

Association  
for the advancement  
of Scandinavian Studies  
in Canada



L'Association  
pour l'avancement  
des études Scandinaves  
au Canada

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Looking forward to seeing you at our 2006 meetings at York University!**

This is a good time for the AASSC! New members and young academics are joining and submitting excellent papers. Our keynote speaker funding from CINS has been stable for many years. This funding has allowed us collective experiences with excellent scholars and professionals. Additional funding from CINS for the past three years has given us the ability to attract and fund young scholars attending our meetings. SSHRC has continued stable funding and the Congress has supported several of our speakers. The AASSC continues to be able to offer our members the Norwegian research grant. Our newest home-grown AASSC travel fund, targeted for young academics and students, creates an opportunity for those of us who wish to contribute to the future of the AASSC through donations large and small.

Through the active work of our Vice President and dedicated local representatives we have increased and diversified our offerings at our annual meetings to include exhibitions, films, and

evening entertainments to enrich our yearly themes. We continue to produce excellent Journals and News Bulletins. The new electronic News Bulletin delivery has allowed us to send more timely information to our members on line - with photographs and in colour!

Our challenge last year was to deal with the loss of so many of the Embassy representatives at our Working Lunch. The good news is that Embassies have responded to our personal letters this year and several will be in attendance. So again, I am pleased and amazed at the focus and can-do success of our organization.

This brings me to mention our Annual General Meeting; at this meeting our priorities will be set for 2007. Please send me any items you would like to see on the agenda. If I receive them at this time, the Executive can prepare them for productive presentation at the AGM. I would love to hear from you with your thoughts on the AASSC: [sgold@uwindsor.ca](mailto:sgold@uwindsor.ca) or 705 342 5467.

See you soon,  
Susan Gold/Smith  
President AASSC



**Special Events and Exhibits**  
**AASSC Annual Meeting May 27-30, 2006**  
**York University, Toronto, ON**

**Ibsen 2006 Exhibit (Scott Library)**  
Opening-Saturday, May 27 - 5:30 p.m.  
(CINS Welcome Reception)

The year 2006 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906), one of the world's most influential modern dramatists. This exhibit examines Ibsen's life and the timeless themes in his works, including equality, freedom of speech, globalization and corruption. With support provided by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ottawa. The exhibit will be open from Saturday, May 27 to Sunday, June 4.

**Film Event I**

**Ibsen Film - Erik Skjoldbjærg's En Folkefiende (An Enemy of the People)** Saturday, May 27 - 7:30 p.m. - Vari Hall D

**Boundary Crossings:**

**Temporal Dialogues in Finnish Landscape Photography**  
**Scott Library, Second Floor Reading Room**  
**Special Guided Tour by Photographer Taneli Eskola**  
**- Sunday, May 28 - 6:00 p.m.**

This exciting and visceral photographic exhibit of contemporary and historic photography explores the relationship between art and science, and emphasizes Finland's role as cultural mediator between East and West. The comparison between the contemporary art and the historic photographic work is made through four Finnish photographers: Johannes Gabriel (J.G.) Granö with his early twentieth century Russian photos; and the three contemporary photographers, Jorma Puranen, Pentti Sammallahti, and Taneli Eskola. These three have expanded upon Granö's work by revisiting the North and the East of Russia and Finland. With support by the Government of Finland. The exhibit will be open from Saturday, May 27 to Sunday, June 4.

**Music from Scandinavia Concert**  
**Proscenium Theatre in the Accolade East Building**  
**Sunday, May 28 - 7:30 p.m.**

Admission free, donations accepted at the door  
PERFORMERS:

Heidi Saario, piano - Selections of Sibelius piano music  
Vox Finlandiae, Chamber Choir - Selections of Finnish and Swedish Folksongs

**Film Event II**

**Finnish Film - Klaus Härö's Mother of Mine**  
Tuesday, May 30 - 3:30 p.m. - Vari Hall D

**NOTE FROM THE  
VICE PRESIDENT,  
PROGRAMMING**

The 2006 AASSC program for our meeting at York University (May 27-30) has been set. We have a number of special events this year, and a keynote address, two exhibitions, an evening concert and several films will be part of the offerings.

