SONS of NORWAY DISTRICT 7 in BEAUTIFUL BRITISH COLUMBIA

leiflette

April 2024

Next deadline April 10, 2024

Welcome Spring!

100 Years!

Happy Birthday Vivian!



Vivian Bates at her **100th Birthday Party** at the **Scandinavian Centre** on **March 3,** her actual Birthday.

The painting on right is Columbia Street, New Westminster in 1924, the year Vivian was born. Vivian's home has always been in Burnaby and New Westminster. She has seen a lot of changes!



Kransekake made for **Vivian** by **Laura Oulafsen**





L-R: **Bette Stubelt**, **Else Vea**, **Jacob Tengs** & **Dolores Fossum** of **Viking lodge** enjoy **Vivian's Birthday Party**



Vivian with her family at her **Birthday Celebration.**



Diane McLeod gains Ice Wine at **Rondane's** gift exhange. Maybe she'll give a toast to Vivian!

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Gloria Benazic
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Rondane 71 Dawson Creek 79 Skjonne Dal 142

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Editor's Message

Welcome to Spring everyone!

I went to Vivian's Birthday Party which was very well attended. Vivian gave a brief history of her life and sounded very strong. She had accomplished so much & contributed to so many. Hope you enjoyed your special day Vivian!

Sleipner lodge is on page 8 in this issue. I thought Vivian should be first this time. I asked Larry if that was ok and he said that was fine.

Thanks to Brian Croft who gave me permission to use the painting on page 1. I found it as I was looking for a vintage photo of New Westminster. I was so happy to find this one. A picture can often say a thousand words as they say!

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, fellow Members!!

I see that Spring is springing in a number of areas of our province and it is wonderful to see flowers again. As a child growing up in Valhalla Centre in northern Alberta, we always went walking with my Norwegian grandmother on the grazing lands of their farm and as soon as we were able to pick the first crocus, we knew winter was finished. One slope faced the south-west and it was always the earliest place to find these flowers each year. Soon after, it was time to search for pussy willows as those were very important for our Easter décor. Colouring blown-out egg shells (don't remember hard cooked eggs until later years) was another annual signal that spring was here and the Easter bunny would be bringing us some chocolate. There were no gifts but we each got a chocolate bunny and a few smaller chocolates. Living on a farm, we did not get to stores on a regular basis as we were fairly self-sufficient with our own food stuffs, so eating a chocolate was an amazing treat that we savoured by taking small bites and making it last. We also looked forward to the tiny chenille chicks that were safely stored away between Easters. They were very small and maybe a little weird – a little ball of fluff with two black beads for eyes, something that looked like a tiny beak and silly orange stem-like pieces for feet. But we loved them and handled with them with care as they were fairly fragile. Church service was an important piece of Easter and my favorite hymn was The Old Rugged Cross- maybe because it was such a visual for a young person to see Christ hanging on that cross. The image caused a great deal of sadness and the mournfulness of the song seemed to match my mood.

As I got older and learned more about the "old country", it seemed most of our families were going skiing during Easter. Their focus seemed to be more on grasping the last hurrah of winter whereas we were celebrating the arrival of spring,

We open our windows to let in the sunshine and fresh air, we till the soil and plant our seeds, we pick up debris that has collected in old snow piles and clumps of fallen leaves, and then we wait ....and watch ....as our lives seem to bloom with a promise for new and exciting things to come.

I hope you include new "blossoms" in Sons of Norway. What plans or ideas will you bring to your Lodge or group or committee? Who will you encourage to attend a meeting or event or maybe provide them with a ride? We often hear stories of 'paying It forward.' Maybe you will find a way to pay it forward in Sons of Norway as well as in your personal life. Nothing seems impossible in Spring. Let's celebrate!!
Fraternally,

Fraternally, Gloria

Lodge Updates

Varden Lodge 19

New Westminster, B.C

Hello! I am glad to see that Spring is on its way.

We, Varden Lodge, had a wonderful celebration for Vivian Bates' 100 Birthday on March 3rd her actual birthday. There were about a hundred people including Vivian's family, with a whole range of ages from babies to seniors as Vivian's family is quite large. There were many heartfelt speeches including the one Vivian gave commenting on her life's journey. Vivian told her story and she has achieved so many fabulous things whether involved with Sons of Norway or as a foster parent. She even has an award from the King of Norway for her involvement with Normanna.

Vivian had two birthday cakes, (If you were 100 wouldn't you deserve two cakes?) One a vanilla cake, the other was a Kransekake made by Laura Oulafsen. There was also delicious open face sandwiches and of course, birthday cake. I'm glad the party was such a sucess, because Vivian, we love you.



