



# AHORNBLADET

THE DANISH CLUB OF MONTREAL NEWSLETTER

June 1st, 2009

## FREYDIS JOANNA

is the name of an authentic replica of a Viking ship from about 850 AD; she is on her way (by sea and by land!) to the Danish Canadian National Museum and Gardens in Dickson, Alberta [www.dancanmuseum.ca](http://www.dancanmuseum.ca) She was built over the eight months July, 2008 through February, 2009, at the Boat Yard of the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, Denmark ([www.vikingskibsmuseet.dk](http://www.vikingskibsmuseet.dk)). Freydis Joanna is 6.5 m in length and 1.4 m in width, built of Danish oak and fir, and complete with mast and sail, rigging and oars.

Freydis Joanna was built by Danish craftsmen using replica tools and handcraft methods from the Viking period. They are a valued part of the Viking Ship Museum, located not far from Copenhagen, Denmark; it is a part of the Danish National Museum. The Viking Ship Museum is one of the world's première collections of Viking ships, and of research in Viking sea-faring. The Museum's research activity is fostered by the building and sailing of replica ships. Freydis Joanna is the eighth of such ships built by the Museum. She is similar to the ship in the interpretive centre at L'Anse aux Meadows,

Newfoundland, the Canadian National Historic Site marking the only authenticated site of Viking settlement in North America. The Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec also has a similar ship in its collection. Those two ships are among those built by the Viking Ship Museum.

This acquisition of an authentic replica of a Viking boat was made possible through the generosity of Karen and Kresten Sommer, formerly of Ponoka, Alberta, whose estate on Karen's death provided \$40,000.00 to the Danish Canadian National Museum and Gardens to be used "for something special". The Danish Canadian National Museum and Gardens collects, preserves and tells the story of Danish-Canadian immigrants through its collection of immigrant artifacts, and family stories and community histories. Its Mission is "To enrich Canada through the Danish Canadian National Museum, located in Dickson, Alberta; and to preserve and promote the culture and history of the Danes in Canada for a greater understanding and celebration of all humanity." Karen and Kresten Sommer and their five children were themselves immigrants to Canada from Denmark in 1957; they came to Ponoka in 1959.



The original of this ship was found near Oslo, Norway, a part of a larger collection of ships. It is thought that sometime around 900 AD a Viking of significant wealth and importance died, and was buried with rich grave goods. The goods included the large Gokstad "dragonship" and three smaller ships. Two of those smaller ships were "færings", or four-oared ships, hence "Gokstadfæring". One of the færings, after which this replica is patterned, has been well-documented. A Gokstadfæring does not conform to the usual image of a Viking ship - longer and with dragonheads at the prow and stern. However, this smaller craft shows all the construction details found in the larger ships. Research also indicates that it was a common Viking ship, likely often used for activity in coastal waters, and also likely carried, as the original was found, in larger boats and ships. "We never get tired of building the Gokstad Færing. It is a wonderful challenge every time and a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate Viking ship building for a wider audience", explains the head of the Viking Ship Museum's Ship Yard. It is quite possible that some of these ships were brought with Vikings to Newfoundland.

The ship was christened and launched in Roskilde, Denmark, on April 1, 2009. It was christened "Freydis Joanna" by Kirsten Asperud, a daughter in Denmark of Karen and Kresten Sommer. Freydis was the sister of Leif the Lucky, the legendary leader of the Vikings who came to L'Anse aux Meadows more than 1,000 years ago. That Freydis is recognized in the Norse Sagas as being a strong and fearless Viking leader in her own right, including in the settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows. Joanna was the second name of Karen Sommer, and is the name of a number of female members of the Sommer family. Egon Sommer of Ponoka, Alberta, son of Karen and Kresten Sommer, was also at the christening and launch, and Museum Board member Carl Sorensen together with one of the shipbuilders rowed the boat on its maiden voyage on Roskilde Fjord.

Freydis Joanna will be brought to the Danish Canadian National Museum and Gardens in August after a cross-Canada tour which will start at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic [www.museum.gov.ns.ca/mma](http://www.museum.gov.ns.ca/mma) in Halifax in June. She will be seen at many places across Canada where there are people of Danish or other Scandinavian background, and it will be part of their special events as well as others such as the Icelandic Festival in Gimli, Manitoba. As well as at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic it will be displayed at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec, at "The old Port" in Montreal and the Toronto Harbourfront. Many members of the Museum Society, together with people in the local communities, have been instrumental in arranging this tour; Egon Sommer is driving the truck and trailer which bring her across Canada.

Carl V. Sorensen

**"Freydis Joanna" will be arriving from New Denmark N. B. and exhibited for one day, July 20th, hopefully in old Montreal. The exact site is yet to be determined. We will need vikings to man the ship for the day.**

## Secretary

At the General Meeting in November 2008 the club's secretary for, maybe 25 years, Nick Schulze stepped down. Nobody present at the General Meeting wanted the job as secretary and the position was left open. Svend Berg has now agreed to be the club's secretary, starting July 1st, 2009.

