



Midnight Sun



Volume 34 Issue 2

Published by the Scandinavian Club of Regina

August 2022



Chad Eggerman, Honorary Consul of Finland, Saskatchewan

This spring between the date of June 3, 2022 to June 18, 2022 I had the opportunity to travel back to Finland with my wife Minna-Riitta, 13 year old son, Otto, 11 year old daughter, Aino and 7 year old son Anton. We visited our relatives and friends in Finland who we did not get to see during the COVID outbreak. Finland is largely back to normal with COVID restrictions lifted. People are still social distancing as the virus continue to spread.

During my time in Finland I attend official functions as Honorary Consul for Finland in Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories. The events include briefing with the Finnish Foreign

Finland Trip by Chad Eggerman, Honorary Consul of Finland



Finland Presidential Palace

Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Helsinki. We also had the chance to visit the Presidential Palace in central Helsinki and have a personal meeting with Sauli Niinistö, the President of Finland. It was my second time meeting this President of Finland. The last meeting was at the President's summer house in South-Western Finland near the City (and former capital) Turku. We also had the chance to tour through a military



*Minister for Foreign Affairs
Pekka Haavisto*



Santahamina Military Base

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base just a few kilometers from Central Helsinki called Santahamina. All male persons who wish to retain their Finnish passport and citizenship must take military service in Finland. This means that my two sons, Otto and Anton will have to take military service for 1 year. My daughter, Aino is not required to take military service but is encouraged to do so. It is likely that my 3 children will have to complete their military service at Santahamina in the coming years. We had security briefings at Santahamina and also participated in a live military exercise where Finnish troops were defending against a tank attack. It was loud but amazing to watch the precision and focus of the young Finnish troops.

During our trip to Finland we also went to the very famous amusement park, Linnanmäki. The



Honorary consuls of Finland from the US and Canada gather in Finland

family loved it, as they always do. Back in the early 2000's I lived in a district of Helsinki called Kallio on a street called Viipurinkatu which is just a few steps from Linnanmäki. So Linnanmäki has fond memories for me and my family.

Although the war in Ukraine has caused some initial anxiety, Finland was part of Russia for

more than a decade and has fought various wars against Russia. Therefore, Finland has been prepared for a war emanating from Russia for the past 70 years. Finland of course continues to be entirely safe and things really are operating as things usually do in Finland – very well!

Upcoming Events

There is no Fishy Friday in September

October Fishy Friday

When: Fri., Oct. 7 at 5:00 pm

Where: Ricky's in Harbour Landing

Christmas Party

The SCOR Board is working on setting a date and venue for this event. Details will be sent after the next board meeting which is Aug. 29.

Did You Know?

Finland was recently voted world's happiest country for fifth year in a row. Two other Nordic nations, Denmark and Iceland made it into the top five, and Sweden and Norway made it into the top ten. [Click here](#) for the full details.

The most popular souvenir in Sweden is the commonly seen "moose-crossing" warning sign along roads in Sweden. Many are stolen from the roads every year.

Scandinavians speak excellent English. Most children in Denmark, Norway and Sweden today grow up at least partly bilingual. English is taught from a young age in school, while British and American TV and movies are hugely popular.





EV Leasing in Norway

by Kari Mitchell

When moving from Regina to Oslo three and a half years ago, we decided not to bear the cost of bringing our old Impala across. I no longer had a driver's licence due to eye problems. I had sold my car here some years before, but living in Torshov, Oslo, depending on public transport is no problem. Plenty of trams and bus lines here, as well as easy access to underground and railway services. For longer vacation drives we have easily rented cars.



However, we realised that we are using more time driving now, seeking out parts of Norway that Michael has not seen (nor I, in many cases), so the questions came up:

Fossil, hybrid or electric?

Buy or lease?

As for fuel, that was an easy one: Electric, like so many people choose around here – for good reasons. Norwegian EV policy. According to Statistisk sentralbyrå (Statistics Norway) there were 460,734 passenger EVs in this country at the end of 2021 – 16% of all, old and new. Of four cars

in our immediate family, three are electric. There are plenty of chargers just around our building here. There are charging facilities at gas stations all over the country. And no CO2 emission!



