

AJAKAJA



ALBERTA ESTONIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

WINTER 2016 • ISSUE 45



Alberta Estonian Heritage Society 2016

The Alberta Estonian Heritage Society (AEHS) was formally established on April 23, 2005 to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Alberta's Estonian community, and to increase awareness of developments in Estonia.

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Alberta Estonian Heritage Society (AEHS) website: www.aehs.ca

AEHS Membership Application

Membership applications can be completed on www.aehs.ca website under Menu Option: **Membership**. Membership queries and written applications can be submitted to Membership Director Lorne Hennel:

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AjaKaja

AjaKaja is published semi-annually to inform members about Society activities and heritage topics. Publication and distribution costs are covered by membership dues.

Copies of AjaKaja can be purchased from Eda McClung at emcclung@shaw.ca. Cost of AjaKaja is \$10.00 per issue, including postage in Canada.

Please submit articles, photographs and heritage-related items to Eda McClung at emcclung@shaw.ca or Dave Kiil at adkiil@shaw.ca

Correction: Cover photo of Summer 2016 issue #44 by Sylvia Boehrsen is entitled "Elbow Falls, Alberta". The correct spelling of Sylvia's family name is 'Boehrsen'.

Cover: Photo by Ain Paloson entitled "Külm öö Jänedal" (2016). ("Cold night at Jänedal"). Ain Paloson has a passion for night photography. While driving home near Jänedal, a small village in Lääne-Viru county in northern Estonia, the weather was cold and the trees were covered in frost. This photo is the result.

Cover design by Janet Matiisen, a freelance graphic designer. She is a proud Canadian-Estonian with deep roots in both countries.



AjaKaja

From the Editors

Compiling this issue has been rewarding and exciting. We hope you find its contents to be the same. We report on our Society president who has Gen V Estonian pioneer credentials, who competes in high level music competitions and credits her Estonian immigrant piano teacher for inspiration and optimism. At the same time, she is connected to the current international film scene and recently hosted the star of an Estonian film which presented at the Calgary International Film Festival. Alberta's heritage traditions and celebrations have earned us recognition and now we are adding contemporary events to our record of achievements.

Social media rules the day. We were asked by a local wine store to produce a commercial for Estonian beer ad to appear on Facebook on Dec. 15. It was a fun experience and they will now try to bring in Estonian beer as there seems to be interest. Networking can be fun and productive.

It was gratifying to have so many willing contributors to this issue. Some we approached and coaxed (i.e. threatened), some stories were offered, and yet others were the result of us being contacted because they considered the story historically relevant. It is gratifying that our heritage magazine is recognized for being a repository for this kind of material. This issue is almost exclusively about the lives and events of Alberta's Estonians with little material from outside sources. We are grateful to our many contributors.

As the year end approaches, we are surrounded by wish lists for gifts, travel, libations and temptations. If you wish travel, why not head to Estonia in 2017 or 2018 to celebrate their centennial? If you wish libations, Estonian beer will be available here soon. If you are into gifting, why not a family membership to AEHS? If you are into volunteering, why not consider AEHS? Our members indicated they wanted more 'singing and beer' at our events so we will be sure to let Santa know.

As we go to print, we have just received news that Külliva Kangur has been appointed Estonia's Honorary Consul in Alberta. Külliva has been active in our community for over 20 years and is exceptionally qualified to fill this important role. We extend our warmest congratulations!

As Editors, we thank our wonderful readers and contributors. We wish everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Eda McClung and Dave Kiil

**Alberta Estonian
Heritage Society**

**Winter 2016
Issue Number 45**

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We thank the National
Estonian Foundation of
Canada for their ongoing
support of AEHS Heritage
projects

AEHS President's Message

Kelly Schuler, Calgary, Alberta

*Tere! Häid Jõule!
Hooaja teevitused!
Parimad soovid
rõõmus uus aasta!*

Our goals, to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Alberta's Estonian Community and to increase awareness of developments in Estonia, have been advanced in a number of celebrations these past few months involving: social, arts, beer and momentous historical events.

To provide for the recreation of the members and to promote and afford opportunity for friendly and social activities, we have many to thank for the significant work facilitating contact and current awareness among people with an interest in Estonian heritage and culture in Canada, Estonia and elsewhere.

Linking and connecting members of all ages, if you were one of the fortunate ones to be at the AEHS Summer Social – close to 100 people celebrated 25 years of Estonian Independence. We enjoyed fun, frolic and food, as well as marveling at Estonian House archives and the hospitable welcome of the Stettler and area Alberta Estonians at Linda Hall. There was the most delicious food and I'm sure enough to feed another 100. Based on this fabulous feast and the opinions garnered in our facilitation of suggestion cards, we are gathering recipes to be shared on our forthcoming website. We will have lots to celebrate when that website is launched, and more



Photo: Francis A. Willey
Schuler family: L-R: Amélie, Kelly, Lukas

sustenance is anticipated resulting from this imminent event. Other suggestions that were prominent for future gatherings that members documented at the Summer Social were including more children's activities, traditional games like log-sawing, nail pounding and the Queen of 4 am aka the rolling pin toss. Estonians had invented an event called a wife-carrying contest that we can modify depending on the instigator! Since Otto Nicklom is now in his mid-nineties and has been most instrumental in facilitating these events, he is happy to pass the organizing torch along to someone who likes sawing logs, and I don't mean in the "Canadian sense" of having an afternoon nap. We are looking forward to the younger members who have offered to step forward, and are encouraging people of all ages to actively participate in fostering and celebrating Estonian historical customs!

Bridging current arts and technology, we are looking forward to soon launching the new AEHS website which is coming along with the diligent commitment of Helgi and many others.

Stemming from our advanced cultural heritage, a highlight in September was adding a new component to the Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF) this year, with an Estonian Film that was both a great success - kudos for AEHS and very successful internationally. In

fact the film is submitted for an Oscar in the Academy Awards. What started as a bold suggestion to 'have an Estonian Film Festival' from our dearly departed enthusiastic film proponent member, Tommy Erdman, inspired me and many friends to make it happen! Thanks to our friends, who visited the Estonian Film Institute on our behalf, our mutual friend who is president at CIFF, this was brought to realization in partnership with the AEHS. Thanks to the Members who came to enjoy the intrigue of the film, the Estonian film-curious crowd, the generous people of CIFF, the Estonian Film Institute and other supporters! It

was great fun to have the stellar cast member Tiina Malberg, in attendance and for our AEHS Board and Members to host her to tour the Calgary and Canmore area.

And for Christmas, a Beer Commercial! – Yes, a Beer Commercial! If you are wondering what to get that relative or friend who has everything, an advent calendar featuring an Estonian Beer was filmed featuring the warm glow of our Editor Eda's fireplace and the 'other talent' of new Alberta/Ontario/Estonian Lucas Waldin who is a conductor with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra.

Külliva Kangur appointed as the new Honorary Consul for Estonia

A number of new artistic partnerships and historical works are developing over the coming months, and we will keep you informed through our Member Communications via email, our website and AEHS Facebook page.

A tremendous thank you to Eda, Dave and contributors for keeping us informed and connected through AjaKaja!

Lõpp. Punkt. Aamen. For now...

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia has appointed Külliva Kangur as the new Honourary Consul for Estonia in Alberta. Külliva was born and raised in Estonia; she has lived in Alberta since 1994, she is fluent in both Estonian and English. The new Honorary Consul office will be located in downtown Edmonton, within the Fairmont Hotels & Resorts office in Oxford Tower (City Centre Mall). The official opening date of the office will be announced at a later date, once confirmed with the Estonian Embassy in Ottawa.

Former Honorary Consul Christine Robertson sends Congratulations:

'It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Alberta's new Honorary Consul of Estonia, Külliva Kangur. I've known Külliva for a long time and know she will do a great job for the Estonian government and Alberta's Estonian community.

"Soovime rahu, rõõmu, armastust jõuludeks ja õnne algaval aastal 2017!
Christine ja David Robertson, Vancouver"

Message from Ambassador Gita Kalmet to Alberta's Estonians

Embassy of Estonia, Ottawa, Canada



I'm very pleased to be writing for Ajakaja at this time, as it gives me the opportunity to announce good news. We at the Embassy already know that very shortly a diplomatic pouch will be arriving in Ottawa from Tallinn, containing among other important documents the Estonian Foreign Ministry's confirmation of the appointment of Mrs. Külliva Kangur as honorary consul. Alberta's Estonians will, therefore, have a new enterprising and enthusiastic honorary consul before the end of the year. Estonia's previous honorary consul in Alberta, Mrs. Christine Lepik Robertson, set an example of what an honorary consul can accomplish. I think that for many in Alberta,



Gita Kalmet

certain that the new honorary consul may count on your full understanding and support.

hearing mention of Estonia brings to mind Christine's enthusiastic personality and the stylish consular ball that she organised. The day-to-day work of an honorary consul can sometimes be challenging and we therefore wish Külliva much enthusiasm tempered with patience when needed. We are

Looking back on the year 2016 from the Embassy's perspective, what immediately comes to mind is that August 26 marked the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Estonia and Canada, as was the case with Latvia and Lithuania. Two more topics deserve mention. First, Canada's decision in early summer to take leadership role as a NATO framework nation in the Baltic region and to send a battalion of Canadian armed forces to Latvia. The diplomats from the Baltic States and Poland held their breath throughout the spring hoping and waiting anxiously for Ottawa's decision. We learned that Canadians could be tight-lipped, perhaps even more than us Estonians. At the NATO summit in Warsaw, Prime Minister Trudeau announced Canada's decision and demonstrated once again that Canada is not indifferent to our region's security. Second, in the late fall, the European Union and Canada succeeded in signing the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA). In this case opposition came from Europe, where people in a number of member states opposed free trade and globalization, literally holding the agreement hostage. Fortunately, the agreement was eventually signed and now we have to wait for it to be implemented on both sides of the ocean.

In 2017, Canada celebrates the 150th anniversary of Confederation. This will also be an important year for Estonia since it will preside over the European Union starting in July 2017. Estonia became a member of the European Union in 2004 and will be assuming this role with its significant responsibilities for the first time. Our wish, of course, is that we shall meet this challenge with success. Estonia's presidency of the European Union will coincide with the final preparations for the Estonian Republic's 100th birthday. We shall strive to do our best to ensure that when at the end of 2017 we greet the New Year, all preparations will have been completed and the celebrations for Estonia's 100th birthday may begin. On behalf of the entire Embassy and myself, I would like to wish Albertans an enjoyable holiday season and much happiness for 2017

Estonia Inaugurates its First Female President

“Former European Union budget auditor Kersti Kaljulaid was sworn in Monday, October 10, 2016 to a five-year term as Estonia’s youngest and first female President, the Baltic nation’s fourth head of state since it gained independence 25 years ago.

