



# Midnight Sun



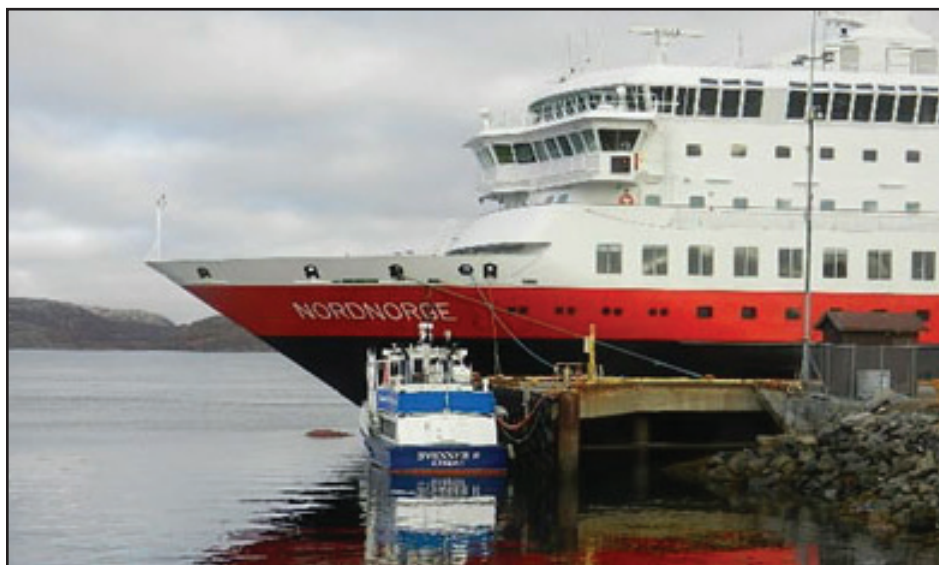
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## Travelling with the Hurtigruten

By Linda Wacker



*Our ship, the MS Nordnorge, one of 13 Hurtigruten ships in the fleet.*

If you have not had the opportunity to travel the west coast of Norway on the mail and passenger ship, traveling between the old trading city of Bergen and Kirkenes, a city on the Russian border, you should consider it.

The route takes passengers through impressive fjords, thunderous waterfalls, picturesque islands and lovely archipelagos. It visits 34 ports on a 12-day round trip journey.

This mail and passenger

service dates back to 1893 when the first scheduled boat service left Trondheim for Hammerfest. In 1894 two other shipping companies combined their ships to form Hurtigruten. In 1898 the route was extended down to Bergen. Then, in 1911 the route expanded to Kirkenes, a town at the Russian border. Over the years, many changes have occurred. In 2021, Hurtigruten decided to split up its operation and became known as Hurtigruten Group with

headquarters in Oslo and London, but it continues to operate the schedule services from Bergen to Kirkenes with its daily scheduled trips.

The Hurtigruten is many things. It is a means of transportation for Norwegians, like a ferry service, and they can get on at one port and off at another. As a passenger, besides enjoying the marvelous scenery, you can watch people loading and unloading freight, meet local Norwegians and enjoy the services of Hurtigruten's hospitality. Hurtigruten offers a wide range of excursions: bus tours, guided city tours, bird watching, museum and concerts. The food is exceptional. It is locally sourced, made by skilled chefs, and with the best ingredients the West coast has to offer.

What began as a local transportation service has expanded to a fleet of cruise ships, exploring 250 destinations in 30 countries. In 2019, it launched the world's first hybrid powered cruise

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ship and 2 more have been built. Sustainability is part of who they are, and to this end, it is working toward its first zero emissions

ship, hoping to have it in operation by 2030.

For more information on Hurtigruten Group:  
[www.hurtigruten.com](http://www.hurtigruten.com)

The following pictures were taken on our Hurtigruten trip in 2011, with travelling partners, Donna Lou and Mike Holbrow.



The ship docked in one of 34 places to either drop off or pick up goods and passengers. The farthest door is for bringing in or dropping off vehicles.



Whale watching with travelling companions, Mike and Donna Holbrow.



The cabins have fold-down beds and a washroom with a shower.



Ernie demonstrating the fold down bed.



Donna and Linda at the North Cape, Europe's northernmost point.



# Iceland and Geothermal Energy

by Dianne Swanson



*Hellisheiði power plant*

On our 2013 visit to Iceland, Greg and I had little knowledge of this small northern country.

