

Hardanger Nyheter

SONS OF NORWAY
HARDANGER LODGE 7 #109,
KELOWNA BC

READ ABOUT,
The beginning of the Norwegian-Canadians
The Otolith
AND MORE.....

Royals Head Off to University -
Archaeology World

Whale Watching
Norwegian Forest Cats
Prince Harald

Cover Page—An airial view of the city of Kelowna

Hardanger Lodge #109. Kelowna, BC.

Email; wilfandbev@shaw.ca

President—Gloria Benazic 1-250-613-9234

Vice President— Darlene Osterlin 250-470-1850

Secretary— Bev Akerlund 778-478-6764

Treasurer— Gary Goplen 250-212-5560

Social Director— Dale Acott 778-484-5747

Cultural Dir.— Wenche Gransjoen 250-763 8191

Foundation Dir.— Darlene Osterlin 250-470-1850

Message from President Gloria Benazic

WELCOME, WELCOME!! Welcome to our regular Lodge members and welcome to all our new Lodge members from Heimdal Lodge, Kamloops, who transferred last month. Although it is sad to have a lodge close, we are so happy to have these members join us and remain part of Sons of Norway. We invite all our members to join in meetings or activities throughout the year. I would encourage the members in Kamloops to continue to get together – maybe over coffee – and if there are activities that we could combine on, please let me know.



The District 7 Convention and Lodge Meeting was held in May in Port Alberni. Darlene Osterlin was a delegate; as well, I attended as the Chair. Port Alberni did a great job of hosting the event and it was a very productive weekend. A slight change in the District Board: secretary Donna Hedley stepped down, Tania Jacobsen elected secretary, and Karen Frederickson of Dawson Creek Lodge elected as Youth/Recreation Director. I was delighted to have delegates from Saskatchewan and Alberta attend their first District 7 convention following joining District 7 in November 2025.

A few items upcoming are plans for Foundation Month in October and I encourage all members to consider making a gift to the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada. These gifts help support annual student awards for post-secondary degrees and college students certification or diploma programs, as well as apprenticeship programs. The Foundation provides grants for various activities such as teaching crafts, summer camps, and learning opportunities.

We do not have Lodge elections this year (every two years) but if you are looking to help, please consider taking on a role in support of one of our officers. Working alongside an officer as an assistant allows you to learn about the job and makes the transition easier when running for a board position. New people bring in new ideas, which helps every organization grow.

It is with a heavy heart that we say farewell to a wonderful King Harald V, king of Norway. Cal and I had the honour of meeting and dining with King Harald and Queen Sonja a few years ago in Minneapolis. I was so impressed with his dinner speech – not that typical “I am glad to be here” – but words that spoke of planning for the future and Sons of Norway being a wonderful group to keep our Norwegian culture alive. Cal attended the 200th Anniversary (Syttende Mai) in Oslo in 2014 where hundreds of thousands of people joined in the celebration at the palace for over four hours – and the royals were there the entire time. We have seen the reports of the gatherings since the passing of the King and likely will be thousands gathered on 9 September when his funeral is held.

Cont'd. from Page 2.

Message from President Gloria Benazic

Our first meeting of the fall is 16 September at 6 pm as it is a Harvest potluck dinner. We look forward to everyone joining in - bring a dish of your choice as well as a picture of yourself at 3-6 years old and see who can guess the rightful owner!! If you don't have a child's picture, maybe you have a grade school picture, so that will work as well. Our newsletter editor, Wilf Akerlund, produces a great information piece and if you have something to contribute, please let Wilf know.

Again, welcome to the fall session of Sons of Norway. We look forward to your participation and contributions. We get better by the contributions of many so join in and help make us stronger.

Ha det Gloria Benazic

1500-Year-Old Gold Ornament Discovered

Norway continues to reveal its historic secrets by way of archaeological finds. The latest discovery



to history lately

was made by a hiker in the southwestern part of the country, in the Austrått district of Sandnes. The rare find was of a highly ornamental gold piece that would have decorated a scabbard, or covering of a sword. The piece is small in size and features filigree ornamentation, indicating it would have been made by highly skilled goldsmiths. The fitting depicts abstract animal imagery, with symmetry tying everything together.