The 46-year-old Kaljulaid was elected earlier this month by parliament as a consensus candidate, after votes earlier this year fell short of the required two-thirds majority needed to fill the presidency.

Kaljulaid, a political outsider, last week won 81 votes in the 101-member parliament, well above the required 68 votes.

Estonia joined NATO in 2004, seeking the protection of the

Western military alliance from what the three Baltic governments frequently described as threats from their giant neighbor to the east.



Photo: Madis Veltmaa
Estonian President
Kersti Kaljulaid

Kersti Kaljulaid was born in 1969 in Tartu. She graduated with Bachelor’s and Masters degrees in Biology and Business Administration, respectively, from Tartu University in 1992 and 2001. She is married and the mother of four children, and a grandmother. Her ancestors resided along the west coast of Saaremaa.

In 1998-1999 she worked with Hansabank as a financial advisor. In 1999 she started working in Prime Minister Mart Laar’s office as a financial consultant. In early 2002 she

started working at Estonian Energy energy company and was appointed as its director in the fall. Kaljulaid has also served on advisory council of the Estonian Genome Centre and as a director of Tartu University's advisory council beginning in 2012. She worked as a budget auditor/accountant for the European Union in Luxembourg.

In an open letter to the Estonian media, presidential candidate Kersti Kaljulaid stated that the role of the president is to be present wherever things are getting complicated at the moment and promised to impartially contribute to the elimination of bottlenecks in Estonian life.

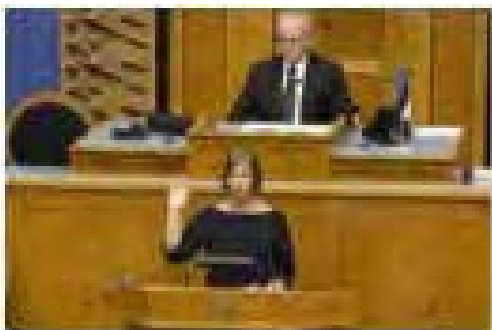


Photo: Vitnija Saldava
***President Kersti Kaljulaid taking
the Oath of Office***

In her inaugural address to the Estonian Parliament on October

10, 2016 Kaljulaid stressed unity and security, calling on the country's 1.3 million residents to "have confidence and faith that we can always, every day, maintain the Estonian country."

She concluded her presentation with the following comments:

"Ladies and gentlemen! I can sense the spirit of co-operation here today, in this hall. And there is even more outside of this hall. We have spoken too little recently about some things that we take for granted – about our dreams for a better Estonia. The Estonia of our grandchildren and of their children".

"The time will continue to pass and indeed the future will inevitably come, even if we don't think about it every day. However, the rightful, bold decisions we take today will help ensure that the hope in the eyes of those looking at us from their cradles will be fulfilled. To present and future generations, as is stated in the Constitution." "Let us cherish Estonia!" *Compiled by Dave Kiil*

Musical interlude for AEHS President

Helgi Leesment, Calgary, Alberta

Kelly Schuler, president of the Alberta Estonian Heritage Society, was one of four local amateur classical pianists for the fall 2016 Honens music series in Calgary.

Honens is best known for its Honens International Piano Competition held once every three years for aspiring pianists up to age 30. In the past, two musicians from Estonia have competed: Tanel Joamets in 1996 and Marko Martin in 2000.

In the years between the international events, Honens holds two other events, the Honens Festival and the Honens ProAm. The Honens Festival is a piano performance festival featuring past winners of the international competition. The ProAm is a friendly fundraising competition, referring to its participants as accomplished amateur musicians who play like professionals. They earn their living in a field other than music. It was an honour for Kelly to be selected this year. Musically, it meant many piano practices and performances, all intertwined with fundraising for the international Honens, and other community outreach performances to inspire the love of piano music.

Kelly also participated in a twelve day Music Residency program on a scholarship at Banff Centre. She benefited from learning and collaborating with emerging artists and world class professional musicians.

This year's Honens Festival was launched with an unusual concert downtown, outdoors on pedestrian Stephen Avenue at the Calgary Contemporary



Photo: Banff Centre
**Kelly Schuler at the 'Musician in Residence'
studio concert at Banff Centre,
November 17, 2016**

Gallery. The event was the presentation of one of the world's longest musical performances, called *Vexations*, by the eccentric French composer Erik Satie. The Honens organizers selected 37 local pianists plus three professionals to take turns starting at 4:30 AM on September 8, finishing just before midnight. Each played the theme through 21 times, for a grand total of 840 times. A large electronic sign kept track of the number of times the piece had been repeated. Another recorded the passing hours and minutes. Kelly Schuler was 16th on the keys that morning.

For her, this induction was followed over the next two months by many recitals and mini-concerts in private homes and in public spaces such as Bankers Hall, the Suncor mezzanine and salon concerts. There were also interviews for the media, including a lengthy session live on the Internet. Kelly was heart-warmed by support from her family, friends, business associates and fellow members of the AEHS.

The musical series culminated in a concert on November 19 at the Rosza Centre, University of Calgary, where each of the four played for 15 minutes. The other competitors were dentist Nathan Cho, tax accountant manager Les Der and finance director Angela Gosselin. The judges declared Angela Gosselin as the winner of the competition, but all four participants won by virtue of their expanded experiences thanks to this Honens event. They all received flowers and many gifts from

sponsoring firms, including performance clothing they wore that day.

Beethoven was a favoured composer among the selections heard. Other composers were Chopin, Liszt, Bach, Petri, Scarlatti and Gershwin. Kelly's unique choice, in addition to the "Etude in E major, Op 10 'Tristesse'" by Chopin and the 'Largo Allegro' from Beethoven's "Sonata no 17 'The Tempest'", was "Für Alina" by the internationally respected, most played living composer in the world, Arvo Pärt of Estonia.

Immediately following the concert, several friends and family members gathered to honour Kelly's recent achievements, which had their beginnings early in her life. Kelly's mother, Carole Erdman Grant (a signatory to the establishment of the AEHS in 2005) gave up teaching her five-year old daughter

piano when the girl tried correcting her during the lessons. Both took lessons from Alberta.

Estonian Lydia Pals*, with Carole starting when she was a child living in the Lethbridge area, near Barons where many members of her extended Erdman family farmed. Kelly studied with Lydia Pals as a child in Edmonton.

Says Kelly of her Honens experience: "I believe music is even more important for us in uncertain times, to nourish, to heal and to transform us. It breathes life into the hearts and souls of humanity. While preparing for the Honens ProAm, I was especially inspired by memories of Mrs. Pals, her optimism and her dedication to music despite a very difficult life journey. I often thought of Lydia Pals and other Alberta Estonians who have kept alive and transferred Estonian knowledge, culture and values to Canada through hard work, the arts and education."

*See AjaKaja #40 Summer 2014.

CHEERS!

Estonian beer featured in advent calendar

An Estonian beer is featured in a Craft Beer Advent Calendar that is available throughout Alberta.

Põhjala is a porter style beer, brewed in Tallinn. The label describes it as "Imperial Baltic porter as dark as Estonian winter nights" or "võimas balti porter mis on must nagu eesti talveöö."

The Alberta Estonian Heritage Society was asked to participate in promoting the advent calendar. Lucas Waldin (who has Estonian roots) of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra was enlisted to appear in a commercial to promote Estonian beer and Estonia. The filming was done at Eda McClung's home.

The advent calendar features 24 bottles of beer from 15 different European countries and is available across Alberta. Check liquorconnect.com for availability.

Põhjala is not available for purchase on its own, but Saku will be available in Alberta in the new year.



Lucas Waldin shown during filming of the Estonian beer ad.

Film 'Ema' 'Mother' came to Calgary

Helgi Leesment, Calgary, AB

Calgary had the fortune to experience a double feature late September at its International Film Festival (CIFF). The Estonian crime mystery 'Ema' /'Mother' was shown twice, with its star actor Tiina Mälberg in attendance at the first showing. This is the first time, other than showings of the documentary 'Singing

Revolution' a few years ago, that a full-length Estonian feature film has been commercially shown in Alberta.

The entire experience was heightened by the recent news that 'Ema'/'Mother' is Estonia's nomination for an Oscar Academy Award in the Foreign Language film

category. This is quite a feat for a very low budget production and speaks well of director Kadri Kõusaar and producer Aet Laigu. For well known Estonian Rakvere Theatre actress Tiina Mälberg, with 25 years stage and a couple of films experience, this is a great credit to her career.

The Alberta Estonian



Tiina Mälberg, star of Estonian film 'Ema' 'Mother', enjoys view of Rocky Mountains in Canmore, Alberta with host Kelly Schuler, President of the Alberta Estonian Heritage Society.

Photo: Helgi Leesment (2016)

Heritage Society was introduced at both showings of the film as the official "community partner". The organization played an important role in getting 'Ema'/'Mother' to Calgary, with special thanks to former president Ave Peetri and current president Kelly Schuler. Friends of Kelly obliged when she asked them to talk to the Estonian Film Institute during their Tallinn vacation last year. Calgary authors and artistic creators Rita Bozi and Ken Cameron brought back an official catalogue of recent releases. CIFF staff followed through with further contact and took it from there. European countries strongly encourage such cultural diplomacy by enabling publicity and information concerning their major arts achievements, Estonia included.

The two Calgary International Film Festival showings of Ema/Mother, on September 25 and 29, attracted close to

200 viewers in total, many local Estonians among them. Viewers had a choice of over 200 films at the twelve-day event in downtown Calgary.

The movie's plot is a somewhat darkly humorous tale of mother Elsa (Tiina Mälberg) who tends to her adult son Lauri (Siim Maaten), bedridden at home in a coma, the victim of an unsolved shooting. There are many visitors, missing funds and a police officer. The production increasingly haunts the viewer, until the eruptions in the last few minutes. Reaction varies: at one showing there was applause, at the other there was laughter. It's that kind of a work!

