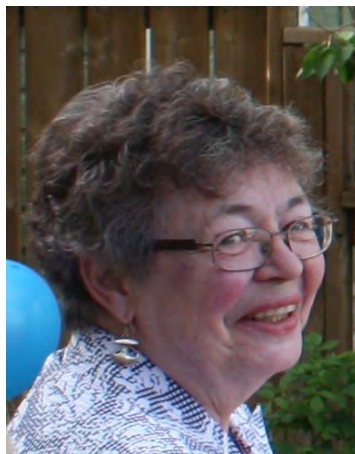


We had great weather! There were 56 adults and 8 children attending and the corn was great, thanks to Kim and Jon Gillies who did an excellent job of giving every one more corn on the cob than they could consume. Lauren Carlson assisted them with his many years of experience with cooking corn. Kelly and Greg manned the BBQ and many volunteers made it a very successful event. As convener of the event, my chores started up front but because of previous commitments I had to leave early and left the clean-up to Pearl, Tony and many other volunteers. Looking forward to NEXT YEAR.

Larry



### Thank you, Guðrún!



On behalf of the entire club, I would like to thank Guðrún Jónsson for her dedicated service. Guðrún has served as the phoning committee

coordinator for six years and has been instrumental in every event the club has hosted. This is a huge job and Guðrún has done it exceptionally well. She has recently stepped down and has passed the responsibility to Carol Solberg. So again, thank you Guðrún for all you do!

Kim

### SCoR Cooking Class

20 students turned up at Ecole Monseigneur de Laval for the first night of Scandinavian Cooking Classes arranged by SCoR in cooperation with Hillsdale Community Association.

Coordinator Greg Swanson has done a great job getting this together: working with HSA, finding teachers, shopping for the cooking.

First night was Norwegian Cooking with teacher Kari Mitchell. Next time Greg will teach Icelandic Cooking.



Would you like to be working with the SCoR preparations for MOSAIC 2013?  
Contact John Edwardson at 584-2246 or Kim Gillies at 531-9794.

## President's Corner

I've been a part of the Scandinavian Club of Regina for a little over six years and it's amazing to see it grow. I was welcomed into the club with open hearts and I see that warmth continuing. The Executive and I have been working on laying the foundation for the possibility of our club re-joining Regina's Mosaic Festival. The club used to take part many years ago. I have heard wonderful stories of the good times and memories it created for our club, we are working to give the next generation the opportunity to have the same experiences.

On the flip side; I have heard some club members say it's too much work to be in Mosaic, and I understand why that is. It's a lot of work to host a successful pavilion. We are currently working hard to create a plan that will make re-joining Mosaic manageable for the club. Having said that; we do need to know if this is what the club wants to do.

I think joining Mosaic is a wonderful way to celebrate our unique culture and tradition. Our club is multifaceted with our language classes, cooking classes, not to mention traditional events. We have a lot to offer and showcasing our club at Mosaic will show Regina just that.

At the last Annual General Meeting we decided to hold a Special GM to discuss Mosaic and see if there is enough club interest to make a pavilion feasible. I encourage everyone to come out to this meeting on November 21st, to make your opinion known. We really need to know how the club members feel about



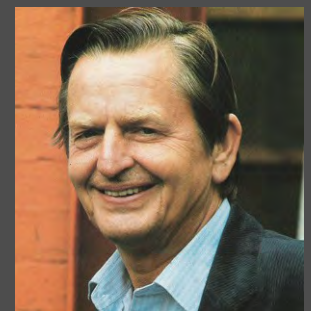
this endeavor, so please join us to discuss where the club will go from here. The Mosaic committee will have a presentation on the organization of the pavilion, answer any questions, there will be a general discussion followed but a vote on if the Scandinavian Club of Regina will enter Mosaic or not. I hope to see you all there.

Kim Gillies

home for the weekend. But a few hours later the couple decided they wanted to go see a movie. "Dad called around six or seven and heard that my girlfriend and I would go see 'The Mozart Brothers'. Then he said they might want to see that too," said Mårten Palme, another of Palme's sons.