Experts determine the find to be about 1,500 years old, and place it in the Migration Period, which lasted from around 375 – 500 AD. This period was marked by turmoil, with the fall of the Roman Empire and weather and plague epidemics that greatly affected the population.

Only those most influential people would have owned something like this, indicating it may have belonged to a powerful chieftain of the area. The object showed wear, which suggests it was more than just a ceremonial piece of weaponry. Experts theorize that the valuable may have been buried for religious reasons, as a sacrifice to the gods to protect the people at a time of crisis.

Royals Head Off to University

After an eventful summer attending world cup soccer matches in the US, royal siblings Princess Ingrid Alexandra (22) and Prince Sverre Magnus (20) are each off to university this fall.

Ingrid Alexandra started a bachelor's program in Sydney, Australia in fall 2025, but returned home in the spring when her mother needed a double lung transplant. Rather than continuing her social sciences studies in Sydney, the royal will attend the University of Oslo (UiO) as an "exchange student" for a year, to be closer to her mother.

The 20-year-old prince has departed for his first academic adventures abroad, in Portugal. As a first-year business management student at Forward University, he will study economics, statistics, and accounting. His program will continue with classes in Berlin and Paris, after which he will be qualified to become an analyst, consultant or operations manager.



Vickie Knew Nothing about her Family in Norway

Whale Watching

Seeing whales off the coast of Norway is not highly unusual. However, seeing a beluga whale swimming in a river near Oslo is. Recently, residents along the Drammenselva river spotted a Beluga whale swimming upstream. Word spread of the strange sight, drawing onlookers and gawkers alike.

Beluga whales are distinct in appearance, with their white coloring and lack of a dorsal fin. These adaptations help them navigate under ice better when they are in their more natural environment of the Arctic. While they have been



Vickie Richardson and her husband John recently came from the US to Kalvåg to find Becky's roots. She found much more than she expected.

Together with her husband John Richardson, she recently came from Seattle in the USA to find out more about her roots in Norway, a country neither she nor John have visited before.

Vickie's father did some genealogy research in the 80s, but it wasn't until later, when Vickie herself sat down and read through what her father had written, that she herself became curious about the idea of where her grandmother Aslaug Annevik grew up. Early last year, she joined Facebook groups that dealt with genealogy aimed at Americans of Norwegian descent.

"Gradually I came into contact with Norwegians, and one lady in Tromsø in particular gave me good advice on how to go about finding Norwegian relatives.

Five of six went to the USA

Aslaug Annevik was one of six children who grew up on the Annevik farm, not far from Kalvåg. Five of the six went to America to find a better life.

"Many people from Bremanger ended up in the Seattle area. They were good fishermen and worked hard."

The Richardsons now live in the same area where Vickie's grandparents settled, near Seattle.

The Richardsons now live in the same area where Vickie's grandparents settled, near Seattle.

"Many people from Bremanger ended up in the Seattle area. They were good fishermen and worked hard."

The Richardsons now live in the same area where Vickie's grandparents settled, near Seattle.

One of the siblings returned to Norway

Of the five siblings who sought their fortune in America, one returned to Norway and Bremanger after six years. It was the youngest of them, Julius Annevik, born in 1890.

Since the heir, the eldest son, Ole, remained in the United States, Julius inherited the small farm of Annevik.

Julius's granddaughters Irene and Eva Annevik, both living in Bergen, hosted Vickie and John when they visited the family farm.

During the visit to Bremanger, a lot of old photo albums were browsed, and a lot of information was exchanged about the life of the family on both sides of the Atlantic.

"It has been incredibly fun to experience this. I had almost no expectations when I started digging into family history, but now I really feel like I have gained a whole new understanding of family history," says Vickie Richardson.

Friday Chat with Solveig Brekke Hauknes

In the "Friday Chat" column, we [folkemusikk.noj] meet a folk musician for an informal conversation.

Photo caption: Solveig Brekke Hauknes dancing up Karl Johan on May 17th, 2023. Foto: Kulturfotografen, Thor Hauknes

Name: Solveig Brekke Hauknes

Born: 1993

Comes from: Bærum

Lives in: Vågå

Profession: Cultural worker

Why do you play music and dance?