At the end of the first screening in Calgary, the lead actor Tiina Mälberg talked for a short time about the film, then took questions. Local Estonian Kirsti Oja was at her side

assisting with translation from time to time, when requested by the actress. The session was superbly moderated by Sachin CIFF Features Programmer and Lead on the World Cinema Series. He spoke glowingly about the many Estonian films he had previewed as part of the selection process for this year, and indicated that he would like to see more than one film



After screening of the film, 'Ema' 'Mother' star Tiina Mälberg answers audience questions, on right is translator Kirsti Oja.

Photo: Helgi Leesment (2016)

from Estonia at each future Calgary International Film Festival. As a first timer in

western Canada, Tiina Mälberg enthusiastically enjoyed lunch at an outdoor Canmore restaurant during a long midday break from her Film Festival commitments. She was hosted by AEHS president Kelly Schuler and Helgi Leesment. After lunch, during a short visit to a private home, Tiina removed her shoes in order to truly touch the Canadian Rocky Mountains by walking a short way on Mount Lady MacDonald in bare feet on the springlike autumn day. Tiina Mälberg also enjoyed the walking tour of downtown Calgary, appreciating especially the statues of the „Famous Five“ and the view of Alberta's prairies and mountains from the top of the Calgary Tower.

AEHS Summer Social 2016 celebrates its heritage and history

Helgi Leesment, Calgary, AB and Eda McClung, Edmonton, AB

Linda Hall near Stettler was the site of the province wide AEHS Summer Social celebration. About 100 people enjoyed the sunny afternoon event on Aug. 20. It was a chance to renew friendships (and memberships!), make new connections, visit local historical sites and partake of a huge, potluck buffet of Estonian/heritage foods. It was special that this event coincided



Photo: Jüri Kraav
Linda Hall, 20 August, 2016

The plaque beneath reads 'Pioneers have made this place our home' and that is how it feels to come here. Inside, Linda Hall was festively decorated with lovely blue, black and white table settings. In addition to Registration, people could purchase Memberships, copies of AjaKaja, the AEHS book, DVD, pins, and woven and wooden articles donated by the late Lembit Saar of Calgary.



with

the 25th anniversary of Estonia regaining independence, a chance to recognize the astounding courage of the people of Estonia.

Evelyn Shursen greeting visitors at Estonia House

Flags of Canada, Estonia and Alberta waved beside the front door of Linda Hall.

Prior to the meal, Rein Paasuke recounted his family's experiences of a visit to Estonia during the pivotal days around August 20, 1991. He used slides, clips from videos and first hand experience to recount the dramatic events which culminated in Estonia's courageous declaration of independence. They had been present as history was made.

A highlight of the event was the enormous potluck meal of family favourites, heritage dishes and Estonian foods prepared by members and friends. It is known that Estonians love their foods more than anything else. One could choose from an assortment of smoked fish and meats, homemade barley sausage (*valge vorst*), sauerkraut, baked barley, homemade soups, herring, assorted potato and cucumber

salads, rye breads, buns, kringel, *bubert*, and much more. *(Please see following articles for recipes)*. Thanks goes to Janice Paasuke for organizing the food and



Front: Helgi Leesment (left) and Martha Munz Gue
enjoying the potluck meal

tables, and thank you to all who contributed this wonderful festive fare.

After dinner, Kelly Schuler of Calgary was introduced as the new president of AEHS. She thanked all the organizers of the event and talked about being a fifth generation Alberta Estonian. Amongst her goals is to involve younger generations and to expand the scope of the Society's activities. As an example, she announced the Estonian film 'Ema' will be shown as part of the Calgary International Film Festival. *(See article in this issue)*. Guests were given suggestion cards to provide feedback regarding future planning and programs. Preliminary results suggest they want more singing and beer!

Throughout the day, people were able to tour the recently restored Estonian House at the Stettler Town and Country Museum. Evelyn Shursen was the gracious greeter and invited all to sign the guest book. Inside, the rooms are filled with Estonian

memorabilia, furnishings and fascinating articles and photos.

One could spend hours immersed in the stories and displays. The House has a 'country' setting with plans for a vegetable garden and heritage prairie plantings.

Also open to touring was the Estonian Pioneer Cemetery and 1906 Chapel. The Cemetery is beautifully maintained, there is a newly installed fence and there were flowers on the altar in the small Chapel. Allan Hennel, a descendant of pioneers, has compiled a map with names and locations of people buried there which now hangs in the Chapel. It was a peaceful place to visit after a day of festivities at nearby Linda Hall and reflect on the

contributions of our pioneers.

AEHS extends an enormous thank you to the Linda Hall community for your warm welcome and dedication to preserving pioneer history.



Pärja Tiislar and Kathy Tipman cleaning crew
extraordinaire

Barley Sausage: An Estonian Tradition

Bob Tipman, Calgary, Alberta.

Every Christmas, my mother and grandmother would make barley sausage *valged tanguvorstid* for our Christmas Day dinner. It was a delicacy that we just couldn't wait for. This was the treat of the winter season. When we were little ones, as soon the sausages appeared out of the oven, my sister, brother and I would be there with our plates wanting a sample before they got to the dinner table.

After my mother passed on, that craving for barley sausage didn't disappear, but the recipe had. Somewhere along the way, I purchased an Estonian cookbook and lo and behold, the recipe for barley sausage was in it! So, I made it several times over the years and it always brought back memories of standing next to the stove with my sister and brother, jumping up and down waiting for my mother to take the sausages out of the oven.

Along came the Summer Social at Linda Hall and the pot luck dinner for which we were asked to provide a dish. What a perfect fit to an Estonian celebration but to bring some barley sausage to share. We wanted to make enough for everyone who attended to get a taste, so my wife Kathy and I teamed together with Juri and Helle Kraav and went to work. Well, it wasn't as easy as first imagined. Making the barley and pork porridge was easy, but stuffing the sausage casing was another story. It was a manual,



Helle Kraav, Bob Tipman and Juri Kraav stuffing sausage casings

pioneer, pre-industrial approach just like the homesteaders would have used. Juri stuffed the porridge into the funnel and I pushed it into the casing. Then Juri tied the string to make the sausages the right length. We worked at this for several hours. Finally we had enough for Linda Hall and some for our dinner. We celebrated our exhaustion with a

meal of sausage and some wine and admired how efficient the pioneers must have been.

What a surprise when we got to Linda Hall. We were not the only ones who thought that an Estonian celebration should have Estonian food. There was homemade sauerkraut, *hapukapsas*, a barley salad *tangu salat*, fish on bread slices *kilu leivad*, delicious pastry *kringel*, and chocolates from Estonia. Lots of Canadian dishes added plenty of variety. What a feast!

Our recipe was taken from "Eesti Kokaraamat" or "Estonian Cookbook" edited by Viivi Piirisild and published by the Estonian Women's Club of Los Angeles.

White Barley Sausage

White barley sausage was served as a Christmas dish in the western part of Estonia and on the islands of Saaremaa and Hiiumaa.

4 1/2 cups (1 kg.) barley	2 tablespoons of Marjoram
3 pounds (1.4 kg.) marbled pork side or leg	dash of pepper
3 onions, chopped	8 to 9, 20 to 25 inch long casings (commercial intestines)
2 tablespoons caraway seeds	11 cups (2.6 l.) water

Wash the barley, and place it in a large kettle. Pour 11 cups (2.6 l.) of cold water over the barley. Bring to boil over a low flame. Cut the meat into fine cubes and fry until light brown. When the barley has begun to boil, skim the froth, and add the pork cubes and the pan fat. Leave a few spoonfuls of fat in the pan for frying the chopped onions. Meanwhile, boil the porridge over a low flame, stirring frequently. When the barley is almost tender, add the fried onions, caraway seeds, marjoram, salt, and pepper. Continue boiling over a low flame for another 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from the stove and cool. Stuff the casings with the lukewarm sausage mixture, but do not stuff too tightly. Tie each sausage with a string at both ends. Bring some cold water to boil, and place the sausages in the boiling water. When the water has begun to boil again, boil the sausages for 5 minutes. Carefully lift the sausages out of the boiling water and cool. When the sausages have cooled, place them in a refrigerator. Before serving, dot the sausages with lard and bake in the oven until they are light brown.

Marie Pikner
New Jersey

Kringel – Holiday Braid

Pärja Tiislar, Canmore, Alberta

The traditional Estonian ‘Kringel’ is braided and then formed into the shape of a pretzel; but, I usually find it easier to form the braid into a simple circle. This recipe makes 1 large braided pretzel or 2 braided circles or 3-4 medium size loaves.

Fresh yeast used to be available in stores. Now, however, it seems that only bakeries use fresh yeast – and not all bakeries. I still prefer the fresh yeast, and get it from my local bakery. It comes in 1 lb. packages, and I cut it into 16 squares (each 1 oz.). It freezes well, and keeps well for a year or two, so you don’t have to use it up quickly.



Ingredients

1 pkg. saffron (optional) - Place saffron into approx. **2-3 tbsp. of warm milk** (can be quite warm). Cover and let stand 10-15 minutes.

2 pkg. fresh yeast (or dry yeast) - Mix **2 tbsp. sugar** with

fresh yeast (Or follow pkg. instructions for softening dry yeast - add 2 tbsp. sugar if none is called for.) Do this in a large bowl. This is your main mixing bowl.

2 cups lukewarm milk (not hot) - Pour the milk into the large bowl with the yeast. Add the saffron mixture to the milk and yeast by pouring it through a fine sieve. Squeeze out as much of the saffron “juice” as you can. Add **flour** until the mixture resembles a runny porridge. (The exact amount of flour isn’t important here - the intent is to get the yeast working.) Put the bowl aside for approx. 20 minutes or until it is bubbling (frothy).

Meanwhile, combine the following and beat until light and fluffy:

½ lb. butter

1 ½ cups of sugar (according to taste)

5 egg yolks

½ tsp. cardamom (optional)

grated rind of 1 lemon

grated rind of 1 orange

Beat **5 egg whites** until they stand in peaks.

Beat together by hand, the butter mixture, the egg whites and the yeast mixture. Add **2 tsp. salt**

and **1 - 1 ½ cups raisins**. Add approx. **4 - 4 2/3 cups of flour** a little at a time. Mix well after each addition of flour. Switch to kneading with your hands when the mixture becomes too stiff to handle with a wooden spoon. **(Don’t add too much flour. It makes the braid harder and drier.** My mother said that you have added enough flour when the dough begins to pull away from your hand when you are kneading it. Don’t expect your hand to become completely rid of the dough, some will always stick to it. After the dough has risen, you can always add a little more flour as you are forming the braid so as to make the dough easier to handle.)

