



Left, Anna Mytting, President of Rondane Lodge was presented with a SON Apron at LadiesAuxilliary Meeting.



North Star's Liv Dahl, center, arranged for Graeme Magor, & his wife, Lynda, to give a presentation of being 'on ice'.



Lorraine & Bill Lawrence celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary!

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Editor's Message

so let's make sure we are careful with outdoor fires. I was surprised that one fire was, as they said, a holdover fire. I didn't know a fire could survive underground through a winter season in northern B.C. Let's all do our part to keep our beautiful province green !

I hope those of you who attend the District Convention have a fun and productive time.

Have a great summer everyone!

Check out: Sons of Norway www.sofn.com; District 7 webpage www.sofn7.com; Facebook "Sons of Norway District 7" and "Official Sons of Norway Facebook Group"

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President's Message

Greetings!!

I hope everyone had a special Syttende Mai celebration. It is wonderful to see so many Lodges pay attention to this very important date for Norway. It is a great time to have young families come out so focus on activities where young people can participate; and what child doesn't like hot dogs and ice cream?

We have been working with Connor Johns of Sleipner Lodge on the District webpage. Thank you, Connor, for all your hard work in getting this together. Connor will continue as our webmaster but we ask all the lodges to send items to the District Publicity Director first and the Director will get items like your lodge newsletter posted. This is the policy we have used in the past when Scott was our webmaster, and it worked very well.

Congratulations to all our young people who are graduating from High School, College or University! This is an exciting time as you seek a new pathway into your future. For any students who are going into post-secondary – college or university or trades – check out the Sons of Norway Foundation of Canada Awards and get your applications in before the deadline, August 30th.

District 7 is looking for an accountant who will assist the District with a two-year financial statement prior to our Biennial Convention and Lodge Meetings. This report was formerly known as 'Notice to Reader' and is now known as 'Compilation Engagement Report'. The District does not have a huge number of transactions but we do require an external CA/CGA to perform this review. If you know of a member who would be willing to take this on, please get in touch with me. In the past we were very fortunate to have Andrina Benazic and Marion Snowball provide these reports pro bono. If that is not possible, maybe we can secure someone who will do it for a reduced rate.

At the time this Leiflette reaches you, our Convention and Lodge Meeting **may** have come and gone. Thank you to all those dedicated members who served during 2022-2024 and a warm welcome to those who will serve during 2024-2026. If you have questions, suggestions or want to share program ideas or fundraising plans, get in touch with one of the Directors as we love to hear from you.

I hope to see many of you at Heritage Camp in Hatzic! It should be another great event. Have a wonderful summer!

Fraternally, Gloria



The Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada accept tax deductible donations from Sons of Norway members and others living in Canada.

Please check out our new website: www.sonfic.ca for more information including donation and application forms for bursaries and grants.

Please make cheques payable to:
SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA
and mail to C/O 32412 Ptarmigan Drive
Mission, B.C. V2V 5R5

Lodge Updates

Sleipner Lodge 8

Vancouver, B.C.

Hi everyone. Spring is almost over and our park at Hatzic has opened for the 2004 Summer Season. During the last few months members and our new caretakers have been hard at work getting the camp ready.

The park has a new tractor. It was a good deal but still wasn't cheap but was needed. It will serve us well for many years. It will be greatly appreciated especially in the winter to deal with snow removal.

This summer we will have the pleasant company of Eric Haugen, Eric's partner, Eiren and their daughter as well as Eric's two sons who will be joining them once they finish school. Welcome.

The Bunkie has been rewired with a higher amp circuit so that bunkie users will no longer have to ven-

ture out in the middle of the night in their pajamas to reset the circuit breaker. The pool is planned to be open on the May long weekend. At the time of this writing there is apparently an issue with the pump.

There has been a sun storm resulting in an Aurora Borealis. It was in Prince George at the time. There was a bit of a glow on the Northern Horizon not much more. Odd. For some people in North America seeing a total eclipse of the sun and this event shortly afterwards, must have been awesome. The Aurora at Hatzic was incredibl apparently. I've seen them before.

The new caretakers got a new puppy, Bruce. Funny thing. The previous caretakers got a new puppy as well.



Eric Haugen & his partner Eirin visiting from Norway.