Above: The picture is taken from our kitchen window, showing cars having the batteries charged.

About ownership: we decided that at this point in life, we'd rather not take the risk of buying a pre-owned car. We could buy a new one and sell it after, say, three years, but it would have been losing value from the moment we first turned on the ignition – probably at least the cost of the down payment for a three year lease, approximately CAD 8,950. The monthly lease of CAD 435 will be close enough to the basic expenses we'd have for an owned car, so the choice wasn't difficult: LEASING.

Friends and family's shared experiences led us to a Nissan dealership where Mr. Asante introduced us to the ins and outs

of car leasing. One 2022 factor of course being that the war situation in Europe is causing lots of difficulties for international deliveries. But we might hope to lease a red Nissan Leaf 2022 model by late September/early October. We went home and mulled it over for a couple of days. My dream of driving a red car again would come true! It's been twenty years since I owned a red Peugeot sedan.

So, we went back last Tuesday to set up a contract and sign the papers. But alas! The red model we wanted would not be available in Sep./Oct. Due to supply problems it could not be leased in any colour by that time. But the good news was that we could have a Nissan Leaf 2022 in December with 59 kWh battery capacity – RED!



Kari checking out an EV.

In the meantime, we'll rent and wait. But based on Michael's performance as Santa at SCoR Christmas parties some years back, we might deserve some personal goodwill from the real Mr. Claus, don't you think?

Impressions of a Summer Solstice Reading

by Linda Wacker

The Summer Solstice reading was delivered at the Scandinavian Club of Regina's Summer Solstice event on the evening of June 26th by author Harold Rhenisch. He was reading from his books "Landings: Poems from Iceland" and "The Art of Haying"



Author and poet Harold Rhenisch reads to the membership at their Summer Solstice event.

One wouldn't expect to get an appreciation of a country in 4 days, but for some reason, the charm of Iceland totally escaped me when I visited it briefly on a tour in 2016. My memories of Iceland were of the horrendous winds, the barren landscape, the mars-like appearance of the Blue Lagoon, the impossibility of pronouncing and spelling names of places, and the high cost of coffee and fast food. Now, having attended Harold Rhenisch's reading of his books, *Landings: Poems from Iceland* and *The Art of Haying*, I have had the opportunity to rethink my visit and see the country in a different light. Few people have had the opportunity we were given on June 26th, as we celebrated the summer solstice,

to hear a master poet read from his books, accompanied by slides illustrating the words. To see Iceland through the poet's eyes--and thus through the eyes of elves and trolls, wild horses, and sheep--was a treasured experience and I thank him for this opportunity. It has opened my mind.

I don't think the beauty of Iceland is apparent to the fast-paced bus traveller. It needs to be walked and seen slowly, and that is what Harold has done for us. Each poem in his most recent book, *Landings: Poems from Iceland*, relates to a city or town in Iceland; the book opens with a map, geographically locating each poem according to its origin. Harold provides interesting stories related to each location, and in *The Art of Haying*, if one is lucky, one might find a photograph of a mystical location or scene referenced by one of the poems. Aligning the poem with the map location, and then locating a picture is an engaging process that keeps one searching, and in the end, it feels like one has been on a journey to Iceland.

Harold provided our group of Nordic descendants with a full evening of poetry reading, along with amazing pictures of Iceland. He opened our eyes to the enchantment of the country, the mysticism of trolls and elves, and to the beauty of wild horses. It was truly an honor to



be in the company of an award-winning poet and author. Thank you, Harold, for driving those many miles from the Okanagan to Regina to read excerpts from your books and for sharing your amazing photography. You brought the uniqueness and charm of Iceland to us. From now on, when I see an Icelandic sweater on a person, I will see the sheep's head, swathed in skeins of wool.