Transfer the dough to a clean, large bowl that you have greased with a little butter (makes it easier to get out after it has risen). Smooth the top and cover with a clean dish towel. Place the bowl in a warm area (but not on heat) to rise. Let the dough rise for about 3 hours (or until about 3 times its original volume). I set

the dough to rise in a cool place (basement) at night before I go to bed, and then form the braid or loaves the next morning. Make sure you have a large enough bowl when you do this - the dough sometimes rises more than 3 times its original volume. Turn your dough onto a lightly floured board. Shape your dough into 2-3 loaves. Or, to make two circular “braids”, divide the dough in half, then divide each half into three parts. Make each of the thirds into long “ropes”. Braid the 3 “ropes”, and then join the two ends together to form a circle. Repeat with the other half of the dough. Place the braid onto a parchment-paper-covered baking sheet (or I use 2 large metal flan pans). Let the braid rise for approximately ½ hour in a warm place (not on heat).

Beat **one egg** lightly. Brush the braid with the beaten egg. Sprinkle the top of the braid with **sliced or slivered almonds**.

Bake in a 350°F oven for approx. 30-40 minutes until **lightly**

brown. Remove from the oven and let cool. Sprinkle with a fine layer of **icing sugar** (Use a sieve.) just before serving. This tastes best when served the day that it is made. It’s also great a few days later toasted with butter, or even made into French toast. It also freezes really well, so we often eat one and put the other one in the freezer for use at a later date. Just defrost for 3-4 hours and sprinkle with sugar before serving.

Hope the recipe works for you. It’s a combination of my mother’s and mother-in-law’s recipes. The more times you make it the more familiar you will become with what amount of flour is just right.

Enjoy!

P.S. **Hint:** If making a circle, place an ovenproof small bowl or custard dish upside down in the centre of the circle so that when the Kringel rises it doesn’t fill in the circle.

A Trip to Bonanza: to a treasure trove of memories

Enn Tiislar, Canmore, Alberta

For folks of a particular vintage, Bonanza was a TV programme from an era when cowboy shows were popular. For many years it was part of my family's Sunday night routine in Toronto.. As a result, sometimes the conversation would turn to the real Bonanza for us, a place in Saddle Hills County in the Peace River district of Alberta.



Enn Tiislar revisits Bonanza in 2016

Just outside Bonanza, on the Tomkins' farm, was where my family spent their first year in Canada. We arrived in the cold and dark of December, 1949. However, for my parents, I am sure it was a place of light and hope after the previous decade in Europe.

My parents, both of Estonian background, had been living in a Displaced Persons' (DP) camp in Germany after the war. They had both escaped from Estonia and met, married and had me after the war. They had been actively looking for a number of years for an opportunity to get away from the ever present threat of the Russian Bear to start a new life.

That opportunity came through the International Refugee Organization via sponsorship by Stanley Tomkins of Bonanza. I am sure that his wife Anna, daughter of Estonian pioneers, had a significant hand in the decision to sponsor an Estonian family. Anna, and the Lustwerk family story of leaving Estonia and eventually homesteading in the Bonanza area, was written up

by their daughter Loretta in the article "Pioneers of Northern Alberta" in the Summer 2010 issue of Ajakaja.

My family left Germany, crossed the ocean and landed at Pier 21 in Halifax on November 30th, 1949. The North Atlantic had been rough in November. Apparently Mom and I had been seasick in the cabin most of the trip. Dad had been out and about trading cigarettes, a staple of refugee Care Packages in those days, for oranges (with their vitamin C) for me.

A Canadian Pacific train with hard wooden benches left from just outside the Pier 21 gates. The gates opened to a new country, a new life and a new adventure in the Wild West. I can't even begin to imagine what was going through my parents' thoughts as they looked out the train windows, passed highways, forests, rivers and the cityscapes of Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg...all the way to Edmonton. In Edmonton they changed to the narrow gauge Northern Alberta Railway which took them to Pouce Coup, B.C., the closest pick-up point for the folks coming from Bonanza to meet us.



Enn Tiislar, age three years, on horseback in Bonanza

Dad helped out with all the farm duties under Stan's direction - looking after livestock, clearing the land, harvesting, cutting ice blocks for the summer - both at the Tomkins acreage and at Anna's parents' homestead which was some miles away. Dad had been born and raised on a farm in Estonia so this work was second nature to him. Mom made use of her home and school acquired cooking skills and helped out with food preparation, laundry, sewing, berry picking, working in the

vegetable garden, and of course looking after me. I was three and a half years old. We all lived in the farm house. The Tompkins family with their three children and we Tiislars – we had a bedroom on the second floor.

My recollections, mainly real, I believe, have all been coloured or idealized by the passing of years and reinforced by the retelling of certain stories by my parents.

- It was cold there in the winter. The farmhouse was kept warm by a pot-bellied stove in the middle of the living room. Evelyn, Loretta and Ralph even had a small pot-bellied stove to keep them warm in the sled on the way to school. Mom said that the coldest temperature that they had recorded during the winter was -56°F.
- I remember seeing dark clouds in the sky and thinking we were in for a big storm – but it wasn't a storm cloud, it was a cloud of mosquitoes.
- At community events, Mom's baking and pancakes were held in such high regard that some of the lonely farm bachelors in the area asked for her hand in marriage even though she was already married.
- Mom and Dad took me to see a bear that had been caught in a trap in a coulee close to the farm. People came from miles around to see it. It was later killed. Bears and

Being three and a half, I didn't have any chores to do – I got to sit on the horses and pretend to be a cowboy, play with the family's collie dog, ride on the tractor with Dad, play in the icehouse in the summer where it was nice and cool, walk with Mom over the fields to take food to the men. One night I sat on the cat's tail unexpectedly and got scratched under my left eye. The scar left by the cat is now almost hidden amongst the wrinkles. Images, memories and scratches – I still carry the reminders. The year passed. My parents had fulfilled their one year refugee sponsorship commitment to the Tompkins.

Decisions needed to be made. It was still the time of Canada Land. It was a time of opportunity in the Peace River country. Dad could have gotten a quarter section to start farming on his own - he just needed to do some land-clearing and build a small house and pay a small fee to the government. Neighbours were willing to help. Dad, a farm boy at heart, might have chosen that option even though life would have been harsh. Clearing land was backbreaking work and growing crops was a high risk business. I am sure that owning his own land after many years of 'displacement' was a powerful draw to remain. A difficult decision for sure. Mom had been a 'city girl', born in Pärnu, Estonia. She didn't see her future on a farm. I guess she must have been persuasive. Estonian women usually are,

I have learned. So, good bye Bonanza – hello Toronto! At that time, Toronto had a large (by Estonian standards) Estonian refugee community that had built up after the war. Life changed dramatically.

Dad found inside work in a small industrial plant – never to farm again. Mom took some evening courses and found office work in a high rise tower and only



wolves were a danger to the livestock.

made pancakes on Sunday mornings. I started

Back row: Enn's Dad Herman Tiislar, Enn's Mom Sigrid, Evelyn (Ralph's sister) and Anna (Ralph's Mom). Middle row: Hattie McCoy and baby (neighbour) and Lori (Hattie's sister). Front row: Enn, Gwen and Glen McCoy

kindergarten, the first of many school years in Toronto, and only got to pretend to be a cowboy in the schoolyard at recess. This was definitely not Alberta.

Little did I imagine in the late 50's / early 60's that my life would again intersect with Alberta. It would become "home" again, though it would be many years later. As fate would have it, I finished engineering, went to work for an oil company and got moved to their head office in Calgary in 1986. So, "Good-bye" to parents and friends and "Hello" to Alberta.

New friendships were forged in Calgary with folks of Estonian heritage – both new-comers to Alberta and descendants of Alberta's pioneers. My family took part in many of that community's events via the Calgary Estonian Society. One big event occurred in 1999. It was the centennial celebration of the arrival of the Estonian pioneers in Alberta. Planning for this event initiated the collection and documentation of some amazing stories of those first pioneer families. These stories triggered thoughts of Bonanza and my connection, although slim, to one of those early Estonian homesteaders. I don't know how many times I promised myself (and others) that I would visit Bonanza and renew my connection to the past. Many years went by. So, this summer, when I turned 70, my wife said something about me not getting any younger...and her 'gift' to me was planning the trip to Bonanza. As mentioned before, Estonian women can be persuasive.

I felt it was somehow appropriate that this trip would start from the opposite side of Canada. It didn't matter where I lived in Canada, all roads still led back to my first Canadian home – Bonanza.

We planned this adventure to begin in Victoria - home to our daughter's family, where we had been visiting. In contrast to 1949, this trip consisted of leisurely driving on good roads, comfortable motels, good food and amazing September fall colours through the interior of BC to Dawson Creek / Pouce Coupe.

I had made contact with Loretta after her Ajakaja article about the Lustwerk pioneer family, so I knew that her brother Ralph was still farming the land. With the passing of time, I had lost the contact info; but, I had faith that we wouldn't have

trouble finding the "Tomkins' place". We would just get to Bonanza and ask "Where does Ralph Tomkins live?", surprise Ralph by showing up at his door after 66 years. Not the most thought out approach, but, it worked! After a short drive from Dawson Creek east along Hwy. 49 and then north on #719, we came to a sign that said "Bonanza". Not sure what folks driving past thought of this person standing beside the Bonanza sign getting his picture taken...the sign for me was proof positive of a long ago time and place. We drove a short distance to the main intersection (really the only intersection) which had the General Store on one corner and the Bonanza School on the other.

Bonanza isn't big. The General Store was what you would expect in the country. It was the location for the ATB, the Post Office, the 'café', the liquor store, food store, gasoline and probably other 'farm stuff'. A kind woman behind the counter gave us directions to the Tomkins' place and added that she had seen Ralph just recently and that "he was in fine form". Great to hear, I thought.



Ralph Tompkins and Enn Tiislar in Bonanza, 2016

We followed her directions – the farm was only a few kilometers away. As we turned into the driveway we saw lots of big farm equipment parked on the sides, and saw metal and wooden silos, a greenhouse and sheds beyond the farmhouse. We parked the car. I took a deep breath and walked up to the door. Through the glass, we could see people sitting around a big kitchen table. I tapped on the door, said "Hi", somebody said "Come on in", and I walked in. "Hi Ralph, my name is Enn. I am the Tiislars' son – 66 years ago my parents were sponsored by your parents and we spent a year here.