As they were walking home down Sveavägen in central Stockholm, a gunman approached Olof Palme and his wife and shot the Prime Minister dead. The assassination remains unsolved and continues to haunt Swedes more than twenty five years later.

According to Mårten, the system in place for protecting his father was less than satisfactory. "It was pretty poorly organized. The bodyguards were okay, but it was a complicated system," he said.



Olof Palme



## Olof Palme Wanted Protection

"On the night of the murder, he actually tried to call, but it didn't work. He couldn't get ahold of anyone," Olof Palme's son Joakim told talk show host Fredrik Skavlan in an episode broadcast on Swedish Television in late September. However, information about the alleged call wasn't included in the investigation, according to a lead investigator on the case. According to the Expressen newspaper, Lisbeth Palme confirmed during

interviews that her husband didn't want to have bodyguards that night, but Joakim Palme recalled things differently. "That was information she provided very early in the murder investigation, but the reason why he didn't get in touch with them? That I don't know. He may have had the wrong number; there was something that just made a clicking sound."

On the afternoon of February 28th, 1986, Olof Palme and his wife had been driven home by police guards, at which point Palme told the security guards to go

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## Best Director at Montreal Festival

Swedish director **Jan Troell** won the award for Best Director with his film *The Last Sentence (Dom över död man)* at the World Film Festival in Montreal.

The film is about **Torgny Segerstedt**, editor in chief at a Gothenburg paper between 1917 and 1945. He is considered to be one of the most important anti-Nazi publishers in Sweden during the Second World War. The Swedish coalition government repeatedly asked him to stop his "anti-German" writings in order to maintain Sweden's neutrality.

Source: Embassy of Sweden, Ottawa



Director Jan Troell

# Re-immigrating to Sweden

by Ida LeRuyet, *Midnight Sun* editor 2007-2010



Wilma-Louise on a hike just behind our house

Two months back in my home country of Sweden. Is it the paradise I remembered it to be?

I lived in Regina for six years, without realizing until moving away, that enough time had elapsed for me to acclimatize to the Regina way. I now feel

Canadian in Sweden. In order to illustrate this feeling I have a few stories for you.

I threw my husband a 30th Birthday party and was caught off guard when all of the 20 guests showed up at once exactly on time. Swedes are apparently crazy punctual, even for social functions, and I no longer know how it is done. In Canada I remember an invitation was more of a suggested time of arrival, with it being almost inconsiderate to surprise your host by showing up on time. As a host it was nice to complete the final touches

I was caught off guard when all of the 20 guests showed up at once exactly on time.

during that extra time of 15-30 minutes where the guests would slowly trail in one by one.

Another noticeable difference is the level of bureaucratic connectedness in each country. Strangely enough I was bothered both times I moved to a new place. In Canada it seemed nothing was connected, not even government bodies, so if you moved you had to tell every single organization about your address change. I almost had a fear of getting lost in the system. In Sweden everything is centralized which I have frustratingly come to realize means everyone knows everything about everyone. After six years in Canada it makes me feel a little claustrophobic with a big brother hanging over my shoulder.

I believe the hardest struggle so far has been for my husband. He's painfully watching the weather forecast daily on our computer desktop; Regina +30, Sweden +15. I have to remind him that in January it will say; Regina -30, Sweden -15. Sweden is never too hot or too cold – just right. The Swedes have a hard time believing we came to Sweden for a warmer winter!

Now even though we've met some unexpected challenges, I still love my Sweden. What does make Sweden my paradise? It is so beautiful here and the food is amazing just like I remembered it to be! The forest, lakes and sea are my neighbors and the outdoorsy culture here has provided trails and huts almost everywhere. It is easy to be outside and the outdoor experiences are endless. The forest has allowed me to gather mushrooms and berries in addition to filling our

(Continued on page 6)

## Editorial



In this issue of Midnight Sun we are thanking two long standing club members for their many years of service for the SCoR. During the 36 years since the start, literally countless members have contributed with even more countless hours of volunteer work to keep alive the Scandinavian spirit on the prairies. The phoning committee and the language classes are two of the many areas where the Scandinavian Club of Regina has managed to engage the membership in activities that has given them ownership to the purpose of this organisation.