## The Quilt of Belonging

is a stunning textile art project that shows there is a place for all in the fabric of society.

Quilt of Belonging is a 120 foot long by 10.5 foot high (36 metres by 3.5 metres) tapestry. The rich, cultural legacies portrayed in the 263 blocks include all the First Peoples in Canada and every nation of the world. The Danish block of the tapestry was made by Jette Blair and Rosa Christensen.

### Stitches and stories

The vision of Invitation: The Quilt of Belonging has been to create a collaborative work of art that recognizes the diversity of Canada and the world, while celebrating our common humanity and promoting harmony and compassion.

As each block was stitched, each story written, the makers shared their experiences. When glimpses of their lives emerged

we came to understand that everyone has been shaped by past experiences. We learned that each human is unique and that the variety of points of view enriches our world, yet we have so much in common that we can live as one family, caring for one another. Take a tour on the web:

<http://www.quiltofbelonging.ca/home.htm>



## The annual soccer (fodbold) tournament

has been a tradition since the seventies. The photo on the right was taken (pre-game) at the very first game between the Swedish club and the Danish club. Who won? Don't ask.

Sadly the Swedes dropped out a few years ago but Norway has stepped to the plate and is arranging this year's tournament which will begin this June 13th.

The Danish team needs a coach and also a person to organize the picnic which is a most important part of the soccer tournament.



## Kjære dansker

On June 21st., please join us for a Nordic people get together, organized by the The Norwegian Church Association. A Church service in English will be given by our Finish club member Matti Terho at 11:30. The service will be followed by a Bar-B-Que starting at about 12.30. In attendance will be Norwegians, Swedes, Finns and Latvians. We are looking forward to a large attendance

Vennlig hilsen,

For The Norwegian Church and Community Centre,

**Rolf Blydt-Hansen**

Secretary-treasurer.

## The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada

held its 28th yearly conference in Red Deer, Alberta from May 21 to May 24. The Red Deer Danish Canadian Club, which this year celebrates its 50th anniversary, was the organizer and host and a well organized and successful conference it was. 71 delegates representing Danish organizations from across Canada and Denmark took part. The conference theme was: "Laughter has no accent" a difficult theme one would think, but indeed, we had a workshop on this theme and laughter and smiles were plenty, during and after the workshops. Congratulations to the Red Deer club on its 50 th anniversary.



### TIDSBILLEDER by Frede Lauritsen, Ringkøbing

460-370 fvt.

**Hippokrates** græsk læge på øen Kos. Regnes for lægekunstens og den medicinske forsknings grundlægger, skønt hans behandlinger hovedsageligt lød: "Afvent og se tiden an." Hippokrates teorier er bestemt ikke i overensstemmelse med nutidens videnskab. Angående børnefødsler sagde han: "Børn dannes af det menstruationsblod, som ikke længere løber ud af en kvinde, når hun er gravid."

Ja, sådan sagde lægevidenskabens grundlægger.

331 fvt. **Rødstrømper.** Måske er det verdens første, der opstod et massivt kvindeoprør i Rom. De ville ikke fortsat finde sig i underkuelse, resultatet blev, at mange mænd døde af forgiftninger.

45 fvt. **Den julianske kalender** indførtes af Julius Cæsar med solåret på 365 ¼ døgn som grundlag. Dvs. tre år a 365 døgn og det fjerde var et skudår på 366 døgn. Kalenderen fastsatte nytår til 1. jan, tidligere var nytår 1. marts. Den julianske kalender virkede frem til 1582, i Danmark-Norge dog til 1700 og i Rusland helt frem til 1918. I 1582 forbedrede Pave Gregorius XIII systemet ved bl.a. at udligne Cæsars 365 ¼ døgn til 365,2422 døgn, som det rettelig er. Den gregorianske kalender bruges stadig.

27 fvt.-14 evt.

**Gaius Octavius Augustus** romersk kejser. Født 23. sept. 63 fvt., adopteret af Cæsar år 44 fvt. Han fik i 27 fvt. æresnavnet Augustus, som betyder den ophøjede. Augustus var gift med Livia. Han havde undervejs fjernet alle medbejlere til embedet, så han blev den første romerske kejser og enehersker. Han udsmykkede Rom med pragtbygninger, flyttede sin flådebase til Misenum, og efterfulgtes af magtmisbrugere og sadister med storhedsvanvid. Kejser Augustus har givet navn til august måned. Tidligere havde august kun 30 dage, men ved en senatsbeslutning blev der flyttet en dag fra februar til august, der så fik 31 dage, som også juli havde. Augustus skulle på ingen måde stå tilbage overfor Julius Cæsar.