Do you remember me, or at least that time long ago?" Wow! That was a lot to expect Ralph (who had been 14 at the time) to absorb and react to! Amazingly, Ralph did remember! Within a short while we were talking about 'old times' and were asked to stay for lunch. Thank you, Johanna. From strangers at the door to warm conversation around the table...you can't beat country hospitality!

For at least an hour or more (time passed too quickly), we had a wide-ranging conversation that touched on the past, present and future of the area. We were afraid that we had been keeping Ralph from his farm duties – harvesting wasn't complete yet. Because of all the rain during the past few weeks, he had been unable to get the equipment onto the fields. So, he had some time to spend with us. Ralph retrieved an old box of photos from another room, and reminisced about parents, sisters, his kids, weddings, birthdays— even a picture or two of me at that time. He answered numerous questions about my year on the farm. He confirmed most of my recollections; however, some recollections needed to be corrected. For example, I thought that I remembered hearing songs on the radio—"Good Night Irene...?"— but Ralph said the farmhouse didn't get electricity until the mid-fifties. What I had heard had been played on a wind-up phonograph player.

Later we jumped into his 4-wheel drive vehicle – Pärja and Johanna in the back, me in the front with Ralph – and he took us for a tour to show us the surrounding area. We drove across muddy roads

THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANIZATION
GENEVE, SWITZERLAND—PALAIS WILSON
CANADIAN OFFICE, 143 Main Street, HULL, Que.
TELEPHONE 5-5119

L'ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES REFUGIES

23 NOV 49

File G 42265-7/ Mr. Stanley TOMPKINS,
BONANZA, Alta.

Dear Sir or Madam: Re: **TIISLAR, Herman, Sigrid and Enn (3)**

1. The above named eligible displaced persons will be arriving in Canada very shortly.

2. Having been sponsored by you, the responsibility for arranging for their movement from the port (Halifax or Quebec) to final destination is yours. I.R.O. can NOT provide FREE rail tickets or money for meals on the train, etc.

3. (a) We have ascertained that the cost of railway tickets from HALIFAX/QUEBEC to BONANZA.....Railway Station will be:

.....2..... Adults at \$ 79.20	\$ 158.40
..... Minors at \$	\$
TOTAL	\$ 158.40

NOTE: If, for any reason, the displaced persons named are not to be forwarded to the railway station indicated above, you should advise this office immediately by Telegram.

(b) We suggest that they should be given the following amount in cash for meals, etc., en route:

.....2..... Adults ...6.....days at \$5.00	\$ 60.00
..... Minorsdays at \$2.50	\$
TOTAL	\$ 60.00

4. If you would like I.R.O. to purchase rail tickets, issue cash for meals, etc., we will be glad to do so, PROVIDING YOU FORWARD IMMEDIATELY THE TOTAL OF (A) AND (B) ABOVE \$ 218.40 Please remit by CERTIFIED CHEQUE, MONEY ORDER OR DRAFT PAYABLE TO THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA, OTTAWA (I.R.O. ACCOUNT). Please ATTACH THE ENCLOSED REMITTANCE SLIP AND FORWARD IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

OCEAN TRANSPORTATION

5. We have to advise that it will cost I.R.O. the amount indicated below to bring the above named displaced persons to Canada.

Adults2..... at \$160.00	\$ 320.00
Minors1..... at \$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
	400.00

6. As this Organization is now entering its last year of operations, as its funds are limited and as there are still hundreds of thousands of displaced persons waiting to be moved overseas to Canada and other countries, any contribution you can make towards the cost of ocean transportation of the displaced persons sponsored by you, will be gratefully received and should be forwarded at the same time as your remittance covering rail tickets, meals, etc. We trust you will give this matter your careful consideration.

7. Please attend to this matter immediately in order that there may be no delay when the above mentioned displaced persons arrive in Canada.

Certificate issued by the International Refugee Organization on behalf of the Tiislar family. They were sponsored by Stanley Thompson of Bonanza, Alberta

and fields—thank goodness he knew how to drive through 'black gumbo' We saw many of the quarter sections that he owned and farmed - his daughter's land next to his - his son's land where some additional land clearing had begun - land that the Hutterites had bought to start a new colony in the area, the original Lustwerk homestead (Ralph's grandparents),

farmland crossed by gas pipelines and oil pump jacks which provided needed cash flow from the rent paid by energy companies, canola fields and much more.

One part of the tour, that showed another side of Ralph, was when we stopped to observe an elk in the middle of a field. The elk had just come out from the bush and was exposed in the open. Ralph drove closer and beeped the horn to see if he could scare the elk back into the bush. He didn't want any hunters to get a good shot at the elk in the open. Ralph got pleasure from watching the elk and deer roam free for all to see and enjoy.

It was getting late. He showed us where his parents' farmhouse stood so we could go back next morning to spend time there. This is where the five Tompkins and we three Tiislars lived that year.

We drove back to Dawson Creek to spend the night. At dinner, we had a chance to discuss all that we had seen and heard. We realized that it takes a multitasking person to run a farm these days in the 'new Alberta'. At the end of that evening I remember thinking... "I'm really glad we came"...

Next morning we drove to the original Tompkins homestead to walk around the farmhouse and area. This old house had been left empty in the late 50's when the family moved to a new location. The second floor of the house had caved in. Weather and vandals had taken their toll over the years. I was disappointed that I couldn't walk around inside. Outside would have to do. Standing beside the house and peering

through the broken windows, I tried to picture where

the kitchen was... where the pot-bellied stove that heated the whole house was in the living room... where the stairs went up to the rooms on the second floor where we slept... where the bathtub had been when hot water was poured into it for Saturday 'bath night'. Foremost in my mind was the question "How did we all fit into that house?" I was still deep in thought about the past when Ralph arrived and announced "Johanna has lunch ready."

Another great meal - this time it was homemade hearty barley soup and venison sausage. We lingered over lunch and heard more about Ralph's life over the many years - from traditional parenting and farming activities, increasing family land ownership ...non-traditional pursuits such as road work on the Alaska Highway, working with oil and gas service businesses, getting a pilot's licence, doing snow removal for the county...times had changed. This was not 'just farming' that my Dad had experienced that year long ago. Too soon, it was time to leave.

As we made the left turn onto Hwy. 49 towards Spirit River, I realized that even though I

was leaving the place called Bonanza, perhaps for the last time, the memories of the time there, both in the past and during this trip would remain forever.

So, thank you Johanna and Ralph for your warm welcome during this trip, thank you to Anna and Stan Tompkins for taking a chance by sponsoring my family in 1949 and also a thank

you to Miina and Jüri Lustwerk for starting this chain of events by becoming pioneers in Northern Alberta so many years ago.



Enn Tiislar revisits original Tompkins house where the five Tompkins and three Tiislars lived in 1949.

The Intrepid Estonian Pioneers of Northern Alberta

Nurmi Simm, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta

Estonians settled in northern Alberta much later than in southern and central Alberta. The primary reason was that the north was largely un-surveyed and the government did not make northern land available for homesteading until

the south had been largely settled. Another reason was that the northern part of the province was not readily accessible until after the First World War. The first and for many years the only bridge across the Peace River was not completed until 1918. When this bridge at Peace River town was opened, access became possible to the rich farmlands of what is now known as “The Peace River Country”. Between Edmonton and the Peace River country much of the land was swampy and covered in heavy bush. This land was settled much later when good land became scarce.

Estonians too were among the pioneers of the Peace River country. But they were few and often far apart. These pioneers met and socialized when they could, and most of them knew each other. But no Estonian Society was formed, no Estonian schools were built, no churches were organized. And worst of all, no records were kept except in family albums and personal letters. Pictures are hard to obtain. Knowledge of these pioneers is therefore scanty and anecdotal, and continues to be lost as memories fail and the elderly pass away.

The Estonian population in the north and throughout Alberta received a boost after the Second World War when post-war refugees were able to emigrate to Canada. These newcomers received much support and encouragement from the ‘old timers’ who preceded them.



The earliest stories in the north concern a University of Tartu student who came to trade with the First Nations people. His name and what became of him have been forgotten. An early Estonian family in Peace River town was the Kangur family who apparently were

missionaries. When their three year old son Ülo drowned in the river the family moved away. But little Ülo’s gravestone is still visible and legible in the town cemetery.

The Moro family from Eckville, Karl and his sons Oskar and Otto, arrived in Peace River town in the twenties. Karl engaged in market gardening, Oskar became a successful business man. This family played a major part in the early growth of Peace River. Their story has been told at length in an earlier AjaKaja article (Summer 2013, Issue 38). When I was a schoolboy I sometimes ran errands for Karl ‘Old Man Moro’ and spent time listening to his stories. He told me that in his youth he had been a trooper in the Russian Tsar’s household cavalry and had taken part in suppressing the Bolshevik riots in St. Petersburg. When the Bolsheviks won the revolution he was forced to flee and found his way to Canada.

When the Estonian War of Independence was over, Estonian war hero Admiral Johan Pitka retired and in 1924 emigrated to Canada with his family. Apparently he had become disillusioned with the turbulent politics in Estonia. Pitka did not come to Alberta but settled in northern British Columbia and became a prominent pioneer in the Ft. St James area west of Prince George. When WWII broke out Pitka returned to Estonia to fight the communists once more, but did not survive. In January 2000 the new Estonian navy acquired

a frigate from Denmark and christened it “Admiral Pitka”.

Another early pioneer family in the north were the Lustwerks who settled near Bonanza close to the BC border and Dawson Creek. Their story too has been told in an earlier article in AjaKaja (see the update in this issue).



William Ehrenverth, Peace River

William Ehrenverth and his wife came to Peace River from Barons, Alberta in 1926. He started by opening a trading post in the bush north of Peace River. The winter nights in this isolated place were cold and lonely. The story goes that one winter to relieve the boredom he hauled in a piano and passed the long dark nights playing Estonian folk tunes to the birds and beasts: “*mängis nagu vanemuine lindudele ja loomadele*”. As his fortunes improved he built houses in Peace River and eventually retired on a farm near town. He and his wife raised a daughter, and four sons, Hans, Otto and Edgar. I don’t know what became of the older three, but the youngest son Edgar, who was in my class at school, became a professional hockey player. He played for the Brandon Wheat Kings and for Portland and

Seattle in WHL, and almost made it to the NHL.