What is good to see, is that new people are coming in, prepared to continue the work. Over the last couple of years the Board of Directors has got valuable new blood in three new Directors who all in their different fields have ideas, working spirit and a wish to bring the work forward. The founding members

had groups and committees working together, they had special contacts for young people among the membership, they had crafts workshops, dance groups, singers (they even recorded a CD!). We were able to grant scholarships. And I'm not forgetting Mosaic, but Kim is writing about that elsewhere in this issue.

New times will have new preferences. The important thing is finding areas that will attract new members, not forgetting to let those who have **been** the club during all those years will have reason to stay with us. That does not mean to do everything the way it has always been done - nor does it mean to throw out traditions. We all need to have an open mind, we all need to use the renewed resources represented by our new members in such a way that there will be something for all - and something to attract lots of new members. Do I hear 200?

## Thank you, Mildred - Tusen Takk!



Mildred Ihlen has taught Norwegian classes for 40 years. She has had more than 200 adult students pass through her classes.

Mildred began teaching under The Department of Education, followed by The Wascana Institute and the Community College. Due to changes in funding she began to rent space at her

local community hall. Since 1998 she has taught beginners and advanced classes in her home. Mildred has also tutored many students individually as well as assisted many to translate letters and documents. She will not teach classes any more, but she does not like to give up the practice of using her mother tongue. She will have a group come together in her home to give them a chance to speak Norwegian together (see p. 6).

Her many students as well as the SCoR are very grateful for all the time she has given us.

Tusen takk (A Thousand Thanks) Mildred!

Lylah Gess

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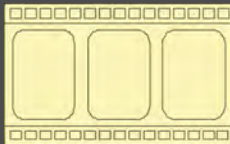


[www.galesflorist.com](http://www.galesflorist.com)

**Join a Norwegian Conversation Group!**

**Mildred Ihlen** stopped teaching Norwegian classes (see p. 5), but she is not giving up speaking the language. She will be hosting conversation groups in her home every second Thursday. The first meeting was on Sept. 20th - then follows Oct. 11th and so on. Phone Mildred at 757-1311.

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*Caroli Kyrka, Malmö, Sweden*

*(Continued from page 1)*

**Time Travel...**

up and cupped a cluster in my hand, wanting to touch something that was part of the city. Because so often when you visit the country of your birth, your hometown, you have that disconcerted feeling, that though you know the place so very well, you have also grown distant from it. Another hometown has replaced the old one.

But that evening, I was truly at home, the way I used to be, in the Malmö that used to be mine.

I turned the corner at Stortorget and found the outside of City Hall filled with Africans. It seemed like there were thousands milling about; but that could not have been. At first I thought I was

*(Continued from page 4)*

**Re-immigrating...**

freezer with moose meat. Both the differences and similarities between my native country and my adoptive one have increased my perspective and appreciation of my home and the people that live there. Sweden is not exactly the same as I remember it, but it is still the paradise that I had hoped it would be.

*Ida and her family now live in Bjästa near Örnsköldsvik, Sweden*

seeing things, but no, there were women in brightly colored dresses and turbans and beautiful jewelry, men in long robes. It was so unexpected, I just stared. One of the women, her dress and turban bright green and yellow, looked at me and smiled. I was already smiling, I couldn't help myself. Several more people began smiling back. (They turned out to be a large delegation from several African countries visiting Malmö.) I wanted to say welcome to Malmö, but didn't. I no longer lived there. I, too, was a visitor.

The Malmö I connected with that evening was the old Malmö, not the new. I walked back to my friends' place slowly, wanting my date with my hometown to last as long as possible. I knew it would not last, that feeling of being at home, so I needed to savor every minute.

That was the May evening when I once again was Swedish, as well as a member of the global village. It's nice that you can be both.

PS. The church where I was baptized was bought in 2009 to become part of the nearby shopping centre, Caroli City. I can now say I was baptized in a shopping mall.