Vivian Bates received a card from Prince Charles & Camilla wishing her a very Happy 100th Birthday!



Vivian telling her story at Birthday Party.

Another thing I should mention is at our lodge's February meeting we selected our Convention Delegates. They are Edgar Chapman and Bruce and Susan Strang. I am also going as I am a General Director. Maybe we will see each other. But that is not



Distinguished visitors at **Vivian Bates'** party included **Gloria Benazi**c, District 7 President, with husband **Cal, Ron Stubbing**s, International Chair of Sons of Norway, with his sister **Glenda**, (both of Varden Lodge), **Laura Olafsen**, President of Nordlandslaget with husband **Tore**, & **David Moulton**, President of the Scandinavian Centre Board.



Above: Bruce & Susan Strang meet up with the Delicatos, (Joe, Deanne, Nadia & Chloe), as they travel through the Lower Mainland on their way home to Kelowna. All belong to Varden Lodge & are family members of Bruce & Susan.



Right: Susan Strang, President of Varden Lodge , with her husband Bruce & grandson Spencer Strang. Happy 75th Susan!

until May.

Varden's next meeting is on April 9th.

Krista Solie, Publicity

North Star Lodge 63

Nanaimo, B.C.

North Star Lodge celebrated the Irish in March! Green tablecloths, leprechaun top hats, glittery green shamrocks, golden accents and Norwegian flags decorated the tables. After our regular business meeting, we enjoyed a video on the "Irish in Oslo on St. Patrick's Day". The video showed us a large contingent of Irish and "want to be Irish" parading down the Oslo streets to the music of bagpipes and violins. Irish dancers participated in the parade as well as St. Patrick himself!! Of course, they were all wearing green... clothes, hair, and face!

There were speeches and singing on the steps of a government building in Oslo. As you can imagine, they were having great fun! In one article I read, it stated that some Irish men were doing the jig while playing the Hardanger fiddle!



After the video, we played a game called "Irish Family Feud". It was a question and answer game styled after the well known TV show, the Family Feud. Two teams battled for the highest score. The winning team received 3 "Hurrahs" from the losers!!

The Irish Blessing was read before a delicious lunch. Here are some interesting facts about the Irish in Norway.

Since the summer of 2009, an eager bunch of Irish expats have been meeting regularly to create a society dedicated to meeting the needs of Irish people and friends in Norway. A host of exciting events are always in the pipeline.

Now, why are there so many Irish in Norway? In the years between 800 and 1100, Vikings brought back slaves and wives from their trips to Ireland. The Viking longboats carrying 1500 Vikings plundered Ireland and created many Irish cities that we know today. Cork, Dublin, Waterford are just a few.

In the years between 1500 and 1600, Sweden and Denmark recruited the Irish to become solders during the wars between themselves and Norway as well as other countries in Northern Europe. Many stayed in these countries after the wars.

In this last century, many Irish came to Norway for work as there was a shortage of workers in Norway. We all had a great time. Interacting with one another creating laughter and a time of bonding.

Linda Harvey,
Social Director

Rondane Lodge 71

Prince George, B.C.

February's General Meeting was held on the 15th, with 14 members present. The main topic was the upcoming District 7 Convention. The 2 representatives from Rondane are Anna Mytting and Tore Pettersen. Alternates are,#1, John Martinsen and #2, Kristen Brawn. It was moved, voted on and passed, that each delegate get $600 toward expenses, up $100 from last convention.

It was decided that this year, the May 17 celebration will be held at the Murch Lake property of President Mytting and family.



Rondane Lodge Executive



Wencke Angelski received a doll figurine scissor holder.



L-R: Carol Schulte, Joan Lemky, Elsa Aase. (Front row) Back row: L-R: Diane McLeod, Karin Smale, Wencke Angelski, Synove De Dreu, Edna Rouleau,

Diane McLeod won our annual 'Meeting Attending Prize."Congratulations Diane!

During opening and closing songs, Janet Jones accompanied us by playing her guitar. Very nice!

The women's Auxillary meeting was held at 1:30 pm on Thursday, March 7, at the home of Edna Rouleau with 9 members present. It was decided the Garden Party, which we skipped during Covid times, will be held for members only. Now, that we are getting older, it is too much work when the whole community is invited. And the Norwegian baking for sale was a good fund raiser. All the people who came, also got served coffee and baked goods at the many tables with chairs set out on the lawns. Nice, but a lot of work!