One of our initial surprises, upon taking a shower in our hotel room, was the sulphur smell in the water. WHY? Because the warm

water comes from the ground and is supplied by geothermal power plants.

Another surprise, as we explored the city of Reykjavik, was the fact that the streets are kept ice and snow free in winter due to underground pipes beneath



*Pipes being installed under a road surface*

the road surfaces. Imagine! Clean roads, no snow plows or snow ridges blocking one's path.

Iceland is currently powered by geothermal sources. But this was not always the case. True, for a thousand years hot water was always available for washing and bathing. But not as an energy source. Icelanders used coal.

Iceland began moving from coal to geothermal almost a century ago in the 1930s. Pre-WWII tensions, a global depression, and rising energy insecurity helped officials to decide to wean Reykjavik off coal.

Voters had to be convinced that the long-term benefits of geothermal energy would be worth the upfront costs. Foreign loans were sought to pay for the infrastructure for Reykjavik. In the 1960s a National Energy Fund was created to fund expansion of geothermal energy into smaller municipalities. When the global energy crisis struck in 1973, and inflation soared, Iceland expanded again, this time also moving into hydro-electricity.

It is no surprise to learn the Iceland is the leading exporter of geothermal expertise to the rest of the world.

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What about Geothermal Energy in Saskatchewan?

<https://www.saskpower.com/Our-Power-Future/Our-Electricity/Electrical-System/Balancing-Supply-Options/Geothermal>

# No FinnFest for me in 2023, but Norsk Høstfest will do

by Brenda Niskala

Tours of the Minnesota countryside, featuring all the Finnish historical highlights.

A tori (marketplace) carrying the things I look at longingly online: Ittala glass, Marimekko designs, Lapuan weaving, salty licorice, cloudberries!!! Perhaps some proper cheese and coffee, maybe some pulla.

And music, everything from heavy metal to orchestral classics.

Be still my heart.

Did you know there is a Finnish form of Tai Chi? They are teaching that. And how to build a sauna.

And clear lakes. Birch forests.

But dear prairie friends, it was not to be. Flights to Minneapolis were possible. Then it's just a four hour drive to Duluth. But the flights were obscenely expensive. Double the cost of a flight to London England. And lay overs between 9 and 13 hours. Or

drive to Saskatoon, fly directly to Minneapolis, then drive to Duluth. No layovers, but the prices, again, were stratospheric. At least compared to travel to Europe.

I could not find trains from here to there.

So driving is the only option and it's only 14 hours. I can do that! I just need a buddy to keep me awake or take a turn at the wheel.

I have a handful of volunteers for next year!!! And since FinnFest will be in Duluth until 2027, I may even get to go twice.

Meanwhile perhaps a shorter trip is in my more immediate future. Norsk HøstFest is the largest Scandinavian festival in North America, there is a decent Finnish component, and Minot is very close, only four hours. The roads will still be good September 27 to 30. Right?

My only visit to Norsk

Høstfest was about ten years ago. I went with Carol Olson, also a SCOR member. Emmylou Harris was the draw for me, but we greatly enjoyed the performers from Tromsø, and the marketplace was amazing. We attended one of the workshops offered by Beatrice Ojakangas, queen of Finnish-American cuisine. She showed us how to make Pannukakkua, a massive puff-ball like oven-baked pancake. The evenings with dancing caught me by surprise, but I will definitely want to check that part out again. I was a rock and roll kid, much to my father's great disappointment. My waltz, polka, and two step are pretty embarrassing, but at my age, embarrassment is a badge I'll wear proudly for trying.

Oh, and you can fly to Minot. Only 14 hours. But why? It's a lovely fall drive. Maybe I'll see you there!



