SONS of NORWAY DISTRICT 7 in BEAUTIFUL BRITISH COLUMBIA

leiflette

September 2023 Next deadline September 10,

Hello September!

we hope you bring some much needed rain soon!



Ron Stubbings, **International Chair, with 2 Heritage Campers** at **Flag Raising**. Thanks for your help Ron, you made the Flag Raising memorable!



The morning raising of the flags at **Heritage Camp**



Kids display **Clan Flags** at **Heritage Camp**



Sleipner Ticket sellers & **krumkake** makers at **Piper Down event** at **Hatzic**



2 year old **Penelope Schilbach** of **Varden Lodge** on a scavenger hunt at **Heritage Camp.**



Rondane's Marilyn Anderson 17th Mai Celebration Cake made by **Anna Mytting**

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SONS of NORWAY

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Editor's Message

Let's hope September will bring enough rain to help with the wild-fire situation.

Judging by the photos, it looks like everybody had a happy, busy summer. I got so many photos that I couldn't get them all in so hope I chose wisely.

I have finished all my appointments now so am happy about that. Just have to get new lenses for my glasses. It's amazing what new cataracts can do! I have an anstigmatism so still need glasses which I don't mind.

My summer was quiet, and it was nice just to relax a bit but now the busy season starts. Hope you are all well and haven't been impacted to much by the smoke and fires.

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

Welcome Back Sons of Norway Members!

I trust you had a great summer and are ready to begin meeting again. I send you this message from Istria, Croatia where Cal and I are visiting his family. It is very hot but great to see the family members again after a 5-year absence for me. Cal was here two years ago when his sister passed but I was not able to attend.

I expect Heritage Camp went well and our families really enjoyed their time together. It is great that we have so many people who are willing to share teaching the various crafts and talents as well as organizing all the events to make a success camp.

It has been a fairly quiet summer for Sons of Norway activities for us but in Hardanger Lodge, Gary Goplen and Cal Benazic prepared a protype of a Viking shield and the Lodge will be signing up interested members who would like to build their own shield this fall. We must make sure to remember to have a picture submitted to the Leiflette once they are all completed.

We are looking forward to the 2024 District 7 Convention and Lodge Meeting next May hosted by Sleipner and Varden Lodges. They will be updating the Lodges as the preparations become finalized. We hope to see a full slate of delegates attend. It is always a great time to share ideas, learn about what has worked in other Lodges, and just to renew our interests in matters of Sons of Norway.

While in Croatia, we see the historical sites, traditions and lifestyles of the past and it reminds me of the connections we try to retain of our Norwegian ancestry as well as learning about the present lifestyle of Norway. Our two granddaughters from Kelowna, Eva and Martina Benazic, are here with us and are keen to learn from the ancient monuments, castles and stories. Later this week, we are driving about 45 minutes to the city of Pula who has an arena similar (but maybe in better shape) to the coliseum in Rome. They currently use the arena for music concerts in the summers. We looked for artists the girls might be familiar with but the only one I recognized this month was the 'Gypsy Kings' which would have been great for me but the girls did not know them at all. (Tells my age, I guess!)

Wishing you very successful gatherings and wished I could join you for a kaffe!!

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

Lodge Updates



All the people who helped out at the Duck Race on the Canada Day long weekend



The Davis Lake wildfire.

Sleipner Lodge 8

Vancouver, B.C.

Hi everyone. Well This has been a wonderful summer in the park at Hatzic near Mission. For everyone except Ellana Flynn who broke her leg at the park. We all wish her a speedy and full recovery.

The park has been busy this Summer. It started off in May with a pub night Karaoke and the opening of the pool. The pool area this year has new grass in the area by the creek and new umbrellas for shade. Wow! A lot of people are spending time by the creek where it's cool on hot days.



Colin Thomson with Piper Down. Colin is Sleipner Lodge Vice President.



Everybody enjoyed an evening with Piper Down playing in the Gazebo.