Of the numerous memorable passages in these books, the following found on page 145 of *The Art of Haying*, sums up my experience of the evening:

*If books were the only truth,
the sun would have already
gone down behind the hill; it
would have already sunk into
the sea with a hiss and gone out;
you would not have seen the
horses, up above there, where I
mentioned them, just as I would
not have found them on Iceland.
But I did. And you did. And we
did together.*

SCOR Celebrates Summer Solstice

by Andrea Ashton

On the evening of June 26, 2022 The Scandinavian Club of Regina celebrated the Summer Solstice with an evening of fellowship that included a catered dinner by Schmitt's Smoked Meats and Catering BBQ and followed up with guest speaker Harold Rhenish reading from his books *Landings: Poems from Iceland* and *The Art of Haying*

The event, the club's first big event of the year, was a great success and attended by 53. The club is looking forward to a few more popular events this

year - including the August Corn Roast scheduled for August 21 and the Christmas Celebration in December - and of course the ever popular Fishy Friday

which happens monthly. We are optimistic that the worst of Covid is behind us and hopefully more members will be able to come out safely and join us in the fall.



Scandinavian Club of Regina members and guests enjoy an evening of food and literature.



Special Thanks To:

Thank you to all those who contributed to the summer solstice event:

The committee consisting of the Board members and family members.

The bakers who made the wonderful desserts. They were Lylah Gess, Mavis de Bruin, Anita Huziak, Thelma Grant, Laureen

Smith, and Ingrid Van Dusen.

Greg Swanson for chairing the event.

Brenda Niskala for introducing the poet

Byrna Barclay for the idea of our hosting a poetry reading, introducing us to Harold Rhenish, and for donating the books for the draw.

Krista Christensen and Speers Funeral Home for letting us use their facility, free of charge.

To the 52 attendees who supported the event.

And to SCOR for contributing the funds to bring in the master poet.



*Patricia J. F. Warsaba,
Honorary Consul of Iceland*

It is my pleasure to be invited to contribute to The Midnight Sun. I was appointed the Honorary Consul of Iceland in Saskatchewan in 2020. Although I have not yet had the opportunity to actually travel to Iceland, it is very high on my travel wish list.

Ambassador Hlynur Guðjónsson is very active with the Honorary Consuls appointed throughout Canada. The Iceland embassy in Canada is also responsible for Iceland's relations with Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Nicaragua, Uruguay and Venezuela. Quarterly meetings are held during which the Ambassador provides an update on developments in Iceland. Presentations have been made on Icelandic companies interested in entering or expanding into the Canadian market. For some very interesting facts about Iceland, I recommend having a look at the following website run by Business Iceland: <https://www.islandsstofa.is/yfirlit-arangursvidmid>. Some

Iceland

by Patricia J.F. Warsaba, Q.C.

of the statistics are amazing and surprising for such a small country. Iceland is recovering well from the disastrous impact of COVID-19.

One key focus for Iceland is its leadership in renewable energy. To quote from Ambassador Guðjónsson's presentation at a recent virtual event on Renewable Energy in the Arctic for an organization called Women in Renewable Energy:

As a state that can be considered to lie entirely within the Arctic, Arctic affairs are a priority in Iceland's foreign policy. This is especially the case in the context of a rapidly warming climate, which as we all know, disproportionately affects this region and those who live there.

Like other Arctic nations and communities, Iceland is experiencing these changes firsthand. While our electricity grid is already based 100% on clean energy (hydro and geothermal), much of the water that provides about 60% of this energy comes from Iceland's glaciers. Last December, Iceland experienced a situation where our national power company had to impose temporary restrictions on the supply of electricity to homes and businesses due to low reservoir levels.

Snowpack in Iceland's Highlands generated by

a winter of heavy snowfall provides good prospects for the further replenishment of our reservoirs in the short-term, as do expected volumes coming from annual glacier melt over the summer. But in the longer term, the absence of accessible glacier water due to permanently depleted glaciers could pose a threat to the reliability of hydro as the majority source of energy behind our grid. For this reason, it's important that Arctic nations like Iceland and Canada continue to prioritise the decarbonisation of our societies in line with our 2030 goals and quicken the pace of technological innovation in the renewable energy sector.