In 1928 Paul Simm from Urvaste in Võrumaa arrived in Peace River. He left Estonia in the Depression and worked his way across Canada as a lumberjack in Ontario and a farmhand on the prairies. In Peace River he became a trapper who in the winter worked a trapline a hundred miles downriver from town. In the summer he worked on construction jobs in town. Paul had a long vertical scar on the tip of his nose. When I asked him about it, the story unfolded. One winter night he had been skinning the day’s catch, his hunting knife slipped and bisected his nose. With the isolation and the deep snow, there was no help to be had. He did the unthinkable. With the help of his shaving mirror and the needle and yarn he used for darning socks, he sewed his nose back together. Snow packs stopped the bleeding. Of such stuff were our pioneers made.

The post-war years brought more Estonians to Peace River. In 1948 my parents Aleksander and Marta Simm and my sister Karin and I arrived, sponsored by my uncle Paul Simm. My father had been a veterinarian in Estonia, my mother a teacher. Because they spoke no English, they started at the bottom. At age 58, Aleksander worked on a railway crew repairing track, Marta cleaned houses. As their English improved, so did their work prospects. Aleksander ended his working days as a bookkeeper for a local GM dealership. Marta trained as a Nursing Aide and spent years working in the Peace River hospital. Karin attended nursing school in Edmonton and married a Ukrainian man from Smoky Lake. I graduated from high school and continued on to University of Alberta.

In 1950 Peeter and Alma Kala and their teenage daughter Lea arrived in Peace River. Peeter had been a tanner and leather worker in Estonia, and the family at once engaged in leatherwork, producing purses, belts, wallets, and other leather goods for local stores. They were immediately successful and in a few years, Peeter was able to build a house and then a small tannery on the edge of town. When the market for leather products

diminished, Peeter converted the tannery to an upholstery shop and again was very successful. Finally he converted the shop to a small apartment house and became a landlord.

In the early fifties, three bachelors, all former Estonian soldiers (*sõduripoisid*) arrived in Peace River. The three, Oskar Peetso, Kustv (Kusti) Klement and Maynard (Manni) Lepik, went to work for William Ehrenverth, logging trees and running a small sawmill. With the lumbar they produced, William built houses in Peace River. The three boys also built the first small apartment house in town. Later they went their separate ways. Oskar Peetso married a Polish girl and homesteaded near Dixonville on the MacKenzie Highway. They had four daughters. Kusti went north with the oil business. He never

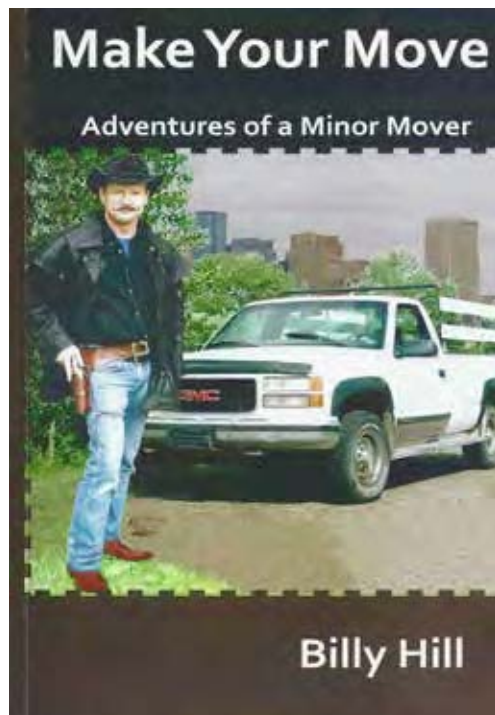
married. Manni married Lea Kala and took over the Kala upholstery business. Later they moved to Dawson Creek and operated an upholstery business there for some years, then moved to Kamloops. Manni and Lea had two boys, Roy and Kerry, who have melted into the Canadian mainstream.

The foregoing is all written from memory and is probably incomplete. Some deserving pioneers may have been missed. What all these northern Alberta Estonians, now mostly forgotten, had in common was that like those in the south, they were energetic, industrious, adaptable and successful. They were a credit to their heritage, to their communities, and to Canada.



Nurmi Simm emigrated to Alberta with his parents in 1948 and completed high school in Peace River. He attended University of Alberta, taught high school mathematics and then pursued a computing career with the Edmonton Police Service. He is a member of AEHS and past president of the Edmonton Estonian Society. He has two sons, Stephen and Eric.

Make Your Move by Billy Hill



Nurmi Simm, member of AEHS, has written a book “Make Your Move” using the pen name ‘Billy Hill’. He operated a post retirement business for fourteen years, a small moving service catering to residents of Edmonton’s inner city, a world apart which most people seldom see. The book is a collection of his experiences dealing with the denizens of the very bottom of the social ladder. The book is easy reading, often humorous, sometimes touching.

Bob Tipman describes it as a “*wonderfully written book..., interesting stories of his ability to deal with the emotions of his clients yet having the patience to deal with their peculiarities... It takes a special person to work in this environment and Nurmi handled it well and wove his experiences into an excellent story*”.

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Henry Rosenthal, Pioneer Gardener of Peace River

Compiled by Eda McClung, Edmonton. AB

Otto Luberg and Henry Rosenthal, both of Estonian descent, arrived in the Peace River area in March 1927. They had spent the previous year with Sam and Henry Kinna (original pioneers) in the Medicine Valley attending local school to learn English. They rented an abandoned 640 acre farm complete with a residence for \$10 a month. This was a sizeable piece of land where they could begin farming. Ten acres was planted with vegetables and 30 acres was seeded to wheat. Wildlife and fish from the nearby river were plentiful.



Medicine Valley Estonians in the 1930s, Left to Right: Juhan Kinna, Roosi Rääbis, Henry Rosenthal, Louise Rääbis, Henry Värnik, Jean Valters (schoolteacher), Mrs. Rosenthal, Karl Rääbis, Henri Kinna

To deal with farming in such a short growing season, Luberg and Rosenthal built terraces to warm the soil and conserve water, methods learned while farming along the Volga River in southern Russia. Using these techniques, both farmers were rewarded with bumper vegetable crops at a time when local prices were at an all time high. Their prize winning cucumbers, tomatoes and melons sold well locally. The two men had also established a network of communication with Estonian families and were able to sell their produce as far away as Eckville, Stettler and Barons. Henry Rosenthal continued a profitable

vegetable operation for ten years. According to the Canadian press, he was famous at local agricultural fairs for cucumbers which could be 70 cm. long, cabbages that weighed 15 kg. and turnips that grew to 30 kg.

Although Henry had success with vegetables, the sudden drop in wheat prices meant bankruptcy for many area grain farmers. He was spared financial ruin by running a trapline in the far north and selling furs in the winter. Competition from commercial market gardens eventually made his operation difficult to sustain. He persevered by expanding his market area to developing small towns nearby. Upon returning to his farm one spring, he discovered his house had burned down. He sold his land and moved to British Columbia, probably about 1940. Luberg had already returned to Estonia.

Henry Rosenthal can be remembered as a pioneer who chose Alberta but retained strong feelings for his Estonian homeland. At his farewell in Medicine Valley, he organized the community to celebrate Estonian

Impendence Day. It took place at the Estonian Hall, it was February 1926 and it was a first that *Eesti Vabariigi Aastapäev* was being celebrated in Canada. He recalled the occasion: "*seda teha päeval, mis nõnda tähtis me kallile kodumaale ja rahvale. Tuletasime meelde selle päeva tähtsust nii sõnas ja laulus*".

Sources: a) Eestlased Kanadas, Vol. 1, 1975
b) Historical records of Medicine Valley Estonians compiled by Voldemar Matiisen

Grim Reflections from Life Behind the Iron Curtain

Kathleen Renne and Colleen Renne-Grivell

Calgary and Canmore, Alberta

The story of Juuli and Konstantin Renne's move to the little Estonian enclave of Eckville, Alberta is a story not uncommon among Estonian immigrants to Canada. It's the story of one nuclear family coming to a new land while everyone else in the extended family network – grandparents, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles and cousins – stayed behind in Estonia. (In the case of the Rennés, that extended family primarily resided in Vaivara Parish, in Estonia's northeastern

corner.)



Anna Annus Renne, 1938

emigrate to Canada in 1936 with their two sons - Adolf and Toomas – in tow.

As Konstantin had anticipated, World War Two came and left much of Europe – including Estonia – in shambles. Families had been torn apart. People were dead and dislocated, many in refugee camps. It often took years for family members who had crossed the Atlantic to find out what had become of their relatives back home.

Such was the case with Juuli Renne. Toomas remembers the day, sometime in the 1950s, when a letter arrived in Eckville. It was from his maternal grandmother, Anna Solman (née Annus), indicating she had survived the horrors of World War Two, which she endured whilst living in Poland. (Anna was from Vaivara Parish. However, she was

widowed at a young age and left her two children – one of them Juuli – with relatives in Estonia, while she moved to Poland with her second husband, a Polish officer, in the first decade of the 20th century.)

Some time after World War Two, Anna had returned to Estonia. By now a senior citizen, and a widow for the second time, she had no choice but to move in with her sister and brother-in-law, Eveline and Kristof Kraavik, who were still living in Estonia.

While Toomas remembers the arrival of Anna's letter as a joyous occasion in the Renne household, it became clear from the letters Anna continued to send until her death in 1966, that all was not well on her end under the heavy hand of post-World War Two Soviet rule. While life was certainly not easy for the Renne family in Eckville, there was, at the very least, a sense of optimism about the future. Such was

not the case with Anna. In fact, her letters reveal a dark, glum existence, a life devoid of cheer and positivity.

For one, Anna's letters demonstrate a continual fear of her fate. As

she wrote in a letter dated June 12, 1960, when she was 81-years old: "I have no desire to live any more. I have lost my strength, my vision and hearing are



*Kristof and Evelyn Kraavik, Anna Annus.
Boy in front is not named*

poor, and I am afraid of what will happen when I become bedridden. Who will help me?"

Only a couple of months later, she wrote again: "Juuli, dear, you know how it is alright while you are able to work, but people do not care for you when you are no longer able to work. The end will eventually come." And then, in October of 1962, Anna wrote: "I am no longer fond of life when I am no longer able to go where I like anymore. Life is not that great."

While poverty touched the Renne household, it was even worse for Anna. As of 1962, she was receiving a monthly pension of 30 roubles, 25 of which went to her sister for food and board. By way of



Julie Renne, Eckville, ca 1950

clarification, Anna said five roubles would buy six kilograms of sugar. She wasn't buying sugar, however; she was concerned about saving up for her casket. In 1964, Anna wrote her vision was in decline and she couldn't see very well. However, she added, "I have no glasses, because they cost so much. I think I can do without."