The creek is going to undergo an overhaul to improve flood issues and improve spawning habitat so maybe we'll get some of property back that has been eroded over the years. Hopefully they leave some shade trees.

On Canada Day long weekend we had a duck race that was a lot of fun. There was a lot of splashing around in the creek. We lost two ducks. After the Duck Race we had a short memorial for June Ruzas. I believe there was a large cake involved.

On July 08 there was the Border Festival. Our lodge didn't have a royalty candidate this year. The winning candidate was a fellow from Washington. So we have our first Border King.

On July 29 we had an Open Board Meeting at the park. It was well attended. On August 5th. Piper Down played in the gazebo. It was a great evening. Eric Haugen hosted a Dime Toss for the kids. Yes. That Eric Haugen. Eric and his family were over from Norway for a short visit. It took them a while to get back home to Oppdal because of the flooding. I understand they ended up taking a cab. Yikes!

Heritage Camp just wrapped up and was hugely successful. The kids especially had a wonderful time. Tanya Jacobsen and her assistants deserve a big hand. One thing that Tanya said was how there were a number of lost items. Not just at Heritage Camp, but in the park over the summer in general. There has been basically a 100% return rate. That is something to be proud of.

At the time of this writing there is still some summer left so I'll have more next month. Oh. There was an Engagement Party at Hatzic during Heritage Camp. Brendon and Aasta are getting married. Wow! Best wishes to those two.

There has been two wildfires in the vicinity of Davis Lake, not far from our park. The second one was over 200 acres. They were worrisome.
Our lodge has a busy Fall schedule. Dates and venues sometimes change.

- Sept 21. Lodge Meeting at SCCS
- Oct 11 Cleanup Weekend at Hatzic- Oct 20 Seterskveld at SCCS
- Nov 05 Welcome to Norway at SCCS
- Oct 28 Leaseholder's Meeting at Hatzic.

Your's truly,
Larry

Varden Lodge 19

New Westminster, B.C.

Greetings! I hope you had a wonderful summer despite the heatwaves. I am writing this just before Heritage Camp starts. I hope, if you go, you have lots of fun. I will certainly report on it next issue. However, since the summer is just about over I will tell you about the events Varden Lodge took part in.



President Susan Strang awards John Lind 15 year membership pin at the Varden Lodge picnic in Ryall Park New Westminster.

First, there was the Border Festival on July 8th. Our International President, Ron Stubbings, attended along with his family and its newest member, baby Ellie. Varden member, Jayden Britt was the outgoing Border Festival Queen. Her brother Wesley's friend, Emma Wolfe, is now Varden's Queen. Sadly, she did not become the Border Festival Queen. The surprise is there is no Border Festival Queen but now there is a King. However, the young man was detained by Canadian Border patrol as his mother mistakenly drove him over the boundary. Someone else opened envelope and he discovered that his name was picked only after the ceremony.



The Freya Clan at Heritage Camp



Varden members sitting on Jarrid Mosdell's bench: Jayden Britt, Nerissa Beeby, Cian Beeby & Cian's friend Riley Tan.



Clash of the Clans competition at Heritage Camp



Connor Schilbach with the 112th Anniversary cake for Varden Lodge

Varden's next event, was the Anniversary Picnic on July 23rd. Although the turnout wasn't huge there was a good cross representation of generations, right from Vivian Bates to little Penelope Schilbach. We also saw the Lind Family who played a rousing game of Kubb.



The 4 to 6 year olds with Jayden Britt in a craft class.

Both Kassie and Kristie Lind will be going to UBC as theatre students this fall. We wish them all the best. Also, Congratulations to John Lind who received his pin for being a member for fifteen years. We celebrated Varden Lodge's 112th Anniversary in grand style before we meet again on September 12th.

Krista Solie, Editor.



Rondane's Midsommar feast June 24/25



Show of costumes at Midsommar

Rondane Lodge 71

Prince George,B.C.