Because it's meaningful. I enjoy the community I've become part of, and I want to continue being part of the folk music family. But I want to highlight the importance of events like Strunkeveko, Mokurset, and the kappleik (folk music & dance competitions)—that's what kept me going.

Who are your key mentors?

Regarding dance, Vegar Vårdal has been important for technique and that side of things; I've learned a lot from him in recent years. As for music, Hallvard Kvåle was there from the start, and then Erlend Viken for a good while—both through the Bærum Fiddlers' Club (*Bærum spellemannslag*) and the music program in high school.

If you could only listen to one folk music album for the rest of your life, which one would it be?

It would have to be some *runddans* (partner dance) music. I'd champion *Gamlebanken*. I've listened to that album a lot; it's good dance music.

If we look into the crystal ball: What will folk music and folk dance look like in 20 years?

I think it will be thriving. Twenty years isn't that far off. It'll be interesting to see if we get new peaks and waves of popularity, like the ones we've seen in parts of the country recently. But regardless, I believe folk music and folk dance will be in good shape.



Norway gets its name from Old Norse Norðrvegr, an early form of Nordweg, which translates to "the Northern Way."

The beginning of the Norwegian-Canadians

2026 marks the 173rd anniversary of first organised Norwegian migration to Canada.

In 1856 a group of 52 Norwegians set sail from Kristiania (Oslo), Norway on the ship Flora to mark the first organized migration from Norway to Canada. Since that first voyage, over 100,000 Norwegians and Norwegian-Americans have followed to Canada, leaving their homes in Norway and the United States in search of opportunities and a better life in Canada. These Norwegians and Norwegian Americans stayed and built a new home in the Dominion of Canada. Today, nearly 475,000 Canadians claim Norwegian ancestry.

Norwegian Forest Cats

The Norwegian Forest cats are a long-haired breed, part of their coat can make a ruff around their head, that made their home in Norway for many hundred years. They typically come in solid orange to tabby to tortoise shell coats, also they are a larger breed of cat as in they are on the heavier than your normal cat, 12 lbs for the female and around 16 lbs for the male. These cats join the group of mammals that have double coat layers like the German Shepard or Polar Bear and are not a huge fan of the hot or humid Wisconsin summers because of this fluffy addition to their wardrobe. They also join the Seasonal Coat Color group that includes Snowshoe Hare and Stoats –many of the cats have been known to change their coats with the seasons. As any good Norwegian these felines are good family cats and work well in many situations as they are very adaptable. This is evident in the fact that they are excellent sailors, who would take them on board as mouser for their ships.



The Otolith

The Otolith – A New Museum in Northern Norway An exciting new museum opened at the end of June, in the Lofoten area in Norway. This museum is known as The Otolith and will be part of the SKREI center for knowledge and experiences. Skrei is the Norwegian word for Northeast Arctic Cod, the fish that travels from the Barents Sea to the Norwegian coast to spawn. It has been instrumental to the Lofoten fishery, as well as Norway's culture and economy. The main exhibit at The Otolith will lead guests through an engaging experience of Lofoten, its fishery, the people who fish, and the impact fishing has today and in the future. The



new building will also feature a museum shop, restaurant, and changing exhibitions. Visitors to The Otolith will receive access to the Lofoten Museum, Aquarium, and Espolin Gallery. All in all, the collection of attractions will give guests a deep understanding of the backbone of the area, while offering something for everyone.

Archaeology World

Deep in the casemates of Kronborg Castle in Helsingør, Denmark, sits a massive statue of a man asleep with his arms crossed over a sword. This is Holger Danske, a powerful national symbol rooted in a legend blending medieval history and folklore. The myth suggests that Holger is not dead but merely sleeping, remaining in these dark tunnels until Denmark faces its "darkest hour." When that time comes, he will wake up and lead the Danish people to victory. While the character first appeared in 11th-century French poems, Hans Christian Andersen cemented his local legacy by placing him beneath Kronborg in an 1845 fairy tale. 🇩🇰 🏰 ⚔️



Ålesund the Art Nouveau City

The city of Ålesund is considered “the pearl” of Norway’s western coast and like many other coastal towns, is known to have a large fishing industry. Another unique distinction of this city’s center is its architecture – done almost entirely in the Art Nouveau style.