While Anna's letters were not overtly political – they couldn't be, with the censors – she did make a couple of oblique references to the Communist regime under which she was living. In a letter from March of 1959, she wrote: "It is good that Kristof is still healthy and able to work like a young man. He could stop working. There is bread available, but the system does not support those who do not comply. (While nothing is known about Eveline and Kristof Kraavik's political views, if they were anything like those held by the Renne family, they would have been virulently anti-Communist.)

In April of 1964, Anna explained why moving to a nursing home wasn't possible for her. "Juuli, you tell

me to go to a nursing home. Those who have a pension or a son do not qualify. I have the 20 roubles. They even do not accept those who have nothing." (From this letter, it seems Anna's pension was cut by 10 roubles.)



Grandpa Konstantin and Grandma Juulia Renne in Eckville, 1954

Despite her declining health, Anna wrote many letters in the early sixties to her daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons in Canada. While much of the correspondence focused on mundane updates about fellow villagers, the letters also offer a generally grim overview of life in Estonia through the eyes of an elderly woman who was without hope for the future. She died in 1966 at the age of 87, a long life lived, considering the hardships, the moves, the poverty, the revolution and the two world wars through which she lived....and the fact she anticipated impending death in nearly every letter she wrote. *Kathleen Renne lives in Calgary where she works as a writer for various publications such as the Calgary Real Estate Board and the Journal of Commerce. She also is part owner of a perfume business which occupies much of her time. In addition, she has a passion for making jewellery and reading and has finally started to work on her aspiration to learn Estonian! Colleen Renne Grivell resides in Canmore with her husband Nathan and two year old son. She is an Urban Planner by profession and currently works for The City of Calgary. In her spare time, she enjoys the recreational amenities life in Canmore has to offer and continues to pursue her interests in singing and genealogy.*

Aletha (Klaus) Tipman in her own words

Bob Tipman, Calgary, Alberta

This interview with my mother was recorded by Leah Hennel at the Estonian Centennial celebration in June, 1999. My mother had a remarkable memory for people's birthdays, who they were married to, names of children and relatives and stories about them. But she became strangely quiet when asked about her early years and experiences of living in Russia.

Aletha was born on Feb 17, 1909 to Otto and Olga Klaus in Tver which is near Nurmekunde where a number of Estonians had settled including five of Otto's brothers. While the brothers had left for Canada between 1903 and 1908, Otto stayed behind. In 1910, he moved his family to a larger homestead with better land near Simbirsk (now known as Ulyanovsk) which was in Southern Russia. Olga's step-parents also moved there and the families prospered until the wars. They experienced the hardship of living through the First World War and the cruelty of the Russian Revolution from 1917-1920. The Russian Revolution was a particularly horrible experience for her, with daily threats to their lives by both white (Czarist) and red (Bolshevik) armies as they fought for control of the country.

After the Revolution ended, foreign nationals were given passage to return to their homelands by railroad, travelling in boxcars. Taking only what they could carry with them, the family left for Estonia and then Canada.



*L-R: Olga, Alfred, Otto and Aletha Tipman
Big Valley, Alberta 1922*

"We were Estonian citizens but my family moved to Russia because there was more land. Estonia is a small place so the Russian's started advertising cheap land. It was one quarter of land for very little money and that is where my father and mother went and I was born. The Hennel's, Oro's, Tipman's and Klaus's, they were all in Russia. They all lived in the same area (Nurmekunde).

At the turn of the century Ado's folks came here in 1902 or 1903 because Ado was born here in 1905. Canada was advertising ten dollar homesteads. The relatives who were already in Canada wrote to the Estonians about the cheap land in Canada so they came by boat to start a new life in Canada.

Between 1903 and 1908, dad's brothers came to Canada and settled in the Stettler – Big Valley area. My mom and dad didn't come as they moved to Simbirsk along with my mom's step-parents who were quite old. We were there during the Russian Revolution. It was terrible with the revolution. When the soldiers came you were really scared. They gradually took everything away. I sure do remember the revolution in Russia; it was terrible. I was about ten or eleven years old.

There were reds and whites; the reds were the bad ones. You couldn't say anything or you'd be shot. My family was middle class. I don't miss Russia but I would have liked to go to Estonia when they got their independence.

Out of every three people there was one spy. A lot of people were executed. They were marched to Siberia and had to work in the mines. If you didn't have anything, all you had to do is work all day and all you got was your meal and maybe some clothes if you were in rags.

There were always twelve soldiers that usually came at dawn. They were going to take our cow away and that was the only thing we had left. We had six chickens. You had to give three eggs a day to the government. And chickens don't lay all the time and

in the winter they are even slower so mom and dad killed them.

They thrash and stack the straw in tall stacks so dad raised and hid three pigs there. Dad butchered one the night Alfred was born and the soldiers came and took the rest.

After the Revolution ended, we needed to leave Russia because foreigners were not welcome any more. We were brought to Estonia in cattle cars. That was the Estonian- Russian agreement that they bring people to Narva, that's on the border. Then from there you were on your own in Estonia.

A couple of families came with us on the train from Russia to Estonia. You couldn't take anything with you. My dad had these little ten gold ruble pieces. They were money. What he did was make a suitcase (I can talk about this now because everything is okay) and put canvas over and ribbons and chiselled out the middle part and put the money in there. When we came to Estonia dad said put Alfred's (who was 5 months old) dirty diapers in the suitcase and don't wash them. So that's what mom and dad did and the Russian soldiers opened up the suitcase and oh, the smell. They said throw it away. Dad was very happy and put the bag in the box car.

Two families did the same thing with their gold money. One of them took his shoes and made a hole in the heel and put money in it. People there didn't have curtains on their windows and someone went by and saw him doing that. Both the brothers did that. When we got to the Estonian border they were caught and taken away and dad saw their wives a year and half after and they said that the husbands were taken to Siberia and most likely executed, just on account that they had tried to conceal their own money.

The trains were crowded. They didn't have enough coal to run those things. We stopped in Moscow for two weeks. One time the cattle cars stopped and I got off with my parents and the other families to start bringing some pans out to start cooking what

little food we had. Well the box car started going and I had wandered off but there was one boy who was seventeen and I was twelve. Well he came after me and grabbed me from behind and threw me into the box car. I still have a picture of him. It's lucky I didn't fall under the wheels.

We came out of Russia in April 1921 to Estonia, and were there for over a year. Then we came by boat to Canada.

The Estonian government helped the women with their kids. Every day we got rice soup with milk just for the kids. You had to stay in line for bread and stuff. It was pretty close to our house. I would stay in line and when I got close to the front mom would come and buy what she could. There wasn't much meat; it was scarce. We are sure spoiled here.

Mom and dad couldn't write to relatives in Canada on account of the war and revolution, so when we got to Estonia (it got its independence in 1918), then Dad thought I'll write to find out if relatives were in Canada. All he remembered was Klaus, Stettler, Alberta, Canada. They got the letter on a Thursday and Sunday was Grandpa and Grandma's 50th wedding anniversary so they read it to them because they thought we were dead because of the war.

They wrote back. At that time it took 3 weeks for a letter to go back and forth. They asked if we wanted to come to Canada, so dad wrote back again and said, "My wings are clipped and I can't fly the puddle", you know, the ocean. Next thing we knew the tickets were sent to us. My dad's brothers in Canada signed the paper work and said they would be responsible for my dad for a year, until he gets work and established so that's how we came here.

We had our own middle cabin to sleep in. There weren't many Estonian's coming to Canada on the boat. At that time you had to be sponsored to go to Canada. That was a real experience because mom and dad were really sick on the boat and I had a hard time looking after Alfred. I ran after him. He wasn't sick and was kind of a nuisance.

It was kind of breezy. It took nine days from Estonia. We landed on Sept. 21, 1922 in Quebec. It took 4 days to get from Montreal to Stettler. When we got close mom was crying saying we are going to a strange place; we can't talk the language; we haven't got any money and what are we going to do if there isn't anybody to meet us. Who would be on the platform at the Stettler station? When we got close mom looked out the window and there was Ida Hennel. They lived together in the old country. Then everything was fine. They had gone to the same church.

Ida Hennel seemed down hearted when we met her at the station because she had lost her husband and she said everybody gets relatives but mine won't ever come back but then she turned around and she was okay again; just at that moment she was sad.



Ado and Aletha Tipman, 1940

We stayed with Grandpa. Grandma had died while we were leaving Estonia and I never saw Grandma. Grandpa died in January over a year after we came; then we stayed with Uncle Ed until we got a quarter of land. All the homesteads were taken.

Alfred wasn't even two when we came to Canada. I couldn't speak English. The teacher told the class that whoever could teach me the most English words would earn a prize. Now this is in 1922. The prizes were candy or something. So one of the boys took me around saying this is a broom; this is a wall, this is a window, but I couldn't remember. At noon hour they came and asked me what the broom was and I couldn't remember. Well they took the broom and hit me across the seat and I saw stars. I have remembered the name ever since. My cousins and Kerbes's went to school with me so the other children treated us like one of them.

I finished grade nine. We knew the Tipmans in the old country. We used to go to dances at Linda Hall and I think I met him (Ado) there. The first hall burned down in the 1930's and they rebuilt it. Married Ado on August 20, 1940, and we have 3 kids. Mom passed away in 1977; dad in 1965.

Husband Ado passed away May 27, 1990. He was 85."

Prologue

Before the Estonian Centennial celebration, Aletha was consulted by a number of the local residents to help with their storyboards. Her ability to recall people, events and dates in some detail was a valuable reference to them. Although she knew that her health was not the best, she was excited about the event and determined to attend. Aletha passed away on July 2, 1999, at age 90, two weeks after the Estonian Centennial Celebration. She was travelling with her children in British Columbia at the time of her death.

This interview with Leah is remarkable because her memories of survival in Russia were so painful that she rarely talked about them. Aletha and Ado are buried in the Stettler Lakeview Cemetery.