The general Congress theme this year is The City: A Festival of Knowledge, and we will have several paper sessions linked to this topic. AASSC has also chosen to focus on Ibsen this year as a part of the 2006 international commemoration of Henrik Ibsen. An Ibsen exhibition, generously provided by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ottawa, will be opened during the CINS welcome reception on May 27th at the Scott Library. The CINS (The Canadian Institute for Nordic Studies) reception and Ibsen exhibit opening will be followed by the viewing of Erik Skjoldbjærg's An Enemy of the People(2005), and on Monday, May 29th, Errol Durbach will deliver the CINS Keynote Address, Behind the Scenes of Peer Gynt: Ibsen's Eclectic Theatricalism.

The second major exhibit on display during the Congress is Boundary Crossings: Temporal Dialogues in Finnish Landscape Photography. This will also be located at the Scott Library, Second Floor Reading Room. We will be fortunate to have a special guided tour of the exhibit by the photographer Taneli Eskola, whose work is featured in the exhibition. This will take place on Sunday, May 28 at 6:00 p.m. A special thanks to the Government of Finland for supporting this exhibit. This will be followed by a concert featuring Pianist Heidi Saario and the Chamber Choir Vox Finlandiae at 7:30 p.m.(admission by donation) in the Proscenium Theatre. A viewing of the Finnish film Mother of Mine on the afternoon of May 30th is also scheduled.

Please note that Varpu Lindström and Börje Vähämäki have graciously offered to host the AASSC banquet at their home, Villa Harmony, on May 29th. Tickets for this event will be available at the meeting. The program in its entirety can be viewed on this AASSC website. A list of the special events follows this report.

*Continued on page 3*

I am very happy to report that eight graduate students will be presenting papers at York. Graduate students represent our future, and it is wonderful to have so many attending our meeting. A number of representatives from the Nordic Embassies will be attending, and I would like to welcome them in advance to our meeting.

Varpu Lindström is serving as our on-site representative, and she deserves special thanks for all of the work she is doing in preparation for our meeting. If you have any questions or comments about the program, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing everyone in Toronto!

Sincerely,  
Ingrid Urberg



## Swedish Foreign Minister Laila Freivalds Resigns

March 21, 2006 (Bloomberg) -- Swedish Foreign Minister Laila Freivalds resigned following criticism about her involvement in closing down an Internet site on which cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad had been published.

Freivalds, 63, will be replaced by Deputy Prime Minister Bosse Ringholm, also 63, until a replacement is found, Social Democrat Prime Minister Goeran Persson said at a press meeting in Stockholm today. "In the current situation it's impossible for me to continue," Freivalds told the press conference.

The resignation of Freivalds follows a controversy about her involvement in closing down the Web site in February. The site had been contacted by a top Foreign Ministry official who said it should be closed for security reasons, the Svenska Dagbladet newspaper reported today. Freivalds, who first denied knowing about the official's actions, later admitted he had acted after consulting with her, the newspaper said.

Protests in Muslim countries about the cartoons, first published in a Danish newspaper in September, erupted into violence after newspapers across Europe reprinted them. Opposition to the cartoons led to a boycott of Danish products.

Sweden's government is forbidden by law to interfere

with what is written in newspapers and on the Internet.

### Resignation Calls

Calls for her resignation had escalated over the past few days. Svenska Dagbladet today quoted Maud Olofsson, leader of the opposition Center Party, as saying Freivalds was a "weak" foreign minister who "mishandles her mandate." Representatives of the other opposition parties -- the Christian Democrats, the Moderates and the Liberals -- also said Freivalds should quit.

The choice of Ringholm as interim foreign minister was "natural in a situation like this," said Persson, 57.

The resignation comes six months before Sweden's general election in September. The four-party opposition coalition maintained its lead over the ruling Social Democrats and their allies in a Sifo opinion poll published March 19 in Svenska Dagbladet.