*Britt Holmström is a Regina based author of several books, the last one out being **Falling for the Devil** (available at amazon.com). She was born in Malmö, Sweden, and has lived in Canada since 1970.*



**Ready for kayaking on the Baltic Sea**

## What's in a Name?

By Eric Lindgren, Winnipeg

My wife and I were fortunate to take a bus tour through Scandinavia in 2007. Our Trip was an experience of a lifetime. We started in Denmark, the land of wind power generators; traveled through Sweden which in parts is very similar to the North of Saskatchewan and Manitoba; and ended in Norway, country of mountains and fjords.



*Gagnef Church*

My grandfather and father came from the parish of Gagnef and the village of Gagnefsbyn in Dalarna. *Byn* in Swedish means *the village*. Farming and forestry are the main industries in this area. Via e-mail we had made contact with the head of the historical society in Gagnef. We found that our tour would do an overnight stop at Falun. This city is about one half hour from Gagnefsbyn. Although we had never met, he arranged to meet us and drive us to Gagnefsbyn. There we met a couple that hosted us for supper and also had arranged for us to meet two of our distant cousins. In addition they had compiled a family history chart that traced our roots back to the mid 1600's. We do maintain contact with these relatives as well as our new found friends in Gagnefsbyn.

Prior to going on our adventure we had been trying to learn more about our name – *Lindgren*: Lind = Linden tree; gren = Branch. Our grandfather had come to Canada in 1903 with three of his brothers. It must have been quite an experience at Immigration as grandpa's surname was Lindgren and all his brothers were Olson! - No, his mother

had not remarried. - My grandfather took or was given the name Lindgren when he joined the Swedish Army in 1890. He had been chosen by the community to be their soldier representative, but he was under age and needed a written permission to enlist. The "Lindgren" family crest is a tree stump with branches growing out of it. The linden tree is common in Scandinavia and has been imported to North America as well.



In Sweden, Norway and Denmark people used to have a second name, for example Eric Ericson (son of Eric), to identify family connections. This also applied to girls as in Kerstin Persdotter (daughter of Per). *(This is still the norm in Iceland - Editor's comment)*. In Dalarna names are often prefaced by the name of the farm they lived at; Liss Anders Andersson or Busk Margit Jonsson.

The highlight of the tour was when my wife and I were able to stand in front of the house where our great grandfather, grandfather and my father were born and raised. The family home sits in an area of farm land carved out of the bush. The house although well over one hundred years old is still a family home!!!

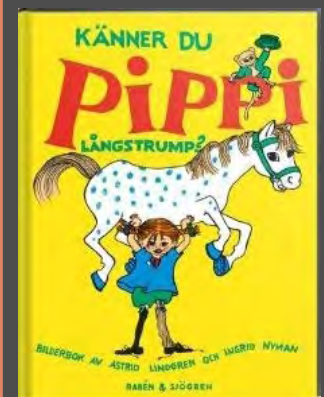
*Eric Lindgren has family in Regina*

## A Famous Lindgren



You think you have come across the name *Lindgren* before, but cannot quite remember where? It's Astrid Lindgren (1907-2002), of course, best known as the "Mother of Pippi Longstocking".

Pippi Långstrump is the strongest girl in the world, and the books about her are internationally famous. They have been translated into 64 languages, and Astrid Lindgren is known and celebrated all over the world as one of the most influential children's book authors in history.



## Life in Denmark



'Davs' all Danes! Do you have a special

story from growing up in the Old Country? Maybe from an unforgettable visit? For no. 1/2013 we want your input to our theme series "Life in..."!

## 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

### Salmon Supper

Date: Sunday October 21th

Venue: The Austrian Club, 320 Maxwell Cres.

Bring items for a silent auction!

More information later from phoners, on SCoR Website and Facebook page.



### Special General Meeting

on SCoR participation in 2013 Mosaic

Date: Wednesday November 21st.

Venue: Whitmore Park United Church, 336 Durham Drive

Full information in written notice no later than two weeks before the meeting.



### Christmas Party

Date: Sunday December 2nd

Venue: Whitmore Park United Church, 336 Durham Drive

More information later from phoners, on SCoR Website and Facebook page.



Midnight Sun Issue 4, Vol. 25; October 2012

Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

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### Membership Fees

Family membership \$ 30

Single membership \$ 20

Membership starts January 1, expires December 31.

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