Caretaker Karyn with new puppy Bruce

At this writing the Canucks are still in the playoffs. There were a couple of game viewings in the hall at the clubhouse which were a lot of fun. It would be nice to bring the Stanley Cup back to Canada. (*Oh well, maybe next year Larry! Unni!*)

• June 20 Board Meeting.

- June 29 Border Festival.
- June 30 Canada Day Celebrations and Duck Race.
- July 20 Norwegian Pub Night.

There is talk about one or two live bands in the gazebo

well.
Yours truly, Larry Brawn.

Varden Lodge 19

New Westminster, B.C.

Hello, summer is hopefully here. I trust you had a lovely Syttende Mai and are looking forward to upcoming summer events.

The Mid-Summer Festival is on the weekend of June 22nd at the Scandinavian Community Centre. Sons of Norway will be represented in the Norwegian tent with a table filled with costumed dolls wearing bunads made by Vivian Bates and a map of Norway where you can put a marker on the place your an-



Caretaker Ollie with our new tractor.

SON is organizing a summer camp you won't want to miss August 7-11.

Plenty of culture, language, dancing, crafts and Clan activities located in Mission, BC.

For registration and details, click [here](#):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TFfcHZFUT3kx4pmZn9WWoex-v9u95FysVIZCSsqNU/edit?usp=sharing>



Nerissa Beeby, left, of Varden Lodge, has been invited to try out for Team Canada in Ringette. Good luck Nerissa!

cestors came from. Drop by and have a chat with us. Then go explore the rest of the tents and feast on waffles, open faced sandwiches or grilled salmon. Once done you can watch the pole raising or the wife carrying contest.

Another celebration is the Border Festival picnic on June 29th. It will be good to see our sister lodges. We will be playing Kubb, plus some Vikings will be attending who want to see if we can break their wall of shields. You may also see the crowning of a festival queen or king. We, at Varden, are fortunate to have Kassandra Lind representing us.

Varden also celebrates its 113 birthday this year and we may have a picnic at Ryall Park in New Westminster. Our May meeting is a few



Susan Strang's daughters, Karen Schilbach & Rebekkah Stainton in Paris. (all members & officers of Varden Lodge). Susan's daughters took her to France April 15 to 26, 2024, as a gift for her 75th Birthday. They made all the arrangements and surprised her on her Birthday in February.

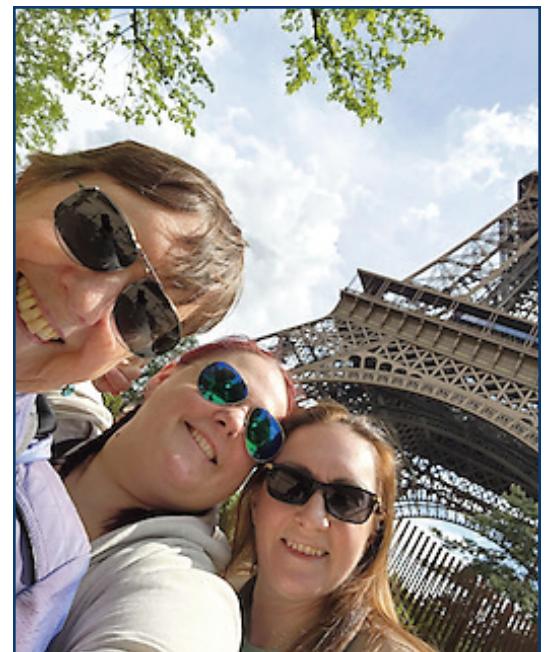


days after my writing this so I don't have all the information.

I have some sad news. One of our long time members, Carol Erickson, passed away. She and her husband, Henry, were involved with Sons of Norway for many years. I especially remember Carol's warmth and kindness as a Greeter when I first joined Varden Lodge.

Lastly, Varden's next meeting will be on June 11th. I hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to giving you all the news in September.

*Krista Solie,
Editor.*



North Star Lodge 63 Nanaimo, B.C.

On May 6th the members of North Star Lodge had two very interesting guests speaking on their experiences while frozen into the ice near Ellesmere Island. Here is a summery of their adventure.

