



Midnight Sun



Volume 35 Issue 1

Published by the Scandinavian Club of Regina

April 2020

We are beginning our third month of this pandemic and while some things are “opening up”, the virus is still out there and physical distancing continues, preventing us from holding our usual spring and summer gatherings. We are sending out a mini newsletter, hoping it will help us connect with you. This is a first stab at a newsletter by a committee and I am so grateful to Andrea Ashton, Lynda Delaney and Rebecca Bayliss for their work on producing this edition.

We sincerely hope you are managing this new world. There is an increased awareness of the mental toll this isolation is taking on people. If you have suggestions as to how our club can be helpful to each other, please let us know. We welcome suggestions as to activities we can engage in during this period.

For an introvert, and one who believes in productivity, having time on one's hands has been a nice experience. One thing I have enjoyed these past 2 months is digging in forgotten boxes. My best find was a stack of 4 ½” x 3 ½” black negatives that my Dad

Musings from the President



Parents and children, who are all Norwegian settlers, at a school picnic at Maple View School, Torquay, SK
Photo Provided by: Linda Wacker

took in the 30's and early 40's. With the use of a scanner by my spouse, these were brought to life. I have enjoyed sharing them with those pictured and/or relatives of them. It has connected me with folks from my past and given me many stories. It has also drawn me to the challenge of caring for keepsakes whether it is photos, family recipes, letters, or other memorabilia. To that end, and with credit to the Son's of Norway, Viking Magazine, I came across the work of Denise Levenick and her website, thefamilycurator.com. She has tips on keepsake preservation and in her wise

words, “Without a story it's just stuff”. The vaccine may be here before I finish the stories, but that will be okay, too.

I miss seeing you all and look forward to a future day when we are able to gather. In the meantime, stay well and stay safe.

Linda Wacker

“Make up your mind that no matter what comes your way, no matter how difficult, no matter how unfair, you will do more than simply survive. You will thrive in spite of it.”

Joel Osteen



Musings from the President	Page 1	SCOR Newsletter Survey	Page 4
Multicultural Initiatives Fund	Page 2	Norway and Sweden Celebrate	Page 4
German Canadian Society	Page 3	Norwegian Ambassador Message	Page 5
Save Bethesda Lutheran Church ...	Page 3	Nordic Countries and Covid 19	Page 6



On December 9, 2019, we were pleased to learn that SaskCulture approved support of our application for project funds through the Multicultural Initiative Fund. We received a grant of \$4000 to support SCOR members to learn cultural traditional arts as Hardanger and Rosemaling.

The Multicultural Initiatives Fund (MIF) provides funds to non-profit organizations for events not normally funded by conventional support systems. The funding is provided by SaskCulture and Saskatchewan Lotteries. The Fund supports organizations to pass on cultural practices and traditions.

Members have requested we provide classes in the art of Hardanger and Rosemaling. These funds will enable us to do so at a reduced cost to participants. As well as teaching and sharing these traditional art forms with members of the Scandinavian Club, we are offering them to the community and especially new Canadians, first Nations and Metis.

Hardanger Embroidery is a traditional Norwegian needlework

Multicultural Initiatives Fund

craft. It is thought to have originated in the Middle East and spread to Europe and in particular, Italy. The Norwegians learned of it on their seafaring journeys and, being sheep farmers with raw material of wool and linen, further developed the craft. The immigrants brought it to North America. It has recently gained in popularity here as a beautiful traditional art.

Rosemaling is a Norwegian style of interior decoration, popular in Norway from 1700 to 1850. It consists of a wide variety of decorative floral, leaf, and other motifs, painted on wood. There are several Rosemaling styles which were developed in different regions of Norway; all using 5 basic painting strokes and requiring extensive technical skill and practice to master the methods. Rosemaling gradually fell out of favor as machine-made items became widely available in the 19th century but Norwegian artists have recently revived the art form. It is rising in popularity in North America as well.

With these funds we can offer classes in Basic and Advanced Hardanger and Basic and Advance Rosemaling, as well as follow-up Drop-In sessions. The project funding ends on November 16, 2020. We are hopeful that this date will be extended, given COVID-19.

Under the instruction of Francoise Kenny, in February and March, we held 4 classes in Basic Hardanger. Francoise Kenny, a

semi-retired University of Regina professor, is a former student of Elsie May Quick. We had arranged for 4 evening drop-in sessions which we had to cancel due to COVID-19.



Hardanger Sample from March Class

We planned to hold a weekend Rosemaling Workshop with Alice Barth, Rosemaler from Saskatoon, at the end of March but this too is on hold.

We have been discussing the feasibility of pursuing Rosemaling classes using the internet and Zoom in particular. [“The Art of Lise”](#) is available on You Tube. Lise is a Rosemaler from Maryland who posts classes weekly. If anyone is interested in regular Rosemaling sessions using You Tube, please let us know. We have project supplies, designs, paints, and could make these available to participants.

We also have Hardanger designs and supplies if anyone is looking for another project.

