



SOLSYD LODGE No. 603 Zone 4 Lethbridge, Alberta

Dear fellow Sons of Norway Lodge Members,

We would like to invite every one of you to come and enjoy the annual Sons of Norway Sports Weekend in High River, Alberta on **May 28, 29 & 30th**.

Due to COVID-19, last year's Sports Weekend was cancelled. This year we hope to finally host this event with all of you in attendance. We will be watching the news and Alberta rules as we approach the date, and everyone will be notified immediately if this event must be cancelled yet again.

Please join us for a festive reunion of SON members and friends at the Heritage Inn Hotel in High River which will be our "headquarters" and where the banquet will be held.

Heritage Inn Hotel, at **403 652-3834**, is generously giving a discounted room rate (\$93.80) for us for this event! There are two other hotels in High River.

Super 8 at **403 652-4448** (varied rates) and **Ramada** at **403 603-3183** (\$134). We also have **George Lane Campground**, phone **403 652-2529**. However, this campground is very popular so book early.

Come Friday for the visiting and celebrating Canadian-Norwegian culture. Our Saturday will be jam-packed with fun games like golf, horseshoes, whist, lawn bowling and shuffleboard. We are also planning on going on a walking tour of downtown High River to see the history of this unique western gem. Fear not for the weather as plans have been made in case of storms.

Go to <http://www.sofncalgary.ca/sports-weekend/> to access the registration form. It is also available from your lodge leaders. Registration fee is \$80.00. When phoning any of the hotels, mention that you are coming for the Sons of Norway Sports Weekend to get the special discount.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dylan Viste at DCViste2202@gmail.com or email Rut Bjorkum-Mason at bjorkumr@shaw.ca.

We look forward to a great weekend of fun and friends. Bring your

KALENDER

March 24, Meeting Cancelled

April 21, Meeting Cancelled



Gratulerer Med Dagen

March: Vern Flexhaug, Carol Isele, Marilyn McKinley, Joyce Odland

April: Sharon Prenevost

CONGRATULATIONS to Solsyd Lodge member, Roelof Heinen, for being named Picture Butte Citizen of the Year.

His advice to people is to "work hard, stay the course, be kind, share and try to leave this world a better place than when you entered it".

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it is now a year since we last met and we are still unable to make plans for meeting again. I hope everyone is doing okay. Some of us are now eligible for our vaccine shots. Lyle and I had our first one last week and look forward to the second in early April. Perhaps after that we can make plans to meet (if the variants don't cause a problem).

Since our last newsletter, Jean and I met to prepare our year end Achievement Forms and Jean submitted them in a timely manner.

We were invited to join a Zoom meeting on January 27, organized by Valhalla Lodge. Bev and I took advantage of this opportunity. This was a meeting to hear a presentation by Christoffer Myide, Norway's Honorary Consul for Southern Alberta. He shared his insights on various topics related to Norway/Canada relations. He talked about current conditions in Norway including their response to the Pandemic. He also reminded us that there is a new Norwegian Ambassador in Ottawa, Jon Elvedal Fredriksen who began this role in August of 2020. He is hoping to visit Alberta in 2021.

The Sports Weekend is scheduled for High River on May 28-30, 2021 and the registration deadline is April 15. Let's hope this can happen this year. Mark your calendars. We will send out registration forms soon.

I realized I am holding an order of 20 pins commemorating the 125th Anniversary of Sons of Norway. They didn't come until after the start of the pandemic. I have a list of the people who ordered them in case you have forgotten. The cost of a pin is \$15.00 and if you want yours before we meet, call me and we will arrange for a pick-up or delivery.

This year is the 35th Anniversary of Solsyd Lodge. Think about how we can celebrate that.

On March 17, which should be our regular meeting night, I will schedule a Zoom meeting to see how many of our members would be able to join us. It will be informal, a chance to connect and a time to share ideas about plans for the future. If you need a 'practice' zoom session, let me know and we will arrange it before March 17. The link to connect will be sent to you about March 15.