**AASSC Annual Meeting May/mai 27 - 30, 2006**  
**York University, Toronto, ON**  
**Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Congrès des sciences humaines**

**Saturday/Samedi 27 May/mai**

- 1500-1700 Executive Meeting - Vari Hall 1152  
1730-1900 CINS Welcome Reception & Opening of the Ibsen 2006 Exhibit (Supported by The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ottawa.) - Scott Library, Second Floor Reading Room  
1930 Special Event I: Ibsen Film-Erik Skjoldbjærg's En Folkefiende (An Enemy of the People)  
-Vari Hall D

**Sunday/Dimanche 28 May/mai** - All meetings will be held in Vari Hall D.

- 0915 - "Welcome" - AASSC President, Susan Gold/Smith (University of Windsor)  
0930-1030 Session 1/1re Séance: Multiculturalism in Urban Sweden: Literary and Linguistic Perspectives (Chair: John Tucker, University of Victoria)  
*Corina Lacatus* (University of California, Los Angeles), A New Kind of Marginality: Redrawing Urban Space in Contemporary Swedish Literature  
*Marie Noëlle Godin* (Independent Scholar), Shobresvenska - The Influence of Urban Youth Languages in Multicultural Sweden  
1030-1100 Mid-Morning Break / Pause Café  
1100-1230 Session 2/2e Séance: The City and Nordic Literature (Chair: Gurli Woods, Carleton Univ.)  
*Marina Allemanno* (University of Alberta), The Gendered City of Copenhagen: Performing the Journey from the Provincial Town to the Urban Centre in Fiction by Hanne Marie Svendsen and Kirsten Thorup  
*Thea Bowering* (University of Alberta), The Insistent 'and': Literary Flânerie in Kirsten Thorup's Baby  
*Seija Paddon* (Independent Scholar), City - The Place of Layered Realities in the Biographical Writings of Poets Rakel Liehu and Helena Sinervo  
1230-1430 Lunch Break / Pause Déjeuner  
1430-1700 Session 3/3e Séance: Nordic Immigration (Chair: Chris Hale, Univ. of Alberta)  
*Joanna Daxell* (University of Sherbrooke), The Literature of Temporary Canadians: Swedish Writing about the Immigrant Experience in Canada  
*Laurie Bertram* (McMaster University), Fight Like Auður: Gender, Ethnicity and Dissent in the Career of MLA Salome Halldorson (1936-40)

Break / Pause

- Per Anders Rudling* (University of Alberta), The Last Swedes of Ukraine  
*John Poulsen* (University of Lethbridge), Easter Egg Rolling: A Danish Tradition?

President's Reception

- Special Event II: Opening of "Boundary Crossings: Temporal Dialogues in Finnish Landscape Photography", Special guided tour by Taneli Eskola  
6:00 p.m., Scott Library – Second Floor Reading Room

(Supported by the Government of Finland.)

Special Event III: Music from Scandinavia – Concert Featuring Pianist Heidi Saario (Selections of Sibelius) and the Chamber Choir Vox Finlandiae (Selections of Finnish and Swedish Folksongs)  
7:30 p.m. – Proscenium Theatre in the Accolade East Building  
Admission by Donation

**Monday/Lundi 29 May/mai** - All meetings will be held in Vari Hall D.

0900-1000 Session 4/4e Séance: The Drama of Henrik Ibsen (Chair: Harry Lane, University of Guelph)  
**Sandra Saari** (Rochester Institute of Technology), The Scripting of Hjalmar and Hedvig: Play writing Attempts in Ibsen's The Wild Duck

**D.S. Brenna** (University of Saskatchewan), "The Law of Change": Sexual and Spiritual Union in Text and Performance of Ibsen's Little Eyolf

1000-1030 Mid-Morning Break/Pause café

1030-1200 Session 5/5e Séance: CINS Keynote Speaker, Errol Durbach (UBC)  
Behind the Scenes of Peer Gynt: Ibsen's Eclectic Theatricalism  
Introduction: Susan Gold/Smith (University of Windsor)

1200-1330 Working Lunch with Representatives from the Nordic Embassies  
Lunch compliments of the AASSC

1400-1600 Session 6/6e Séance: Viking-Age History and Literature (Chair: Birgitta Wallace, Parks Canada)

**Michael Andrew Lange** (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Vikings in the Nor' West: The Roots of Orkney's Identity in Norway and Canada

**Robin Waugh** (Wilfrid Laurier University), Kári Solmundarson Becomes a Poet in Njáls Saga: The Transference of Reputation.

Dinner at the home of Varpu Lindström and Börje Vähämäki.  
(Transportation will be arranged for this ticketed event.)