Spring and summer came and left really quickly as usual. With the weather uncertain, it was decided we celebrate 17 of May on the 18, after our general meeting at noon, at Carmel Restaurant`s party room downstairs. President, Anna Mytting, had for the occasion baked a cake, and decorated the top to look like Norwegian flag. Marilyn Anderson led us all in a Grand March around the room, where we made bridges with our arms for the parade to go through, and occasionally stopped, where each person turned around in circles, while clapping their hands, before commencing the marching. The appropriate music was provided by Larry Anderson, on a portable device. It was a good excercise, and as some of the ladies wore their Bunads, it was a nice show.

The last Ladies Aid meeting before summer, was a luncheon on the deck of Ladies Aid President, Edna Rouleau`s home. It was a very, sunny hot day, but lots of big parasols gave everyone a chance to sit in the shade. The wide, crazy hats everyone was asked to wear, also helped. As usual, the table, {in the house}, was laden with delicious food and baking to choose from. I was a bit late, so I was no. 13 to arrive, so maybe that was the lucky number, since I won the door prize: A cute, solar powered metal bird that soaks up sun during the day, and then emits light at night.

Date for the next Ladies`s meeting was not decided on yet, but members will be notified by phoning committee

The weekend of June 24 - 25, Midsummer was celebrated at the property of the Mytting-Horrocks



Art Cardina & Merv Angelski enjoying the outdoors at Midsommar



Edna Rouleau shows off her hat at the Hat Parade which was held at her home.



L-R Joan Lemky, Anna Mytting, Diane McLeod & Carol Schulte. with their hats at Ladies Auxilliary meeting.



L-R: Brent Horrocks, Kirsten Brawn, Karin Smale at Rondane Midsommar

family at Murch Lake, North-west of Prince George. About 35 people attended, some staying the weekend in their RVs. or trailers. One member stayed in one of their several cabins. Even though it was nice before, Anna and Brent had worked very hard to make it even nicer. Anna had also baked a big cheese cake which she decorated the top to look like a Norwegian flag, using strawberries and blueberries on the white icing. I heard that everyone had a good time.

The September General meeting will be held after lunch at Carmel restaurant on September 21. Again, the Phoning Committee will call.

Lutefisk Dinner this year will be held at Murch Lake on Saturday September 9. For more information, Tore Pettersen has put it on the computer to all who own one, or you can call Karin Smale or Tore by phone.

Hilsen, Elsa Aase,
Publicity

Nordic Lodge 76

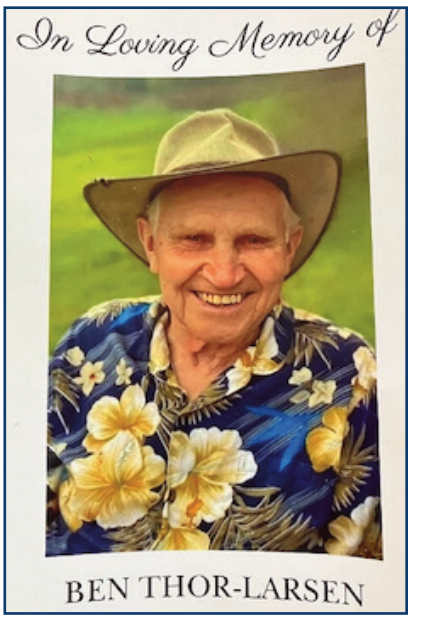
Castlegar, B.C.

Members of the Sons of Norway Nordic Lodge No. 76 celebrated Syttende Mai on May 17, 2023, at President Ida Price's home in Castlegar, where she had prepared a feast of baked salmon and baked a beautiful blødkake, covered in homemade marzipan icing and decorated with flowers and tiny flags of Norway. Former Vice-President Ole Kristiansen visited from Westbank, British Columbia, and a couple from the neighborhood dropped by to enjoy the feast and to learn about the culture of Norway.