In 1999, Canadian physician Graeme Magor and his wife Lynda set out to commemorate the achievements of Norwegian explorer Otto Sverdrup one hundred years earlier. They recruited four additional crew members: two scien-

-tists from Norway, as well as the New Zealander, owner of the 53-foot ship Northanger, and his Canadian wife. In late June, they sailed out of Oslo harbor via Greenland, arriving at Horseshoe Bay on Ellesmere Island in the fall. Their ship was frozen into the ice and remained there until August the following year. Graeme and Lynda shared some of their adventures in the far north through both words and pictures. North Star member, Liv Dahl, actually visited the ship while it was in the ice. Thank you, Liv, for arranging this presentation.

Members of Nordly's



Members & guests at the presentation from Graeme & Linda Magor about Ellesmere Island & the table with decorations of ship & ice & snow!



Lodge in Port Alberni joined us at this event, and all members of North Star Lodge were invited to bring a guest.

We had 34 in attendance. What a treat it was to live this adventure through Graeme and Lynda. We finished the evening off with a delicious lunch; sandwiches, Norwegian cakes and of course, coffee!

Our next special event is in the planning. The 17th of May will be a fun filled day with entertainment, music, flags, traditional Norwegian laughter. More about this in the next Newsletter.

*Linda Harvey,
Social Director*

Rondane Lodge 71

Prince George, B.C.

The April General meeting was held on Thursday, April 25, after a lunch at Carmel Restaurant, with 15 members present. During the meeting, discussion of a family Christmas party, was again brought up. Christine Sullivan had looked into prices for suitable available rentals, but they were now quite expensive, like \$ 200.00 for an afternoon! She then checked with the Lutheran Church, and they said, that since some of our Sons of Norway members were still Church Members, we were welcome to use their downstairs Social Room for free! So now the

room is booked Sunday, December 8, 2024. We will definitely give the church a donation, which will be voted on next meeting.

The May Women's Auxiliary meeting was held on May 2, at the home of Rita Austad, with 17 ladies present. Doreen Dery reported that the Phoenix Transition Society were thrilled with the more than two boxes of items that she recently delivered to them. Next item of activity for the ladies is the Garden Party held at the home of Unni Madsen, on June 5, from 2-4 pm. For members and friends only. We hope the weather will cooperate that day.

Our 17 of May celebration will only be the usual lunch at Carmel Restaurant, with the celebration in the downstairs room afterwards. Synove deDreu and some of



Wencke Angelski, left & Edna Rouleau at Rondane's Ladies Auxilliary Meeting.

her family members left for Norway a few days ago, to visit close relatives, and also take in Norway's 17th of May celebrations, which are always spectacular.

Since Prince George and area is surrounded by forest, some of us are wishing for a wet summer, to hopefully



Rondane members look over books that Rita Austad set out for members of Ladies Auxilliary ladies to take.



Lynn Wilson, left & Joan Skuggedal,



Ladies Aux. Mtg, Christine Sullivan L, Carol Schulte R

prevent more forest fires. The two big rivers, Nechako and Fraser converge here, and the water levels are so low that people could walk across them in some places, which is really bad for fish and wildlife.

Elsa Aase,
Publicity



Dawson Creek 79

Dawson Creek, B.C.

Hello again from the North. It is nearly time for our May 17th day and our year end picnic in June. The year is flying by it seems, and summer is coming soon. We are so in need of rain and moisture in our area. Wildfires are lurking and it is always in the back of our minds.

It has been fairly quiet since our last meeting in April. We are nearing our May 17th celebrations next week. The city will fly our flag again for us and we will enjoy a meal together to recognize this special day.

April 24, members, Bill and Lorraine Lawrence , celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary, we helped them celebrate this milestone by joining them and their family at an open house in the afternoon.

Hanna and Derek Gillatt, members of our lodge, have two teenagers, Oliver and Mackenzie, who are our youth members. They visited Lawrence Napen, a long term member of our lodge, in the senior complex, which he just moved into . This was so nice of them. Lawrence thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

Lawrence also travelled to Dawson Creek with family members for business and he visited with member Shirley Grayston. They are both old friends and members of this lodge for years.

Mother's Day is approaching soon. We wish all the Moms a HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY. You are all special.

As always, our thoughts and prayers are with those that are ailing or have lost a loved one.

From an old autograph book:

*Everybody loves you; loves
to see you smile,
Loves to see you happy, and
cheerful all the while
Smiling comes so easy;
Do not wear a frown
If you feel one coming,
Always smile it down.*





Member, Shirley Grayston, welcomes Lawrence Napen, as he visits.