**Tuesday/Mardi 30 May/mai** - All meetings will be held in Vari Hall D.

0900-1130 Annual General Meeting

1130-1300 Lunch Break / Pause café

1300-1400 Session 7/7e Séance: Transcending Genre in Nordic Literature (Chair:TBA)

**John Lingard** (Cape Breton University), Kurt Wallander's Journey into Autumn: Seasonal Metaphor in Henning Mankell's The Fifth Woman

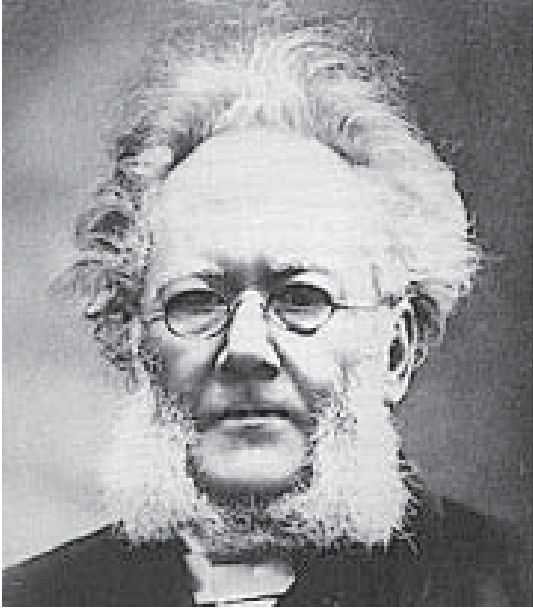
**Börje Vähämäki** (University of Toronto), Juhani Aho's Juha and Two Film Adaptions of It

1400-1500 Session 8/8e Séance: (Chair: Ingrid Urberg, Augustana Campus-University of Alberta)

**Tim Quick** (University of Victoria), Arne Naess in the History of Ideas

**Kristín Jóhannsdóttir** (University of British Columbia), Tense Mismatch in Icelandic, Norwegian, Danish and English Newspaper Captions

Special Event IV: Mother of Mine (Finnish film directed by Klaus Härö.) 1530



## Henrik Ibsen

### At the Stratford Festival

- \* by Henrik Ibsen
- \* In a new version by Richard Harris
- \* From a translation by J. Basil Cowlshaw
- \* Directed by Stephen Ouimette

For nearly 30 years, Mrs. Alving has concealed the truth about the depravities of her widely admired late husband. But when her artist son Oswald comes home from a sojourn abroad, the ghosts of the past also return to haunt her – bringing with them a new and dreadful burden of responsibility.

<http://www.stratfordfestival.ca/order/calendar.cfm?selectedMonth=8>

### Ibsen at the Shaw Festival

The Shaw Festival is also doing Ibsen: Rosmersholm, adapted and directed by Neil Munro. Shown at the Court House Theatre; previews begin 5 July

## The University of Oslo International Summer School

The University of Oslo International Summer School will begin its 60th session on June 24. Eight Canadians will be among the more than 500 participants who will spend six weeks studying and living together on the Blindern Campus of the University of Oslo this summer.

- **Josie Buttice**, from Montreal, Quebec, and currently studying in Iowa, Intensive Intermediate Norwegian;
- **Christopher Coe**, from Vancouver, BC, a student at UBC, Contemporary Problems in Government and Politics and Ethics and Security in International Politics;
- **Vivian Elias**, Athabasca, AB, Athabasca University, Media Studies (Graduate course);
- **Jessie Hamilton** from Nelson, BC, and a student at the University of Calgary, Intensive Elementary Norwegian;
- **Jack Lee**, from Barnaby, BC, UBC-UiO exchange program, Intensive Elementary Norwegian;
- **Heidi Martin**, from Indian River, PEI, studying at St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, International Development Studies (Graduate course)
- **Brittany White**, from Powell River, BC, studying at Malaspina University College, BC, Elementary Norwegian Language and Art in Norway
- **Prof. Ingrid Urberg**, Augustana faculty of University of Alberta, will participate in a special 3-week seminar for Norwegian teachers on Henrik Ibsen

## Norwegian Travel Grants

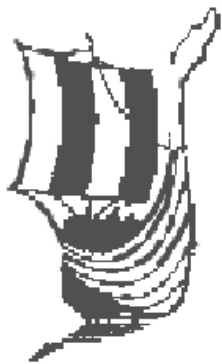
The Royal Norwegian Embassy offers travel grants to AASSC members who wish to travel to Norway to attend seminars, conferences, or university courses, to establish or renew academic contacts, or to do research, gather scientific informations, books, teaching material and so on.