Unni Madsen offered the home and garden of her son, where she also lives, for the "members only" Garden Party. We will also skip the Bake Sale, that was very popular with non-Norwegians. After the meeting, we had a fun "Gift Exchange", where everyone had brought a wrapped item. Each member got a number and #1 got to choose a wrapped parcel first. After that, the people with the following numbers could take a wrapped item on the table, or take the item another member has taken. The one who lost her item, was then next in line to either take a wrapped one, or one from another member. Lots of fun and laughs.

After that, it was coffee time with the table full of delicious sandwiches and home baked goodies.

Next meeting will be at Christine Sullivan's house on April 11, starting at 1:30 pm and the next General Meeting is on March 21 at the Carmel Restaurant.

Elsa Aase, Publicity



Diane McLeod wins the yearly draw at the Lodge Meeting Feb 15/24.



Gaily packed gifts at Rondane's Gift Exchange get together.

Dawson Creek 79

Dawson Creek, B.C.

Spring is creeping up on us and we are so ready. Even though our winter was relatively easy to take this year, it is time for the change. We are privileged every once in a while, when an old moose or some deer passes through our property. Living in the country has its benefits sometimes. Some of the sunrises have been most gorgeous. Spring also brings up the thought of spring cleaning, but it can be shortlived.

Our monthly meeting is



Our display at Dawson Creek's 60th party



Some of the executive members at the party, left to right; Karen Frederickson, Charlene Dokken, Donna Porada, Loretta Pratt, President Randy Carlstad, Lorraine Lawrence



A good turnout to enjoy Dawson Creek's special evening

coming up next week, our time to socialize and catch up. It has been a quiet few months for us here, but we have plans for the upcoming year.

Our raffle tickets are ready, so at the meeting the members can pick up some books for selling. This is a good fundraiser for us.

Because we have been fairly quiet, it gives us time to remember the past year. Our 60th Anniversary for the Lodge was a milestone for us. We recall the event every once in a while I am enclosing a few more anniversary photos.

Thoughts and prayers for all that are having medical issues, and those that have lost loved ones. Our hearts go out to all of you.

Until next time!
Loretta Pratt, Publicity

A little humour

- *Two men are on opposite sides of the river. The first man shouts : "How do I get to the other side?" The other man yells: "You are on the other side!"*

- *If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.*

- *Salesperson: This computer will cut your workload by 50 percent! Manager: - Great! I'll take 2 of them.*

Viking Lodge 81

Surrey, B.C.

On March 3rd, 2024, some of our members attended the 100th Birthday Party for Vivian Bates held at the Scandinavian Centre. It was a wonderful celebration with many of her family in attendance. Verbal bouquets and well wishes came as well from Ron Stubbings, International Board Chair, SON District 7 President, Gloria Benazic, and her husband, Cal Benazic, Davi-Moulton, President of the Scandinavian Centre and many other family members and guests. Last month we advised you a member of our Lodge, John Seim had passed away, and on the news recently was the announcement that former Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, too, had passed away. It was therefore very interesting to receive a photo, from Betty Ann Seim, of John Seim receiving his Canadian Citizenship from the former Prime Minister, Mr. Mulroney. Else Bardsnes also mentioned that in the past, John Seim had been instrumental in obtaining and preparing the beef for the fabulous roast beef dinners our lodge held to raise funds for various charities we supported.

We held our first meeting of the year on Thursday, March 7th and celebrated St. Patrick's Day by donning something green. After all, the Vikings did invade Ireland and left their mark on the Emerald Isle.!

I attended the local White Rock Stamp Club on Wed., Mar. 6, to see whether they would be interested in having a look at a whole box of stamps donated recently to our Lodge by Magnar Bjorsvik What they do is they have an Auctioneer auction the box of



John Seim receiving his Canadian Citizenship from Brian Mulroney



Viking Lodge members honouring St. Patrick's Day

What they do is they have an Auctioneer auction the box of stamps and they are sold to the highest bidder. They do this every couple of months at their monthly meetings. They have about 50 active members and the night I dropped in to discuss the stamps, the Vice-President told me their club was able to donate about $10,000 this past year to various local charities in South Surrey/White Rock including Peace Arch Hospital and Surrey Hospital. We will discuss whether we will donate our box of stamps to them at our April meeting.