It would be fitting to be able to gather for the first time after the isolation of the Pandemic to raise the Norwegian flag on May 17 and to dedicate the trees we had planted at Legacy Park as well as the monument at Henderson Lake, but we will have to wait and see.

Betty

NORWEGIAN VIKINGS & IRELAND

The first group of Vikings to invade Ireland was most likely Norwegian, known as the Finngaill, the fair foreigners. The translation, which is often debated, could have been related to either their ethnicity, their skin or hair color, or even the color of weapons and battle clothing. Another theory is Finngall refers to *old* foreigners and that it's not related to a physical description.

The Vikings, who were referred to as heathens, first appear in the **Annals of Ulster 795AD** compiled by the monastic movement in Ireland.

The Vikings stayed close along the Irish coast. They targeted many of the **Irish monasteries** located near the coast and on riverbanks. They used the waterways to their advantage and plundered the monasteries in hit and run attacks.

The monasteries, more than just places of worship, gained a reputation throughout Europe as places of excellence. The settlements were often community and political hubs that secured silver & gold relics. Not only did the monasteries face the threat of attack from the Vikings, but they also faced a bigger threat from the Irish.

There are various theories on why the Vikings attacked monasteries in Ireland. One such theory suggests the Vikings, who were pagan, preyed on the monastic movement. They stole and damaged relics, took hostages, and killed the clergymen. Another theory is that word got to the Scandinavians, who were elsewhere in Europe, that Ireland's monasteries had great wealth. Or did the warriors accidentally stumble upon their first monastery, as they scouted to expand the Norse Kingdoms?

Ireland had no centralized government when the Vikings arrived. The island was split into several Kingdoms that were fragmented into smaller sub-kingdoms and territories. The political mark-up of Ireland was complex and often violent.

Along with the **High King** there were several other kings, and chieftains, none of which worked as a centralized government. There was a constant power struggle between the kings and chieftains so battles were a common occurrence between the Irish Kingdoms. The absence of any unified front in Ireland made it easier for the Vikings to invade with each Kingdom having to protect their own territory.

(Taken from <https://www.yourirish.com/history>)



Norway's Easter Thrillers

Easter celebrations in Norway bring to mind visions of springtime ski excursions to mountain cabins, colorful decorations and time spent with friends and family. However, none of these Norwegian traditions are as unfamiliar and unusual to North Americans as the Norwegian Easter tradition of Påskekrim. Literally translated as “Easter crime,” this phenomenon grips Norway each spring and fills bookstores with dark tales of murder and kidnapping and Norwegian TV and radio programming with popular crime series. Even Tine, a Norwegian dairy product company, gets in on Easter crime festivities by printing crime-related cartoons on their milk cartons.

While it is uncertain exactly how Påskekrim has evolved and grown to become the Norwegian phenomenon it is today, it is believed to have started with a pair of students from Bergen who in the spring of 1923 published a crime novel titled, *Bergenstoget plyndret i natt* (“Bergen Train Robbed Tonight”). The students, Nordahl Grieg and Nils Lie wrote the novel under the pseudonym “Jonathan Jerv” and purchased advertisements in *Aftenposten* and other Oslo newspapers to promote their book. The advertisement, cleverly masquerading as an article headline in big, bold letters just beneath the paper’s masthead, featured the novel’s title “BERGEN TRAIN ROBBED TONIGHT” and caused a sensation among readers who believed it to be a real headline. Readers—concerned for the welfare of passengers on the train—had missed the tiny text nearby (Pris 2 kroner, Gyldendal) denoting the price and publisher of the novel. The ingenious marketing stunt created such a buzz in Norway that the novel became a huge success and later was turned into a film in 1928. Publishers soon caught on to the novel’s Eastertime sales success and Påskekrim became an annual tradition.

While Scandinavian crime writers are enjoying tremendous popularity worldwide as of late, efforts by publishers to replicate Påskekrim in Sweden have been unsuccessful and Easter crime remains an unparalleled Norwegian phenomenon.

(Taken from Sons of Norway International)

God påske!