The grants are awarded to applicants who actively work for the promotion of Norwegian studies in Canada or at individual academic institutions. Applications, including a cv and a proposal for the use of the grant, must reach the embassy by May 1st of each year:

Royal Norwegian Embassy

Attn: Mrs. Wenche Linneboe, 90 Sparks Street, Suite 532, Ottawa, ON K1P 5B4  
Email: [emb.ottawa@mfa.no](mailto:emb.ottawa@mfa.no) or [w1w1@mfa.no](mailto:w1w1@mfa.no) Fax: (613) 238-2765

Subject to final approval by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry.



## The Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation La Fondation Canada-Scandinavie

Dear Members of AASSC,

The Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation, established in 1950, serves as a national, non-profit organization with the express purpose of providing Travel Grants to qualified and talented Canadian university students planning study or research in the Nordic countries. Over the decades, these countries have demonstrated excellence and we share many values and challenges with them: Iceland in the North Atlantic, Denmark in the South, Finland in the East, Norway on the Atlantic, or Sweden on the Baltic.

At the Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation AGM in September 2005, we elected CSF's new president, Carman Miller, the former Dean of Arts at McGill University, 1995-2003 and a slate of members of the CSF Board of Directors:

\*President: Dr. Carman Miller  
Secretary: Malcolm Olofson  
Treasurer: Irma Niemi

Honorary Director: Dr. Bo Grønbech (Denmark)  
Fundraising: Knud Petersen  
Investments: Jeff Kruse

C. Dean Barnes, Past President, Raynald Lepage, Denise Matern, Hans Møller, \*Martine Ravn, Veslemøj Synnes, Helen van Eyk, \*Derek Yaple-Schobert

\*=new member

We also thanked our past president, Dean Barnes, for his leadership and direction.

In 2005, out of 32 applicants, we awarded 13 CSF Travel Grants of \$500 or \$1000. Once again, thanks to your loyal and generous support, the CSF continued to help students reach their goals:

### Address Changes and e-mail addresses:

A considerable amount of postal mailings is being returned to us as undeliverable, and almost half of all e-mail notices come back as delivery failures. Will everyone wishing to continue receiving mailings and e-mail notices please notify the Secretary of any changes in their addresses over the past year or perhaps even farther back! Simply send a quick note to

*Birgitta Wallace*  
*birwallace@eastlink.ca*  
or  
*7 Lady Slipper Drive*  
*Halifax, NS B3M 3R5*

"I am definitely a changed person because of this experience, and I am extremely grateful that I had this opportunity...I'm confident that if we spent more time learning the beauty of the world's many diverse cultures, then we would be happier, less restless to consume, and more compassionate."

(recent excerpt from a 2005 CSF Grantee report)

Presently, the CSF Travel Grant Committee must choose successful candidates for the 2006-07 academic year, a difficult choice given the large pool of able applicants. However, we sincerely hope that you will join or renew your membership, donate and attend our 2006 Smørrebrødsfest on May 4th to help us continue CSF's educational missions. Please see attached form. Membership fees and donations are 100% tax deductible, for which you will receive a tax receipt.

With many sincere regards,

Professor Carman Miller, President  
Canadian-Scandinavian Foundation  
CP 5150, succ. Maison de la Poste  
Montreal, QC  
H3B 4B5

# Global Dwindraft Hits Once-Isolated Iceland

It took the Bush administration about three weeks from ordering the closure of the U.S. air base in Iceland last month to announcing America's donation of 200 books on defense and security to this country without an army, navy or air force.

The very cool Icelandic National Broadcasting Service, noting the gift's appropriateness and brilliant public relations timing ahead of the October departure of the Americans' F-15 fighter jets, said it had now become clear that the United States "would not leave Icelanders completely defenseless."

Since the country is caught at the same time in a North Atlantic economic storm that doesn't look to be lifting soon - after a decade's burst of let-'er-rip economic vitality, Iceland bears the pre-recessionary pallor of a sharply declining currency (down 17 percent against the euro since February), strong inflation, and scary levels of maturing debt - a glacial sense of black humor helps to cope.

The rest of Iceland's when-bad- things-happen- to-good-people story, with its traces of hubris and excess, is no joke at all. You could call it a cautionary tale about a little guy in the big, mean world of a globalized economy and changed American military priorities.