German Canadian Society “Harmonie”

We accepted an invitation from the German Canadian Society to participate in the Second Annual “Sommerwende” or “Summer Solstice” event, scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2020. This event has been cancelled for 2020 but we look forward to participating in 2021. This is an opportunity for us to showcase a Scandinavian tradition.

According to their invitation, “Most European countries

celebrate some form of Summer Solstice, which in Germany, dates back to the 12th century. This celebration of Bonfires, singing, dancing and feasts mark the “Ancient middle of Summer” and celebrates the sun, nature and fertility while warding off disease and Evil spirits.”

Stay tuned. Next year we will be asking for volunteers to demonstrate and teach Nordic activities. Your thoughts and

suggestions are always welcome.



Save Bethesda Lutheran Church Fund

One of the objectives of our club, is to “co-operate with other groups and individuals of all ethnic backgrounds in activities which enrich the cultural, artistic and social life of the residents of Canada”. We have been approached by numerous groups to this end and last fall we were approached by the Bethesda Lutheran Church Committee. They asked if we would assist with their fundraiser, restoring a church built by Norwegians in 1912. This church is a landmark and a tribute to the early Norwegian settlers. It contains numerous heritage items and memorabilia from Norwegian culture. The church was last used for a wedding ceremony in 1981 and the graveyard is being used to this day. The hope is to restore the church so it can be used for community events.

The church is located west and south of the junction of highways 6 and 334 (Corinne). To drive there, travel west on highway 334

and to the first curve to the south. At the next curve DO NOT turn west, but rather continue south on the gravel road for 2 miles. This is a dead end. Turn right and proceed west one mile and you will see the church just to the left (south).



Mike and Lynda Delaney in front of Bethesda Church with new roof and steeple

The priority was to install a new roof and steeple as the rodents were getting into the structure and the bell was threatening to fall through the bell tower. The work on the roof has been completed, minus the steeple. The hope is to complete the steeple the first weekend in May, providing the weather cooperates. The cost of these renovations has depleted the amount raised.

The plan was to hold an old - fashioned picnic on June 14th as a fundraiser but this has been postponed due to COVID-19. They are, however, selling 50/50 tickets at a cost of \$2/ticket or \$20/book of 10 tickets. The draw will be made on June 14th. Our club has tickets available to anyone who is interested in supporting this endeavor Please let us know if you are interested in tickets.

Visit www.historicplaces.ca for more photos or visit their Facebook page called Bethesda Lutheran Church.

SCOR Newsletter Survey

The last issue of the Mid-Night Sun was November 2018. In the fall of 2019, we sent out a survey to you to find out what you would like by way of a newsletter. The results were the following:

- 81% of the members who responded said they would like a newsletter. 19% said it didn't matter to them.
- While 45% wanted the newsletter to continue in the present form, 55% said they were open to change. The following comments were made:
 - Online, such as Facebook



and e-mail would be okay

- It's important to keep members informed about past and future events.
- There is interest in information about Scandinavian countries.
- The newsletter needs to

be produced on paper for those who do not have electronic access.

- Consider creating and posting information quarterly in an on-line format. Suggestions included club news, history, travel, recipes.

When it came to volunteer to help

with the newsletter, 2 persons volunteered as well as 3 board members. We would be so pleased to hear from members who are willing to contribute to this venture.

Syttende Mai and National Day of Sweden



Just a reminder that Norway's Constitution Day, Syttende Mai, is coming up on May 17th, and while we are unable to gather to celebrate it, we hope you will do so in some way. The 17th of May is celebrated throughout Norway with parades, cheering, costumes and loads of treats, along

with hotdogs and ice cream. In Canada, it is a day to celebrate the Norwegian contributions to Canadian culture and the entire community is encouraged to join in.

The National Day of Sweden is June 6. It is a celebration to mark the end of Danish rule. Seems there are fewer traditions associated with the day but In Sweden it is a day for citizens to visit Stockholm Palace.

Suggestions for displaying your Nordic pride:

- Put on your bunad or Norwegian/Swedish sweater, wave your Norwegian or Swedish flag, and go for a walk. Others could join you if



they stay 6 ft. apart.

- Have a couple of hotdogs and ice cream
- Take pictures of your celebration and send them to us for our next newsletter.

Message from Norwegian Ambassador to Norwegian's in Canada



Anne Kari H. Ovind

Dear fellow Norwegians and friends of Norway,

Our daily lives have changed drastically over the last months. Empty streets, closed schools and physical distance has become a reality. We are in the middle of an extraordinary situation. We are all joining forces to fight the corona virus. No country can solve this crisis on its own. This is why we need more international collaboration, not less. Building on our strong ties, Norway continues to work closely with Canada and other likeminded countries to mobilize international efforts to fight this pandemic.

Global solutions

One example is our support for the development of a vaccine through the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness innovations (CEPI). Finding a vaccine against the corona virus and making it accessible to all is key in order to get back to our every-day lives. Next week Norway will play a leading

role in a major international conference to mobilize support for the development of vaccines, diagnostics and treatments for COVID-19. Norway considers it vital to ensure that any vaccine that is developed is distributed fairly, including to developing countries. As long as the virus is active somewhere, we are at risk everywhere.