**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

Entertainment Lineup      General Admission Tickets

Norsk Høstfest 2023 - <https://hostfest.com/>





## *Outsider* by Brett Popplewell

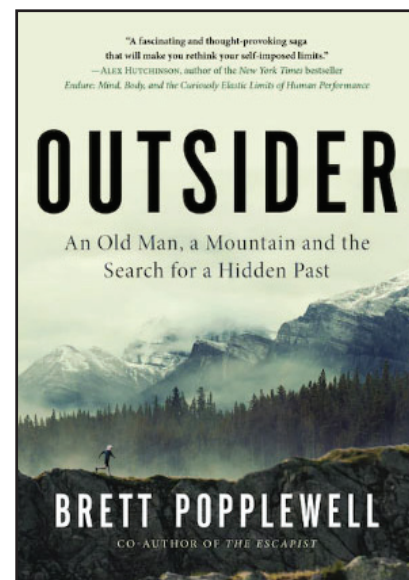
### Review by Linda Wacker

This spring CBC radio aired an interview with Brett Popplewell, Toronto journalist, and Dag Aabye, the subject of this book. The story they told was captivating: about a white-haired Jesus figure who spent his days training on trails he created and that no one knew existed. He came to Canada in the sixties, after playing in several blockbuster films in the UK and became known as the world's first extreme skier. He gave up this notoriety for a life in the forests of B.C., emerging years later as the oldest long-distance runner.

This is the story about Dag Aabye, a Norwegian who lived off the grid in a school bus on a mountain in the Okanagan. He spent his days and nights, cutting paths and running them, trying to beat his last record. The author had a six-year odyssey, uncovering the story of this 81-year-old man. And what a story it is! According

to Amazon's description of the book, and an account with which I concur, *Outsider* takes readers on a remarkable journey from Nazi-occupied Norway to Argentina and British Columbia. The book chronicles how a child born under mysterious circumstances during World War II finds his way onto the big screen in Goldfinger, is heralded as the world's first extreme skier, and is later driven into the wilderness."

Central to this story is the German program, under Heimler's personal direction, called, "Lebensborn" – "the fountain of life". At its core, Lebensborn was a state-sanctioned association of Nazi leaders bent on creating a master race and reversing the falling birth rate in Germany. The Lebensborn aimed to screen young Norwegian women and give financial support to those who bore the children of the SS officers. It is estimated that 12,000 Norwegian



children were born to German soldiers during the occupation of Norway. Dag, an orphan, did not know his origin, but thought he was one of them since his adoptive mother, with whom he had a troubling relationship, often called him a Lebensborn.

Dag had no interest in material things, but he had one desire and that was to find a picture of his biological mother. The book's author assists him to return to Norway in the hopes of learning the truth of his origin and in particular, about his mother.

This book is a tremendous read. I guarantee that you will not put it down until you have reached the last page.

## UPCOMING SCOR EVENTS

### FISHY FRIDAY's

Western Pizza (Regina South)

Dates: September 8 - 5:30 p.m.  
November 3 - 5:30 p.m.

### Lakeshore Restaurant

Dates: October 6 - 12:00 Noon

### CORN ROAST

Date: Sun. Aug. 27 at Noon

Location: Candy Cane Park

### FALL FESTIVAL

Date: Saturday Oct. 28 - evening

Location: New Hope Church

### CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Date: Sunday, December 10

Time: TBD

Location: New Hope Church

Info. on all SCOR events will be sent by email and posted on our website in advance of the events.



## Past SCOR Events

On May 13, 2023 a Rosemaling event was held at the home of Diane Clay-Lewis. Eight participants joined in the fun to create napkin holders. An online genealogy class was also held through the Saskatchewan Genealogy Society with three dates - Apr. 19 and 26 and May 3. Eight participants attended this offering.



Fishy Friday has been trying a new way of doing things by alternating locations and times - lunch and supper. Fishy Friday on last held Aug. 4 at the Lakeshore Restaurant at lunch. The next Fishy Friday will be Sept. 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Western Pizza in South Regina. We hope you can join us for this next event.





# Researching the Flesh and Bones of Nordic Noir

by Brenda Niskala

Nordic noir has been proclaimed the best crime writing of the past twenty years. Beyond the classic Wallander series by Henning Mankell, Sweden has produced Stieg Larsson of the Dragon Tattoo fame. There are those who claim Norwegian Jo Nesbø is the best Noir writer anywhere. Iceland has produced Ragnar Johansson and Yrsa Sigurdardottir. Peter Hoeg from Greenland and Antti Tuomelainen from Finland are notable, and I bet I've missed your favourite authors in this impressive list.

So I was thrilled to hear, on the July 19 CBC Radio



As it Happens, that Pétur Gudmannsson, Iceland's only forensic pathologist, is teaching crime writers about death. "After fielding questions about death and dying from Icelandic crime writer for years, Gudmannsson decided to teach a course on it. Basically Forensics 101, he talks about traumatology, the process

of dying, and what happens to the body after the person dies, as well as what it's like to work with police. The course is offered at a program through the University of Iceland. Icelandic author Lila Sigurdardottir says "I found Pétur's approach to death strangely poetic and beautiful."