For instance: When Iceland, a charter member of NATO, brought up how to handle the aftermath of the Americans' exit at a meeting in Brussels, the response was, a participant recalled, "total silence accompanied by a lot of eyes looking at the ceiling."

O.K., you'd think, at the very least Iceland could lean on its Scandinavian cousins. Try this for Nordic solidarity: Norway's state-owned pension fund, one of the world's biggest, began shorting bonds in two main Icelandic banks (essentially putting money on a decline in their creditworthiness) for big profit in late 2005, months before other global investors began to flee Iceland's problems. Last week, the Norwegian allies were reported selling the Icelandic krona short, another vote of no-confidence from inside the family.

That's a cruel development, but one reflecting an expectation of economic misery for a decent, hardscrabble country whose population of about 290,000 is comparable to the current within-city-limits totals of a Buffalo, New York, or a Newark, New Jersey. They're places with histories of hardship like Iceland's, but never its inclination to punch over its weight.

Go back about 10 years. After decades of Social Democratic-type state intervention and controlled markets, a center-right government opened the economy wide to competition and cash flows that worked to create some exceptional statistics.

They were suggestive of a perfect, tiny cosmos: fourth place, better than any other European country, in competitiveness ratings; another fourth worldwide in income per capita. On the aspirational main drag in Reykjavik, a procession of muscled-up SUVs appeared, and orange Ralph Lauren gear filled the window of a shop where they used to sell rope.

Iceland had a kind of progress. And until 2004, a prime minister in David Oddsson, described by U.S. Ambassador Carol Van Voorst as a "force of nature," who succeeded in getting on the right side of an American president who believes in the primacy of his personal instincts.

At a time when the Keflavik base had become meaningless and a target for closure except in terms of Icelandic domestic politics - Russian bombers and nuclear-armed submarines stopped probing North Atlantic readiness in the early 1990s - Oddsson, a great shmoozer and Thatcher/Reagan economic convert, endeared himself to Bush by supporting his plan for a missile shield.

Oddsson also backed the invasion of Iraq. And playing off his relationship with Bush, he insisted that the American fighter jets remain in Iceland and refused to take on the cost of a deployment that had become militarily irrelevant.

The eventual end of a half-century of American military presence and today's economic shakeout are clearly separate developments - but ones with unmistakable psychic kinship. Hubris had reached Iceland.

On the economy, Iceland in effect bet it could stay rich in a globalized world while disregarding that Iceland's new





wealth was created by an open system that nullified its old small-but-beautiful advantages of isolation and insignificance. Militarily, in trying to hold on to the American fighters in an era of diffuse terrorist threat, it put its money on a negotiating approach of sentiment and bluster.

Last month, with Oddsson gone from government and Bush off the hook of personal diplomacy, the Americans promised to continue to protect Iceland by means still unspecified, but announced that the base was toast. In the end, Valur Ingimundarson of Iceland University said, the United States, which might have considered a compromise in 2003, turned down a cash-offset proposal made in 2005 - "after Iceland had overplayed its maximalist game."

That overplay had become a standard means of operation here. Sure, the economic opening led to new companies and zingy Icelandic entrepreneurs who bought up companies abroad. But deregulating the previously state-controlled mortgage market flared into inflation. For foreigners, if you had big bucks, ever-rising interest rates made Icelandic banks a spectacular place to park them.

In the pre-globalized past, Iceland managed to hose down its episodes of blazing price increases in quiet isolation, basically because the world neither noticed nor cared. But in the game Iceland chose, money flooded in from places like Japan, where interest rates were next to zero. As long the Icelandic currency held its value, it was a great play - until interest rates looked to begin catching up elsewhere. Overseas banks and funds twiggged on to the changed situation. As cash went out, the krona began to sink. These days, Icelanders' debt looks mountainous, and recession next year looks real.

This part of the cautionary tale, involving a pattern of current account deficits, credit booms and crazy real estate prices, is said by some economists to merit the attention of countries with not entirely dissimilar symptoms. Like Brazil, Australia, Spain, Portugal and the United States.

But in Iceland the paradigm is real now in spades, not an abstract projection. Foreign Minister Geir Haarde told me he has talked individually to France, Germany and the Scandinavians about "some kind of protection" on the military side. In seeking economic stability, Iceland might even try to join the euro.