Unprecedented measures

At a national level, Canada and Norway are both taking unprecedented measures to contain the virus. We have closed our borders, halted non-essential businesses and implemented rules of quarantine and self-isolation. By sacrificing some parts of our normal lives, we are all contributing to a global effort or “dugnad” as we say in Norway. Individual actions are making a big difference in fighting the virus. At the same time, our governments are implementing substantial financial measures to help people, businesses as well as cultural and sporting communities to get through this crisis.

Cautious optimism

In Norway, there is cautious optimism as the spread of the virus is under control and the transmission ratio is down to 0,7. This means that for each affected person, the virus spreads to less than one person. Step by step, and very cautiously Norway is lifting some restrictions. Last week kids were back in kindergarten and this week children at primary

level are back to school. Some shops and services will also open applying special restrictions. This gives us hope, but we cannot be complacent. We need to continue to keep social distance and in Norway, large cultural and sporting events have been cancelled until September.

May celebrations

As the month of May is right around the corner, we approach what is usually a month of festivities for Norwegians – also in Canada. This year we were looking forward to celebrate our national day on 17 May, and the 75th Anniversary marking the end of WWII and the liberation of Norway on 8 May .

8 May

Over the course of the war, more than 3000 Norwegian pilots and ground crew were trained at Norway's training facility Little Norway in Toronto and later in Muskoka. At the same time in Nova Scotia, more than 2000 Norwegian sailors were trained at Camp Norway in Lunenburg to become gunners to protect the convoys across the Atlantic. Norway made a substantial contribution to the Allied efforts, and played an important role in protecting the convoys, participating at Dieppe and D Day. The losses were heavy.

Due to the strong ties that were forged between Norway and Canada during the war, the Embassy had hoped to properly mark the anniversary on 8 May,

but under the current situation, we had to downscale our plans. I can assure you, however, that this important day will not pass unnoticed.

We are laying wreaths at the “Little Norway Park monument” in Toronto as well as at Little Norway Memorial in Muskoka. On the East Coast, a wreath will be laid at the Norwegian monuments of Halifax harbour and at “Camp Norway” in Lunenburg. There will be no social gatherings due to the current circumstances, but by placing these wreaths and sharing the events virtually via the Embassy’s online platforms, we wish to honour the thousands of brave military personnel and merchant marines who lived and trained in Canada before sacrificing so much for the freedom of Norway and the world.

17 May

As for the celebration of Norway’s national day, we have all been looking forward to celebrating 17 May the traditional way, with children’s parade, brass band music and lots of food and ice cream. However, with the current situation, the celebrations in Norway and here in Canada cannot take place as planned. We must celebrate our democracy, our freedom and our future, together but apart. In Norway every town and city are looking for ways to make this national day as special and memorable as any, by finding new ways to celebrate that are safe and responsible. We will be sharing some of these creative ideas on our social media in the week leading up to 17 May, and we look forward to seeing how the many Norwegians in Canada

will safely celebrate as well. I will encourage you to follow the Embassy on our Facebook and Instagram.

The Norwegian Embassy remains open although our reception is closed to the public until further notice. We will continue to serve Norwegians in Canada and you will always be able to reach us by e-mail and by phone. Please also check the Embassy’s web site for regular updates.

On behalf of the Embassy staff in Ottawa, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy spring and summer as we look ahead to brighter days. Remember to follow the advice given by the local authorities and stay safe.

Anne Kari H. Ovind
Ambassador

Nordic Countries and COVID-19

COVID-19 has thrown the world into disarray and most countries have reacted by locking down their countries while they deal with this devastating virus.

Like Canada, Denmark, Norway and Finland all enacted countrywide lockdowns in mid-March, including closing schools and businesses as well as implementing limits on public gatherings.

In Iceland, while it banned gatherings of more than 20 people, most shops and businesses remain open to the public. It has been highly praised for its extensive testing and tracing program.

Sweden has chosen a much more relaxed approach and has not

	Confirmed Cases	Recovered	Deaths	Deaths per 1M pop.
Sweden (Pop. 10.23 M)	21,092	1,476	2,586	256
Denmark (Pop. 5.806 M)	9,158	6,546	452	78
Norway (Pop. 5.368 M)	7,738		210	39
Finland (Pop. 5.518 M)	4,995	3,000	211	38
Iceland (364,134 thous)	1,797	1,670	10	29
Canada (Pop. 37.59 M)	53,236	21,423	3,184	84

chosen to lock down their country. Children have remained in school, businesses have remained open although Swedes have been advised to work from home if they can. While the government has banned gatherings of more than 50 people, restaurants and bars are still busy serving customers food and drink both inside and outside

their establishments.

Sweden feels it has taken the correct approach, however the death toll in that country is considerably higher than other Nordic countries. The chart above, was compiled using the [Worldometer Coronavirus](#) stats provided on April 30.