Gudmannsson believes the fascination with murder stories in Iceland might be because of how infrequently they occur in real life.

Hmm, sort of like English villages.



**Remembering Byrna Barclay  
(1940-2023)**

Written by Brenda Niskala

Byrna Barclay was so very proud of her Swedish ancestry. The Björblings (Bjorlin), originally from the town of Hjo, Sweden, arrived in northwest Saskatchewan, settling near the town of Livelong

## *In Memoriam*

via Chicago Heights, Illinois. She wrote the last two volumes of the Livelong trilogy, *The Last Echo* and *Winter of the White Wolf*, focusing on these settlers. She also wrote *The Forest Horses*, inspired by the role of the Gotland ponies in saving the starving during the WWII siege of Leningrad/St Petersburg.

Byrna was a long time member of SCOR, and presented a reading from *The Forest Horses* to one of our meetings shortly after it came out in 2010. She wrote many other novels and short story collections. Her first book of poetry, about her travels in Russia, will be released posthumously in December 2023.

At age 75, she decided to

become a publisher. One of the books she published through Burton House Books, *Landings: Poems from Iceland*, was featured at the SCOR midsummer celebration in 2022, where the author, Harold Rhenisch, shared stories and slides of his travels in Iceland.

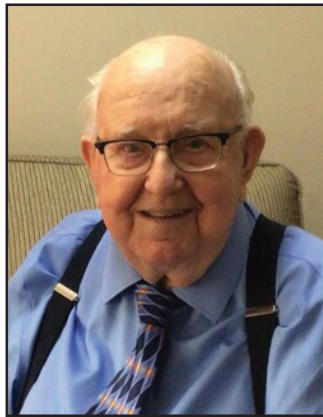
Byrna served on many boards and committees, often in a leadership role. She received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2004. Her obituary and recording of her service can be found on the Speers website, [www.https://speersfuneralchapel.com/tribute/details/12351/Byrna-Barclay/obituary.html#tribute-start](http://www.https://speersfuneralchapel.com/tribute/details/12351/Byrna-Barclay/obituary.html#tribute-start)

We lost Byrna on May 7, 2023.





## Vern Lindstrom



The family of Vern Lindstrom are sad to announce his passing, surrounded by loved ones, on Saturday, July 15, 2023, in Regina, SK. He was preceded by his parents Vounder and Myrtle Lindstrom; his son Timothy; and his brother Clemence. He is survived by his wife Doreen; three children Greg (Jennifer Dow), Janice (Ken Swanston) and Donna (Mike Drozda); as well as his grandchildren Andrew Swanston (Kaitlyn), Laura Swanston (Matthew Fry), Lilah Drozda; great-grandchildren Kaylee and Lucas Swanston.

Vern retired from his job as a Firefighter with the City of Regina as a Captain in 1989 after 30 years of service. He enjoyed a

## *In Memoriam*

long retirement traveling, spending time at their cabin on Long Lake with family and fixing, repairing, fabricating various projects in his garage. Vern was gifted with a mechanical ability to fix just about anything. If anyone needed something repaired, they would go to him. Vern had a positive outlook on life and was always learning new things which contributed to his long and happy life. He will be deeply missed by us all.

A Celebration of Vern's Life was held July 24, 2023, at Our Saviour's Church, 190 Massey Road, Regina, SK at 11 a.m.



*Arthur Berg (continued)*

community, passed away on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at the age of 83. Art was predeceased by his parents Melvin and Nancy Berg (née Seim); and brother Clifford. He is survived by his wife Carol (née Folstad); children Marlin (Laurie née Carlson), Tavia (David) Burke, and Lowell (Marcia née Grant); and grandchildren Jacob (Kira Stafford), Paige (Tyler Wacker), Kayleigh (Greg Murphy), Madison (Brayden Coghill), Jenna, Max, Cole (Brooklyn Fehr), and Levi.

A Celebration of Art's Life was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 190 Massey Road, Regina, SK. For those unable to attend, a livestream may be viewed on Zoom at Meeting ID 3065860006 with passcode 190. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a charity of your choice in memory of Art's legacy. Online messages of condolence may be left at [paragonfuneralservices.com](http://paragonfuneralservices.com).

## Arthur Olaf Berg



Arthur "Art" Olaf Berg, a beloved member of the Regina

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](mailto:scoreventsregina@gmail.com)



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