I am sure many of you already know that Eliza Reid, the wife of the President of Iceland, was born and raised in Canada. I encourage everyone to read her recent book "Secrets of the Sprakkar". It is a delightful read and explores why Iceland is the best place on earth to be a woman.

If I can assist anyone moving to Iceland or interested in doing business with any Icelandic companies, I can be reached at p.warsaba@mckercher.ca or by telephone at 306-565-6509.



Book Review

Secrets of the Sprakkar: Iceland's Extraordinary Women and How They are Changing the World

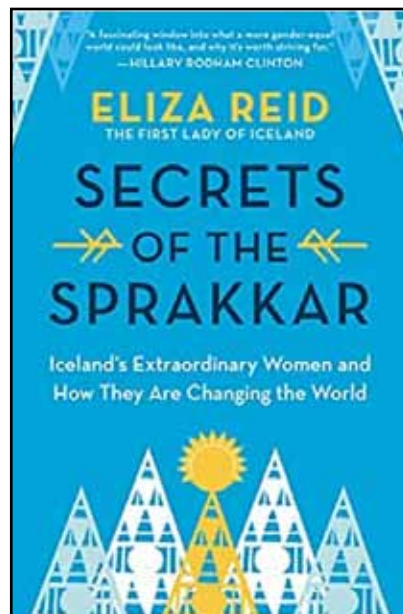
Author: The First Lady of Iceland - Eliza Reid

Book Review by Linda Wacker

A summer solstice attendee remarked that they would like to learn more about the everyday lives of Icelanders – how they live, work, and play. This book is an inside look at life in Iceland, and in particular, the lives of women. Sprakki is a Norse term for extraordinary or outstanding women. In a warm and humorous way, the author hi-lights the Sprakkar, the role models who through the years, have led the country in achieving gender equality, and in so doing, provides a revealing picture of life in that country.

I was aware that Iceland's First Lady was Canadian but knew little about her until I read an account of an interview with her by Jennifer Cockrall entitled, "Making Her Mark" and included in the June 2022 issue of "The Viking Magazine", published by the Sons of Norway. One must be impressed by Reid's down to earth, caring personality.

Her recently published book provides great insight into life in Iceland and how Iceland treats its women and children. Iceland is routinely ranked as one of the best places to be a woman. It is a country where the aspiration



to gender equality is a guiding principle. This book speaks to the pros and cons of life on an island where everyone is related to each other within 7 or 8 generations. Their efforts toward gender equality are unparalleled and Reid hi-lights women who are credited with moving the goal posts. The safety net in Iceland casts broadly. Inexpensive day care, generous paid parental leaves for both men and women, flexible work hours for parents, all make child rearing less of a struggle. There are things to envy about life in Iceland, but Reid points out that Iceland is not perfect when it comes to

gender equality. They aren't there yet, but they are working toward improving their society.

There are some interesting revelations in the book, and I will mention just a few that surprised me:

1) Iceland was the first to elect a female president. Vigdis Finnbogadóttir, a teacher and theater director was president from 1980 to 1996. This year she is 92 yrs. of age. After her retirement, she continued to speak out about helping vulnerable people and defending human rights.

2) Iceland society has a nonjudgmental attitude toward sexuality. Kids are taught about birth control in elementary school. There is no stigma with single or young mothers. "One-night stands" are normal and accepted. Usually, couples have slept together prior to a first date. Teen pregnancies happen less due to easy access to birth control and abortion, but teen pregnancy is not viewed as a disaster. Babies are welcome and there is support for their care.

3) Members of the LGBTQ community experience little prejudice and legislation has been enacted to ensure they are treated

equally. There is a strong belief that government has no place in the bedrooms of the nation.

There is an inside look at what is entailed in a state visit when the president and author were invited to Stockholm for a 3-day visit with King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia. Reid tells how her rural Canada roots were challenged by the ceremony that accompanies such a visit. She talks about the surreal feeling of being trumpeted into a room. A few days before they were to leave for Sweden, she

got word that a hat was required. She owned only toques and there are no milliners in Iceland, but she was able to get a last-minute bulk order of hats from abroad. Reid received passing marks from the media for her hat choice.