Raymond Bardsnes was a longtime member of our lodge. who passed away in 2016. Else Bardsnes, who has been a member of Sons of Norway for nearly 58 years having joined in Dec. 1, 1966, is Raymond's widow, and she spoke with me recently about the Fishcake Dinners that our Lodge put on. She told me that their friends Ruth & Per Gjerde, who were active in Norlandslaget and Tronderlaget clubs, had made many fishcake dinners and encouraged the Bardsnes to do the same for Viking Lodge. So Raymond procured about 100 lbs. of Cod fish from local fishermen and she mentioned in particular, Erling Olsen. Raymond & Else made up the fishcakes in their home and froze them in batches until they had enough for the Fishcake Dinner. I understand that Ingrid Engdahl gave them the recipe from a cookbook she had. They also had help from Mickey and Doreen Rasmussen. Later on, Jytte and John Kaland took over and did the cooking for the dinner and Marg Kirsebom organized the Prune dessert. These dinners were great fundraisers for our charities. Else also made many, many Kransekaker for the Lodge, weddings and other occasions which were enjoyed by all of us. Thanks to Myrna Latval for taking the photros.

Dolores Fossum,
Publicity





On the left Gerry & Mari Ann Jensen & on the right Ruth & Gunther Mielke



On the left Gordon Lande & John Kaland & on the right Else Bardsnes

Hardanger Lodge
Kelowna, B.C

Following our February meeting we enjoyed freshly cooked heart-shaped waffles with sour cream, butter, strawberries and jam along with a cup of coffee and lively conversation.

We seem to be focusing on all things Viking with a presentation last spring by Gary Goplen telling us about the Vikings in Ireland. In the fall members began construction of individual Viking shields. This project was mentioned in the January issue of Lieflette. More work is needed to complete this project.

By the time the March issue is distributed we will have enjoyed a talk by Kelowna resident, Terry Jensen about the Viking ship his father, Gordon built in the 1960's. Gordon Jennens, an engineer, invented a machine to harvest weeds from Okanagan Lake and also crafted a replica of a Viking ship. He built it on the lakeshore then shipped it to the Netherlands and sailed it to Norway in the summer of 1971. The ship is now stored under canvas on the Jennens' lakeshore property in Kelowna.

A couple of years ago a fire destroyed the family home built in 1930. Homeowner Terry Jennens had received a city grant to help with renovations being made so the British Arts and Craft-style home. Re-roofing was in progress with new materials stacked up on the property. Terry was able to safely get out of the house. It's pretty unique that this one 90-year old house was owned by the same Kelowna family all this time. Fortunately the Viking ship was not affected by the fire.

We look forward to celebrating our lodge's 50th Anniversary. It was in April 1974 that the inaugural meeting of the newly-formed lodge was held at a local restaurant in Kelowna with about 140 persons in attendance. The lodge's charter was granted in July 2, 1974.

Bev Akerlund,
Publicity

Sleipner Lodge 8
Vancouver, B.C

Hi everyone. It looks like the park has the winter without any damage. The creek has managed to stay inside its banks. We will be happy to see the engineering work on the creek completed this summer.

The new caretakers, Ollie and Karla, have settled in and are helping to get the park in shape. The weather has been cold, blustery and wet so not a lot of outside work has been done but that's about to change.

A couple of projects on the list are an upgrade to the electrical of the Bunkie and upgrade of the Candy Store, Kids Clubhouse and also the caretaker shop. Also some work on the water system I understand.


Ollie & Karla are the new caretakers at Hatzic.

I was looking through some of my stuff and I found a photo of Thor Heyerdahl. I took the picture at the Scandinavian Center when he was in Vancouver on his way to Bella Coola where he was going to collect DNA from the native population to test one of his migration theories.


Thor Hyerdahl

Our lodge sponsored a talk that he gave at the center. This was in the late 1990s. I believe. Thor Heyerdahl was a resident of B.C. before WW2.

Board meeting April 18 via. Zoom. Lodge meeting May 16 at Scandinavian Cente

Larry Brawn, Publicity

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

Last month! to send your lists!

Sofn7 Membership Contest

The contest will end and close at midnight on April 30, 2024. The draw will be made at the District 7 Convention 2024 for a $200.00 prize.

Each new ADULT member that joins Sons of Norway provides one "ticket" in the draw for the person doing the recruitment. Please note that a newly recruited member gets the same rights as any member, so they can also join the contest by recruiting a new member as well.

Each Lodge Membership Secretary must keep documentation of names of each member who signed up a new member, with multiple listing of that person if they sign up multiple people, and then submit a final listing to District Vice- President **Jim Tore Breivik.**

Best regards, Jim Tore Breivik,
Publicity Director District 7.
Vice President District 7.

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