For a country that long portrayed itself as comfortable with having advantageous links to both Europe and the United States, while holding both at arm's length, this is not the future it wanted: the Americans gone, and the prospect of Iceland's independence compromised by entering the European Union as a supplicant, and its smallest and most unhappy member.

By JOHN VINOCUR  
From International Herald Tribune  
Published: April 18, 2006

## Swedes in Canada

<http://www.swedesincanada.ca/>



Very little serious research has been undertaken so far about the history of Swedes in Canada. One of the reasons is that, unlike some other ethnocultural groups, there is no specific funding for the Swedish-Canadian experience. The Lakehead Social History Institute, recognizing this lack, has taken up the challenge to sponsor the Swedes in Canada project. An experienced Thunder Bay historian, Elinor Berglund Barr, who is an Associate of the Lakehead Social History Institute, has been designated as researcher and writer.

In order to complete this five-year project, the Lakehead Social History Institute is seeking donations from individuals and organizations. The budget for the first and second phase is \$55,000. The research budget of \$25,000 has been achieved and the research completed. The second target of \$30,000 is to cover hiring a research assistant for a year to help Elinor organize the research material so that writing can begin on schedule. Tax receipts will be issued. In the event that the designated researcher/writer is unable to complete the project, the Institute will appoint someone else. Donors are assured that their money will be spent on the Swedes in Canada project, and that the end result will be a written history of Swedes in Canada.

Names of donors will be listed in the forthcoming publication unless anonymity is requested, also the names and migration experience of immigrants, under the new program "Honour the Pioneers", which also includes Memorial Gifts. Visit the Donations Page for more information.

The research required to complete this project faced a number of challenges:

- \* Documents relating to the Swedish experience in Canada are scattered in various archives in Canada, Sweden, and the United States.
- \* Some documents remain in the hands of private individuals and organizations, and were impossible to find unless the holders were aware of the project and contacted the researcher about their existence.
- \* Some ethnocultural communities benefit from the existence of research chairs in Canadian universities or of research institutes dealing with those communities, but not Swedes.
- \* There is no national Swedish organization in Canada to help pull the project together. Everything from fundraising to research is totally dependent upon individuals who want the project to succeed. Will you be one of them?

# Census 3006

Greetings All.

The next National Census of Canada is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 16 May 2006. For the first time in the 340 years Censuses have been conducted in the territory that was destined to become Canada, respondents will be asked to provide consent for the release of information they provide, 92 years after collection. Until now, no such consent was required. The question that will appear on the Census questionnaire is as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

The following question is for all persons who usually live here including those less than 15 years old.

If you are answering on behalf of other people, please consult each person.

53. The Statistics Act guarantees the confidentiality of your census information. Only if you mark "YES" to this question will your personal information be made public, 92 years after the 2006 Census. If you mark "NO" or leave the answer blank, your personal information will never be made publicly available.

Does this person agree to make his/her 2006 Census information available for public release in 2098 (92 years after the census)?

™ Yes    ™ No

\*\*\*\*\*

Inclusion of this 'informed consent' provision in Censuses to be conducted from 2006 was the price forced upon genealogists and historians seeking to regain public access to Historic Census records to which existing legislation already stated we were entitled. We had been advised that unless this provision was accepted the government would not present the Bill (S-18) to end our seven-year campaign to regain public access Historic Census records in accordance with provisions of the Access to Information and Privacy Acts.

In my post of 18 March 2006 I copied my letter to the Chief Statistician of Canada and his response advising what steps would be taken by StatCan and LAC to encourage a positive response to the 'informed consent' question on the upcoming Census. The fact is that we cannot depend entirely on these government sources to spread the word regarding the need for EVERYONE to answer YES to this question. It is time now to start spreading the word ourselves about this question.

Our goal is a 100 percent YES response to the 'informed consent' clause on the upcoming Census. Realistically speaking it is likely a goal that we cannot achieve. However, with some effort we can hopefully achieve something close to it. The question that arises is 'how'?

Start now by advising friends, relatives and neighbours to answer YES to the 'informed consent' question. Ask them to help pass the word along by likewise advising their friends, relatives and neighbours. Advise them that if this question is not answered YES, or is left unanswered, their descendants will be unable to find information on them in Census records in 2098 (92 years in the future). For all intents and purposes, so far as the Census is concerned, they will not have existed. If significant numbers of respondents answer negatively, or do not answer this question at all, it will destroy the completeness of the records, and thus their value to genealogical or historical researchers will be forever destroyed.