She writes about how it felt to have media watching every action during that visit. She recounts that in the afternoon of the 2nd day, as she got out of the car, she realized that she had lost an earring. She slipped off the other earring. Later that day, a Swedish newspaper had

a big story about the First Lady of Iceland's vanished earring,

The book is available at most book outlets. It is an inspiring read as the First Lady relates her own story of being an immigrant in Iceland, along with the tales of women who have influenced the country to become the nation, known as having the best gender equality policies and practices. Reid points out, however, that it continues to be a struggle and she challenges readers to "use their voice to elevate one another."



August 2022 Corn Roast



The club couldn't have asked for a better day to hold the 2022 Corn Roast - warm temperatures and not a rain cloud in sight - a recipe for a perfect day.

A big shout out to the organizers of this years event - Laurel Josvanger, Ingrid Van Dusen, Laureen Smith, Darlene Harrison, Kelly Nelson, Linda Wacker and Andrea Ashton for

putting the event together as well as performing various duties throughout the event. Also a big thank you to Ernie Wacker and Terry Ashton for cooking and serving the guests.

And of course, thanks to all the members and their families who were able to come out and enjoy the day with us. It was great to see you all.





Events - Do you remember when...?

by Andrea Ashton

Scandinavian Club of Regina member Laureen Smith brought this newsletter to my attention at this year's Corn Roast and I thought it would be a great addition to this edition of the *Midnight Sun*.

Scandinavian Club of Regina members who go back a few years will most likely remember this event and other similar events. Club members that I have met since I joined SCOR (2016) sometimes talk about the times that the Scandinavian Club participated in Mosaic. This year, when members of the board



gathered to clear out the clubs storage unit in Regina, there were all kinds of reminders of the Mosaic days.

What other memories do you have of days gone by and events that the club used to host and/or participate in? If you have any photos of past events we would love to see them and be able to share them in upcoming newsletters.

If you would like to share any memories and/or photos you might have, contact us at scoreventsregina@gmail.com.

Stutthof Diaries Collection For Truth & Honor

by Tore Torgensen

Recently Tore Jorgensen, a Norwegian author who lives in Canada contacted past president Linda Wacker about his book *Stutthof Diaries Collection For Truth and Honor*.

"My name is Tore Jørgensen and I was born in Kristiansund Norway two years after WW II. We immigrated to Canada in 1957, but my family moved back to Norway in 1967, mainly due to my father being infected by the spirochaeter bacteria while in the Nazi concentration camp Stutthof. In the Nazi concentration camps, there was a 90% fatality rate

from prisoners infected with spirochaeter bacteria. In Norway, my dad was able to receive the necessary medical help, as he was a veteran.

My father, along with hundreds of Norwegian policemen all over Norway, was arrested under the code name Aktion Polarkreis on August 16, 1943. They were arrested because they refused to carry out the orders of Reichskommissar Josef Terboven and 271, including my father, were sent to Stutthof concentration camp in Eastern Poland.

I have spent the last 22 years translating into English, diaries,



Above: Tore Jorgensen with wife Grace

and memoirs and published a book under the Stutthof Diaries Collection 'For Truth & Honor'. I have also created a website www.stutthofdiaries.com that features, not only my book, but interviews of Stutthof survivors, Norway at War, and movies featuring Norway during the Nazi occupation 1940-1945."

We encourage you to take a moment to check out Tore's website and learn more about this inspiring and true story.





Jorun Solvieg Kemp



Note: The passing of Jorun Solvieg Kemp was not brought to our attention until the spring of 2022 so we are including it in this edition of the Midnight Sun newsletter.