Oliver & Mackenzie Gillatt, young members of Dawson Creek Lodge, visiting Lawrence Napen, member, who has just moved into a senior complex.

Words of Wisdom

One of the hardest tasks any of us will face is to forgive someone who has hurt us.

The Lighter Side

Cleaning with kids in the house is like brushing your teeth with Oreos

Until next time!

Loretta Pratt, Publicity

Viking Lodge Surrey B.C.

On May 2nd, we held our “early” 17th of May celebration for the Lodge at our Members meeting. Jacob Tengs was welcomed as a guest and 16 members attended. I thought maybe it was going to end up a desserts lunch but luckily a few more members came with delicious open faced sandwiches and it was perfect! Thanks to all the members who pitched in and took the place of our Social Team, Marsha Walsh and Darlene Frostad, who were away that day.

We had decided at our April meeting that the theme for May would, of course, be the celebration of 17th of Mai. We brought flags, napkins, Norwegian items from home and some wore red/white/blue. There is a picture in this Leiflette which was taken after the meeting by Myrna Larval with her ipad, which is an improvement on my iphone photos. I apologize for the quality of them in the past and am hopeful that Myrna or other

members will continue to take and contribute them in future.

Lars Poulsen, our Treasurer, set up our projector and we saw a parade from Oslo with all the children waving their flags. I’m sure it brought some nostalgic moments for some of the members.

Other members brought their photos and it was nice to hear them talking to each other about their families in Norway and elsewhere and what those pictures meant to them.

I reported to our meeting, as a Director of Norwegian House Society, that there are lots of upcoming (some held), activities at the Scandinavian Centre with the dinner/dance for 17th of May, the dedication of the relocation and permanent base for the Viking Ship Munin on the 18th of May and of course the Midsummer Festival preparations.

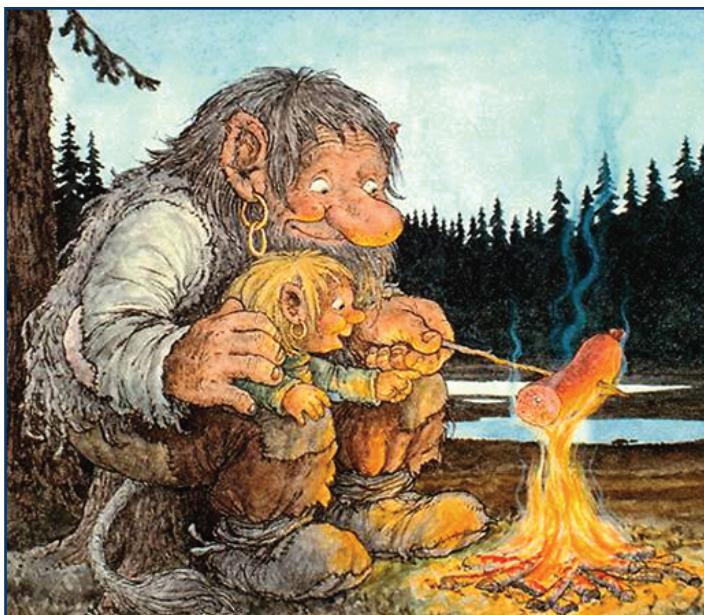
I attended on May 11th, along with lots of volunteers from all 5 Houses at the Scandinavian Centre to do our “spring clean-up” in time for all the upcoming activities at the Centre.

By the time you receive this issue of the Leiflette, the District 7 Convention will have been held. Gwen MacDowell and I were looking forward to it, and probably will have more to say on that in the next issue of the Leiflette.

*Ha det bra!
Dolores Fossum, Publicity*

The forests are very dry so if you are still allowed to have a camp fire in the coming weeks or months, please make sure you put it out before leaving!!!!

(I notice there is water nearby so hope this Viking Troll has a bucket!)