The Syttende Mai celebration was small as Glenn and Eileen Axselson were holidaying in Europe on their maiden trip to Norway. In the coming months, Members hope to hear more about their adventures. In late May, Conrad Brattebo spent two months on his home island of Karmøy, for a huge family gathering, a trip he takes often. The island of Karmøy is where the 'North Way', the shipping lane that gave Norway its name, strategically narrows, and where Harold Fair-Hair had an estate called Avaldsnes. Haakon the Good (934-961) fought a great battle and won the kingdom from the sons of Erik Blood-Axe on Karmøy, and Olaf Tryggvason (995-100) drowned a pack of sorcerers on the island of Karmøy. Members are looking forward to a good Viking tale!

On June 2023, the Viking Ship Garden Bench continued its journey with Sculpturewalk in Castlegar, and moved to its new home in former Kinnaird, near the water store that is easily seen by passerby's driving into Castlegar.

On August 4, 2023, Members gathered, along with over two hundred friends, family and community members to honour Ben Thor-Larson who passed away on December 24, 2022, in Castlegar. The Castlegar Complex was filled to overflowing as people came to pay honour. A fitting tribute to a long-time Member of the Sons of Norway Nordic Lodge 76.



Members are planning on meeting in early September 2023 to kick off the 2023/2024 year with hopes of attracting new Members and their families.

May peace and harmony prevail throughout.

Ingeborg Leavell,
Publicity



Syttende Mai gathering at President Ida Prices, from left to right: Conrad Brattebo, President Ida Price, Secretary Ingeborg Leavell, Ole Kristiansen, Sandra Gunderson & a couple from the neighborhood.

Dawson Creek Lodge 79

Dawson Creek ,B.C.

I can not believe how the time has passed this summer and we are back to Leiflette time. This summer and the wildfires were so terrible. Taking a holiday was very difficult, with all the wildfires burning, and the smoke filled air.

We ended our year with our usual picnic, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. Our President, Randy, hosted the event at his acreage and bbq'd hamburgers for all of us. Potluck from the rest of us and it was delicious. Enjoyed a few games, one being of Norwegian descent. The weather that



Treasurer, Donna Porada, displays the 3 cheques, made out to the winning recipients of our raffle. Draw was made at the picnic.



Kathy McKibben (left), a local lady, receiving her winning cheque from the raffle Dawson Creek member, Lorraine Lawrence

day was great. We held a money raffle this spring, and we drew the winning tickets at our BBQ. There were three lucky people winning cash. This raffle proves to be a good fundraiser for our lodge. We all enjoyed the summer break to visit family, attend weddings, welcome babies, picnic with friends and much more.

Now we look forward to a new year and new projects. We are starting in September with plans to celebrate our 60th year for our Lodge. A supper is planned for September 23. We are hoping for a good turnout and a little social time and a bit of Lodge history.

Our hearts go out to all those that lost so much in the wildfires. We also think of those of us that are suffering with illnesses and we think of all those that have lost loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers are with all.

Until next time!
Loretta Pratt



Right: Gloria Benazic & daughter, Lisa Ward, (a member of Dawson Creek Lodge), at the Kelowna Syttende Mai picnic. Gloria sewed Lisa's new bunad, except for the shirt



Playing games at Dawson Creek Lodge Picnic. Members Sandy O'Donovan (our secretary,) Kevin Gilbertson & President Randy Carlstad taking part.

Viking Lodge 79
Surrey, B.C.

We held our Members Meeting on June 1, 2023 which was the last one before the fall. There were 17 Members in attendance. A delicious lunch of sandwiches & desserts followed the meeting.

Our Treasurer, Lars Poulsen, provided information on the positive results from our Pizza Night & Silent Auction which was held at the end of April. John Kaland won the 50/50 draw at the Pizza Night.

Gerry Jensen advised that he and Mari Ann Jensen visited John and Betty Ann Seim at their home and presented Betty Ann with her 50 year Membership Pin and Certificate. Congratulations Betty Ann!