Art Nouveau was a popular trend across various art mediums, including architecture from about 1890-1910. The style follows a naturalistic philosophy, taking its cues from nature and shies away from straight lines and perfect symmetry. The houses and storefronts in Ålesund feature pastel colors and ornamental flourishes such as Norwegian dragon carvings, and spires that mimic stave churches.

It is unusual that one town would have such uniform architecture, but Ålesund’s current beauty came from a tragic past. Originally, the buildings were all wooden, until a fire broke out in January 1904, destroying 850 structures and leaving 10,000 residents homeless.

The city was rebuilt in just four years, using safer brick and stone materials. The young architects that came to design and build, came primarily fresh from being trained in the Art Nouveau style, resulting in the concentrated and uniform look that the city has today.



When Prince Harald was born in 1937, he became the first Norwegian prince born in Norway in 567 years.

He represented Norway as an Olympic sailor in three consecutive Olympic Games: Tokyo 1964, Mexico City 1968, and Munich 1972. In fact, he carried the Norwegian flag at the opening ceremony in Tokyo in 1964.

He was still winning international sailing titles in his late 60s. Harald became a world champion in 1987 and a European champion in 2005, at age 68. Even more remarkably, he continued competing in regattas until 2022, when he was 85.

He waited nine years to marry the woman he loved. Harald's determination to marry commoner Sonja Haraldsen caused such controversy that some even predicted the marriage could bring down the Norwegian monarchy. King Olav V eventually gave his consent, and Harald and Sonja married in 1968.

He was Queen Elizabeth II's second cousin. Harald's grandmother, Queen Maud, was a British princess, the daughter of King Edward VII and granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

He was related to Prince Philip as well. Harald and Philip both descended from King Christian IX of Denmark.

Following Queen Elizabeth II's death in 2022, **Harald** was the oldest reigning monarch in Europe and held that distinction until his own death at 89.

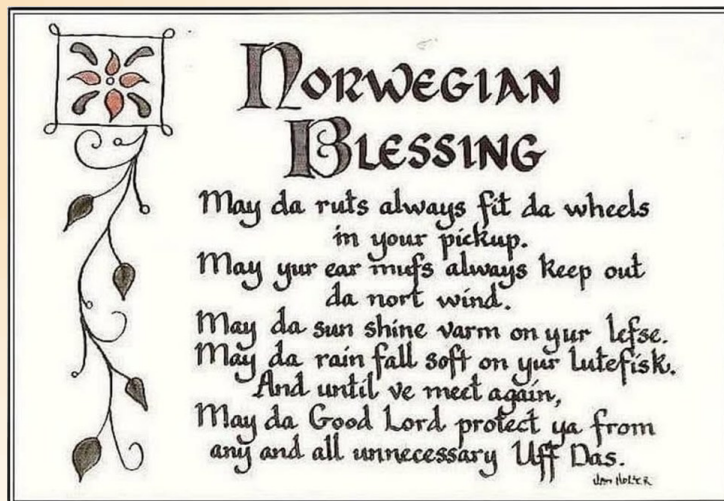
Ole was having eye trouble, so he went to see the optometrist. "Put this little gadget over your left eye, Ole," said the optometrist. "Now over the right eye, over the left eye. No, Ole, I said left eye. Now right . . . No Ole, your right eye!" Completely confused, Ole just looked at the optometrist. "Now, Ole," the optometrist continued, "just remember which is your left hand. OK, Ole, cover your right eye . . . No Ole, that's your left eye!" Finally in exasperation, the optometrist took a brown paper bag, cut a hole in it, put it over Ole's head, and moved the hole back and forth from the left eye to the right eye. "Now, Ole," asked the optometrist, "How is that?" "Vell, Doc, I guess it's all right," said Ole. "But I vas vishing I could have some wire rims like Sven."

Da Yokes on Yu

In the Bible it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. They called it a disaster!



In Norway, we call it summer!



Our Lodge meeting will be held on Sept. 16th at 1450 Bertram St. @ 6 pm. A potluck supper.

Bring a dish of your choice as well as a picture of yourself at 3-6 years old and see who can guess the rightful owner!!