Hardanger Lodge 109 Kelowna, B.C

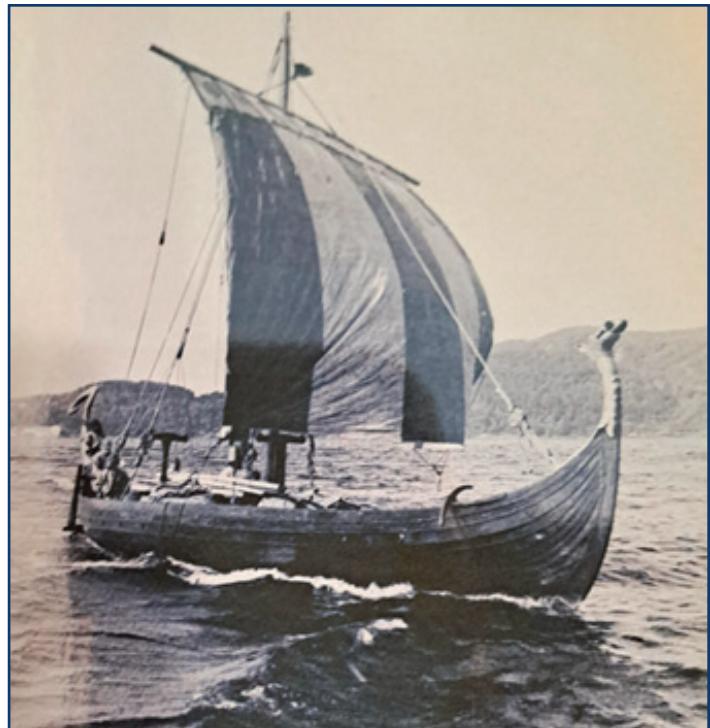
Our lodge meeting in April was held on Zoom from Prince George as our president, Gloria Benazic was visiting that city. After the business meeting, Gloria gave a short presentation about the events in Scandinavia that led up to the assembly that signed the constitution declaring Norway free and independent on May 17, 1814.

Our lodge will be celebrating Syttende Mai and the lodge's 50th Anniversary on May 17 with a dinner at the German Canadian Harmonie Club. The menu will include roast pig, meatballs and gravy, a variety of salads and an anniversary cake with ice cream. A parade will be held

and outdoor games will be played.

Our lodge has been invited to participate in the Westside Multicultural Event in West Kelowna on June 29. It has been a number of years since Hardanger Lodge has participated in a multicultural event. For many years our lodge took part in the Canada Day celebrations in Kelowna preparing ethnic food for sale. As membership decreased and members aged it became more difficult to get volunteers to prepare the food and participate in the day-long event. We will see how this event will work out for us.

Bev Akerlund, Publicity



In the last issue, (May 2024), of the Leiflette, Terry Jennens told Hardanger lodge about the Viking ship built by his father. Wlif Akerlund took this photo (from an original photo) in 1971. Read the May Hardanger lodge report to refresh your memory. It's quite a story!



Norway's Contribution to the STATUE OF LIBERTY?

Most people, at least in the western world, have heard of or seen this magnificent statue, situated on Ellis island in the harbour of New York, USA. At the time it was built, it was the world's biggest statue. It represents a proud woman, her right arm holding a torch raised high in the air. The left arm holds a tablet bearing the date of the Declaration of Independence. At her feet is a broken shackle, symbolizing the overthrow of tyranny. The statue itself is 151 feet tall, with the torch being 305 feet above the pedestal she stands on. The total weight is 450,000 pounds.

France gave the monument to the United States in 1884, as a symbol of friendship and of the liberty that citizens enjoy under a free form of government. French people donated \$250,000 for the construction of the statue, and the people of United states gave about \$280,000 for the pedestal.

The sign "she" is holding, says: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, send these: the homeless, tempest-tost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Auguste Bartholdi designed the statue and chose its site. He also spent a lot of time and effort raising money in France for the statue. Gustave Eiffel, who also designed the Eiffel Tower in Paris, built the supporting framework.

It was presented in Paris to the Minister of the United States on July 4, 1884, and shipped to United States on a French ship in May 1885. It took 214 cases to hold all the parts!

Liberty's framework was made of iron and supported with steel columns. It is the most celebrated examples of "repoussé" work, which is a process of hammering metal over a mold in order to shape it. This statue is made of over 300 thin sheets of copper with a total weight of about 100 tons.

This is where my interest came in, as I once read that the copper for the statue came from Norway, from a mine near Koppervik on the island Karmoy, outside the harbour of Stavanger. Some people doubted that, so samples of copper from England, Germany, and south America were compared to the copper used on the statue. None of them, except the copper from Norway, came close to the extra fine quality of copper used in the Statue of Liberty.

I trust that most of this information I found in my old Encyclopedia is correct, and hope our members of Sons of Norway will find the information interesting, too.

Hilsen, Elsa Aase