Genealogical and historical societies can publicize the need to respond YES in their various publications. They can advise their membership at their regular meetings. One might think that all genealogists are aware of the value of Census in developing their family trees. You might think that after a seven year campaign to regain public access to Historic Census records they would be aware that starting with the 2006 Census on 16 May, they must respond positively to an 'informed consent' question to earn their place in the history of the future. Sadly, from correspondence I receive, it is obvious that many of those who use Census in their research today are not aware of this. It is therefore up to us to

advise them.

Genealogists and historians can be expected to be more aware of the need to answer YES to the 'informed consent' question than are the general public. In fact, the general public's knowledge of the issue is probably non-existent. They must be made aware. This can be done by word-of-mouth, by writing letters to editors of newspapers and by calling radio talk shows. There are many ways to educate the public, and I mention here only a few. The important thing is that we all do our part to 'spread the word'. If you think of other ways to get the news out please respond to me directly.

On Census Day 16 May 2006, make sure you answer YES to allow your information to be made available to your descendants in 2098. Make sure everyone you know does as well.

Enjoy the Census!

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# New Publications

*Sweating with Finns: Sauna Stories from North America*  
Thunder Bay, ON: Centre for Northern Studies. 254 pp.  
Editors: Raija Warkentin, Kaarina Kailo and Jorma Halonen, 2005.

Sweating nude with family or friends in a small and often dimly lit room is a pastime that distinguishes Finnish-North Americans from other immigrants more so than any other activity. Many of the contributors to this book claim sauna bathing is not simply a washing ritual but an exercise in meditation and healing. According to Kaarina Kailo some archaic aspects of sauna practices bear resemblance to the sweatlodge rituals of many North American Natives. What about self-flagellation with birch switches and rolling naked in the snow? Is this some masochistic tendency among Finns, or do these practices have some redeeming qualities?

This collection of short stories, poems and academic articles, some in English, others are in Finnish and a few in both languages, go well beyond sauna building techniques and suggested bathing procedures, which are the domain



Cover by Martti Nieminen. The original in Kangas Sauna, Thunder Bay.

of most books about the sauna.

Available at the Lakehead University Alumni Bookstore. Retail price CAN\$24.95 Place orders to:

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**Hale, Christopher.** *Aksel Sandemose and Canada: A Scandinavian Writer's Perception of the Canadian Prairies in the 1920s.* Regina: University of Regina, Canadian Plains Research Center, 2005.

Aksel Sandemose (1899-1965) is considered by many Nordic scholars to be one of the most significant Scandinavian writers of the 20th century. He is widely read in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and it is virtually impossible to get through secondary school in those countries without having read some of his work. In addition he has been translated into other languages such as English, French, German and Polish, though he is still not particularly well known outside of Scandinavia.

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**Svendsen, Hanne Marie.** *Under the Sun. Translated from the Danish by Marina Allemanno.* Norwich: Norwich Press, 2006.

Written in 1991, *Under the Sun* is the story of Margrethe Thiede, the daughter of a lighthouse keeper in an unnamed small fishing community on the north-western coast of Denmark. We follow Margrethe through her childhood, her years as a student in the capital, her marriage to a mentally unstable man, her involvement in the peace movement, and her old age. The novel is also about

In 1927 Sandemose made a trip to western Canada, sponsored in part by the Canadian Pacific Railway. The idea was that he would write about conditions in the Danish settlements there and consider the advantages of immigrating to the country. The result was a series of articles and stories about Canada and three novels. This volume is an English translation of most of Sandemose's articles and stories that deal with or are set in Canada, and a critical introduction starting with a survey of Danish immigration to Canada, then covering Sandemose's early years up to his immigration to Norway and stressing the role Canada played in his life.

a changing community where fears of violence at sea and rampant commercialism on land are strong undercurrents. The building of a naval base and the ominous presence of foreign submarines intimidate the fishermen and their families, and an accident caused by one of these intruding vessels forms the catastrophic climax of the novel. The author explores central questions about the relationship between language and constructed worlds, about time and space, and about the nature of fiction.

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