On Thursday, January 14, 2021, our mom, grandmother, great-grandmother (GG), and friend, Jorun Solvieg (Sylvia) Kemp, nee Svorkdal, quietly slipped away at the age of 85 years. The chasm of her loss is enormous. Sylvia leaves to mourn her son Curtis (Cheryl); son Derrick (Carianne); step-daughter Cheryl (John); grandchildren David (Courtney), Joshua (Danielle), Jennifer (Josh), Jordan, (Noah), Brooke (Stephen), Dryden (Nicole), Laura, Bob (Jen); great-grandchildren Malin, Lennyn and Luna; and Laura's son, Justin. She is also lovingly survived by her sister-in-law Evelyn Svorkdal; as well as numerous church friends; and a large number of nieces and nephews on the Kemp side, along with several on the Svorkdal side. Sylvia was particularly close with

In Memoriam

her niece Kathryn, for the majority of her life.

She was predeceased by her parents, Josef and Signe Svorkdal; her husband of 49 years, Earl; her brother Johan; her sister Karen; as well as sisters-in-law, Reta (Ivan), Doreen (Walter), Irene (Bill), June (Tom) and Helen (Eddie).

Sylvia was a gifted basketball and softball player, at a time when this was uncommon for women. She grew up on the farm outside of Estevan, with no phone, no fridge, no central heating, and no plumbing. Sylvia read by kerosene lamp, meals were made on a coal fired porcelain stove (which was the only heat source) and walked several miles back and forth to Central School in Estevan, or by horse. She only experienced creature comforts when she went off to study Psychiatric nursing. Sylvia was educated during a time of significant strides in research in mental health, in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, and was quite involved in much of that cutting edge research, which became famous, worldwide. She worked in the field of geriatric psychiatry for 47 years, as a floor nurse, and eventually, unit head. Sylvia embodied the compassion and empathy that became a hallmark of her career. She was highly respected, and, frankly, adored. A visit back to her old ward, last year, 25 years after she retired, resulted in a stampede of staff, all so glad to see her again.

Sylvia loved her time as a hockey mom. She carted Curt and Derrick all over the place, clanged



her cow bell aggressively in the stands, and was in her glory. She often said that those years were some of her favourites. When Sylvia retired, she and Earl loved travelling down south with their big silver Airstream trailer in tow, and later on, in their motor home. They logged tens of thousands of miles.

Family meant everything to Sylvia. Nothing else really mattered. Family Christmas Eve was church first, always with her and dad, and later, just her. A huge, full table, at her house, and afterward, lots of people crammed in the living room, ripping paper, and laughing and just enjoying being together; there were always guests, or new boyfriends/girlfriends, and all were welcomed, and provided a gift. Her door was always open, day or night. It didn't matter why. There was never any questions, just a clean bed, and a warm meal. No matter what was going on outside her doors, once inside, you could set the world down, even for a little while, and find solace, without judgement.

The family is grateful for the compassionate care that Sylvia received from the staff at Santa Maria retirement home. They made her last days as loving and caring as they could be in these terrible Covid times. "So, mom, just as you would tell us to do, we will pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, wipe away the tears and go and meet that next challenge.

Norsk Høstfest

**Minot North Dakota
Sept. 28 - 30 & Oct 1, 2022**

After two long years of cancelled events due to COVID, Norsk Høstfest is back! And you can be sure this year will be one of the best ever.

Norsk Høstfest is an annual festival held each fall in Minot, North Dakota, U.S. and it is North America's largest Scandinavian festival.

The event, which begins on September 28th and runs until October 1st, is packed with entertainment, heritage, authentic

Scandinavian cuisine, shopping, fun and dances.

Headliners this year are Big and Rich with Tigirlily, Clint Black, Dierks Bentley, Brantley Gilbert, Daniel O'Donnell, The Texas Tenors and Old Crow Medicine Show.

See their website if you are interested in more information about the event.

For those of you who prefer to use a tour company rather than drive yourself, Norsk Høstfest has listed Corban Tours in Regina as the company that is offering tour packages to this event.

<https://corbentours.ca/tours>

Ph: 306-533-0860

Email: cbconsult@myaccess.ca

[Norsk Høstfest website](#)



Above photos are the property of Norsk Høstfest

The Scandinavian Club of Regina's newsletter *Midnight Sun* is published quarterly.

The editors of this publication are comprised of a committee. If you have any ideas or stories you would like to share with us please contact us at
scoreventsregina@gmail.com



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