Gwen MacDowell sent a condolence card to Sharon Coles' nephew, Chris Engh and his partner, Tonya Bieman. To date we have not heard when a Memorial is to be held for Sharon Coles.

As a representative of our Lodge, on the Board of Directors of Norwegian House Society, Dolores Fossum attended on June 23 rd as part of the work party including the preparation of Lefse as NHS's contribution to desserts for sale for the Midsummer Festival. On June 24th , she assisted at the "make a Troll" booth in the Norway House tent. Many kids really enjoyed the "Troll" making experience. As in the past, there was a wonderful Meatball Lunch as well as open faced sandwiches and Scandinavian desserts.

The Border Festival was held on July 8th , and a few members of Viking Lodge attended including Gerry & Mari Ann Jensen and Mari Ann's guest from WA state, Lars and Lily Anne Poulsen as well as Dolores Fossum. A bring your own picnic lunch was enjoyed and a dessert table was shared. It is a good opportunity to fellowship with some of our American fellow Lodge members of SON. Several of our Lodge members bought Raffle Tickets but unfortunately no one from our Lodge won anything. Instruction on how to play the game of Kubb was given and it is hoped that next year members will be ready for a fun competition.

Recognition of longtime members Vivian Bates and Helen Mosdell of Varden Lodge was given by the MC of



Ron Stubbings as rep. for Canadian SON Lodges at Border Festival



Gerry & Mari Ann Jensen Visited John & Betty Seim to present Betty Ann with her 50 year Pin & Certificate.

the Border Festival and she said SON must be doing something right to have such long standing members. Our International President, Ron Stubbings and his wife, Riitta Huttunen also attended.

There was an apologetic note mentioned by the MC of the fact that they had to change the date from a Sunday to a Saturday which also meant that many members of other Lodges, including Viking Lodge, were not able to attend. A candidate for Festival King was from the SON Able Lodge, Conway, WA. On the way to the border, while driving his Mom got lost and he ended up in a holding cell at the Border because he had a toy Viking sword which contained some kind of hard metal. However, happy ending to the story was before we left the picnic he was released from the holding cell and was awaiting discharge from the jail. But to offset the negative experience he won the title of "King" of the Festival as it is done by sealed envelope and, a representative of his home Lodge accepted his appointment in his absence. Apparently, he really looks like a Viking so no wonder the Border Police were suspicious!

There is a Viking Re-enactment Group who are interested in working with the Sons of Norway Lodge in Conway, WA. to entice new younger members to the Lodges. I hope that works, and good on Marcie North, of Able Lodge, Conway, WA for pursuing this.

We hope the following members had very Happy Birthdays in July: Kimberly Cline, Dolores Fossum, Berit Hansen, Ruth Lande, Keri Van Gerven, Johanne Zgrablic and in August: Gordon Lande and Betty Ann Seim.

Dolorus Fossom, Publicity

Hardanger Lodge 109, Kelowna, B.C.

Our Syttende Mai celebration was held in the lovely garden of Wenche Gransjoen on a pleasant spring evening. It was a potluck supper with polse med lompa and ice cream provided by the lodge. Members brought delicious side dishes and enjoyed lively conversations.

Our St. Hans Fest was an early afternoon event at the home of Gary and Nancy Goplen. After enjoying appetizers, open face sandwiches and drinks members were invited to play Klub. President, Gloria Benazic sat on the sidelines and directed the players and their moves.

Gary Goplen plans to host a workshop at his home for members to learn how to construct a Viking shield.

Our September meeting will be held at a new location. It will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of September at the Capital News Centre on Gordon Drive. We think this will be a more inviting venue than the Kelowna Riding Club.

Bev Akerlund, Publicity



Hardanger's Niels Selnes, hobknobbing with Peter Holmes & Joyce Hall on each side of him during Syttende Mai Celebrations.