Anthony (Tony) Fridulin: A Man of Many Talents

Bev Armstrong, High River, AB

Anton Fridolin, son of Denis Fridolin and Lena Tikapes, was born in Pärnu, Estonia, on January 3, 1885. The Fridolins were a family of quite well-to-do black-smiths who also owned a flour mill. Family lore has it that the father was also a goldsmith. At some point, the family moved to Russia and Anton was educated at the University of St. Petersburg where he later restored library books. In 1904 Denis sent his three sons, Juhan, Alexander, and Anton to Canada, via England, to avoid being drafted into the Russian army for the Russia/Japan war. They came to Canada as Finns in order to be able to leave Russia. Arriving in Walsh, Alberta Alex and Anton set up a blacksmith shop where they catered to the local and railroad construction trade. Two years later, they went to the Calgary area and worked at various railroad towns, in the Canmore mines, and the CPR tunnels in the Golden and Revelstoke area. In 1907 Anton and Alex went to Stettler, Alex later returning to Estonia. It is possible that Juhan had stayed in Walsh. According to Walsh history, Juhan heeded the Bolshevik's call and returned to Russia in the 1920's where he was apparently executed. The family's property was confiscated. Anton decided to stay in Canada, he was the third oldest son, and filed for homestead land south of Stettler in 1909. The land title is in the name of Anthony Fridulin.

Uncle Joe Tipman wrote the following story of a unique way to settle a dispute. Tony and his friend Konsa had walked out from Red Deer and were south of Stettler trying to find a homestead they could file on. While eating lunch and admiring the scenery and scanning their map, they came to the conclusion that the land they were looking at, which was about a quarter of a mile away and had a nice pond on it was homestead land. They agreed



*Anthony (Tony) Fridulin, ca 1904
Taken before coming to Canada*

that they would have a foot race to the pond and the one who reached it first, took off his clothes and submerged himself in the water would file on the quarter of land. Konsa, being the best runner of the two, had no trouble getting to the pond first, removing his clothes and was taking a swim in the pond which was to become his homestead, when Tony arrived.

Tony filed on a quarter on the west side of Lone Pine Lake. He and Minnie Tipman were married on January, 1910 and had seven children: Howard, Ernest, Frank, Alma, Linda, Edna, and Kenneth. In 1914, after the birth of his third son, Tony took time out from his fencing and chiseled the date and his initials on the surface of a

large flat rock that was on the bank of the lake.

The Estonians were a very community minded people so they decided to build a center where they could hold meetings and social gatherings with folk dancing and other forms of entertainment. Tony became very involved in the Linda Hall community and was a founding member of the Linda Estonian Agricultural Society as well as being the leader and lead musician of the Linda brass band playing the trumpet. He was able to play other musical instruments as well including the banjo and mandolin.

The family later moved to the Leo district and farmed eight miles north of Byemoor where Tony set up a blacksmith shop and pursued his trade in order to supplement the family income. This was the beginning of the hungry thirties. In 1931 Tony moved again and the older boys went out to work and Ernie stayed back to help his father operate the farm. As times were hard and wheat was plentiful, Tony hunted the fields for the right

kinds of stones to chisel a grist mill with grooves and outlets so that he was able to grind porridge and brown flour. This mill was operated by a belt on the rear of the family car.

In 1933 Tony bought a building from John Streit for thirty dollars and moved it, with horses, to Byemoor taking his tools and equipment with him to start a blacksmith shop

there. Tony added to his shop, tools which he made by hand. He made a trip hammer, an excellent lathe, a large



Anton and Minnie, with Howard and Frank, 1913

press drill, flexible harrows as well as all types of knives. He was also a wheel-wright. Many chuck-wagon drivers brought in wagon wheels to be made smaller so that they would be more suitable for racing.

By this time the family had scattered to Alaska, Van-

couver, and the Okanogan, except for Howard who farmed at Big Valley and Ernie at Rumsey. The Fridulins were ardent campers spending nearly every weekend, weather permitting, at Buffalo Lake where they had a cottage and a boat. This was the scene of many family gatherings where young and old enjoyed themselves, often including friends and neighbors who made it a point to stop by. Delicious stews and fresh fried fish was ready for anyone who came to call and of course the coffee pot was always on too. This was their way of life. Tony still did blacksmith work and had a valid driver's license at the age of 84 years. He also read newspapers, that probably came from Toronto, in the Russian language. He was fluent in English, Estonian, Russian, and Finnish. Minnie died March 18, 1968 and Tony on March 8, 1969.

The Fridulin Blacksmith shop and its contents were moved from Byemoor to the Stettler Museum in 1981 to preserve the work of a village blacksmith and also the work of one of our country's pioneers. One grandchild remains in the Stettler area. Valerie and Bill Hallett farm at Big Valley along with their son Lonnie who is

the only great grandchild to live close to where Tony and Minnie spent their years in Canada.

Three of the grandchildren have been fortunate enough to visit Estonia. Bev Armstrong and Karen Franchini spent several days touring Tallinn, Pärnu, and Tartu and Valerie Hallett was in Tallinn for a short but enjoyable visit. All felt an immediate connection to the country of Estonia.

Bev Armstrong:

I am the oldest grandchild of Tony and Minnie, daughter of Howard and Margaret Fridulin. I grew up on a farm between Big Valley and Byemoor. I have happy childhood memories of family gatherings where the playing of many instruments, including the trumpet, violin, mandolin, banjo guitar, and accordion was accompanied by excellent singing and much laughter. All of Tony and Minnie's children inherited his musical talent.

I married Ross Armstrong in Stettler in 1961 and taught in Calgary and Stettler County before we moved to Big Valley and later to Stettler where we farmed until we retired to High River in 2000. We have three children and six grandchildren. We are fortunate of having been able to travel across Canada, to Australia, the British Isles, to Mexico, New Zealand and Hawaii many times. We enjoy spending winters in Yuma, Arizona.



50th Wedding Anniversary at Byemoor, 1960
L-R: Kenneth, Linda, Frank, Edna, Howard, Alma, Ernie
Seated: Tony and Minnie Fridulin

Grandpa Fridulin's Rock

Bev Armstrong, High River, AB.

The year is 1914, the date Sept. 15, and a third son is born to a young Estonian homesteader in the Linda Hall area of Central Alberta. He takes time out from his fencing and chips his initials and the date into the surface of a huge flat rock. As children growing up, we hear the story of our Grandfather's rock many times.

Sixty -two years later, the day after Christmas in 1976, two sisters, two husbands and six children, ages eleven to seven, set out on snowmobiles to find the rock they have never seen.

It is an overcast day, not very warm, as we suit up and start heading north. We have about twenty miles to go as the crow flies. First across the flat and then to the hills and pastureland as we slowly make our way, around and around in some of the fields, as we try to find gates and snowbanks over fences. We feel like explorers, we know where we are going but we have to find a way to get there. We get to Lone Pine Lake and cross to the west side and the trees along the fence. It is starting to get dark when



*Beverly Armstrong standing on
Grandpa's Rock, 1976*

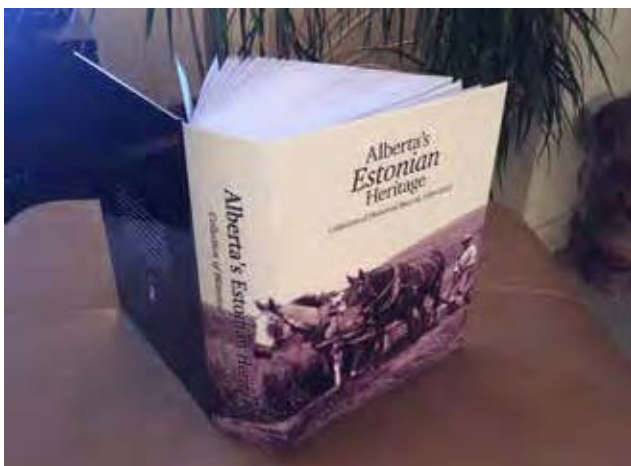
we find the rock under the snow. We stop for only a moment and then head for home.

Fifteen years pass and it is now August, 1991. Again we go to look for "Grandpa's Rock". This time our children are in their twenties and we go by truck. We stop first at the homestead and see where the house and barn were, only holes in the ground now, but with clover and delphiniums still growing. The rock is harder to find this time. The trees have grown up and there are more of them. Finally the oldest of the great grandchildren spots the rock, almost hidden by leaves and covered by moss. We scrape the moss away and stand quietly in the

trees talking in hushed tones. The sun is setting and there is an eerie feeling and connection with the past.

Does my grandfather know that his grandchildren and great grandchildren stand around "his rock" seventy seven years later?

Alberta's Estonian Heritage: Collection of Historical Records, 1899-2012



This 1,057-page resource document reflects the history and cultural heritage of Alberta's Estonian community, and preserves it for generations to come. The collection of historical records and contributions by members of the community highlights the history, people, and cultural life of the province's Estonian diaspora since the arrival of the first settlers in 1899. It will be distributed to archives and libraries in Canada and Estonia.

Financial support by the Estonian National Archives enabled the printing and

distribution of this imposing and comprehensive collection. The book will be available in early December, 2016.

My memorable trip to Estonia

Sam Rowan, Montreal, Quebec

Estonia has always been in the top three places that I wanted to visit. During the summer of 2016 when I was 12 years old, I was very pleased to hear that my grandfather had agreed to take me to his home country. The activities I did on my trip were, I can assure you, wonderful. We arrived in Tallinn on a sunny July afternoon and walked around the cobblestones in the Old Town. It reminded me a bit of the Old Port section of Montreal, where I live, and even more so Quebec City which I have visited. When not in Tallinn we spent most of our time on the island of Saaremaa, where my grandfather was born, exploring Kuressaare Castle and searching for ancestral homes.

Being a connoisseur of delectable dishes and knight of new foods I boldly wanted to try the native cuisine of Estonia. Just kidding. I'm the sort of person who sticks with chicken nuggets and fries. I found the food in Estonia very different from the stuff we have in North America. The most surprising meal I had was at a restaurant on Saaremaa when I ordered fish and chips. It sounded like a harmless dish that I was familiar with and I knew that Estonia was close to the sea and known for having good fish. But I was very surprised when the food arrived and I saw that my fish and chips was actually fishes and chips. I nearly screamed when I noticed my fishes looking back at me. I had imagined a piece of breaded fish like cod or haddock but instead I received sprats, a small fish I'm sure you're familiar with. I had many better experiences with native cuisine such as a place where mashed potatoes were a main dish, and we enjoyed tons and tons of rye bread. Overall I think that the food was very good though more fish than I would have liked, steak's more my thing.



Sam Rowan, 2016

The most impressive and fun thing I saw in Estonia were castles. We spent a great day at a wonderful castle in Haapsalu and we were especially lucky to arrive in Saaremaa during Medieval Days at Kuressaare Castle. The festivities included battle re-enactments, which looked and sounded very real, and some fun activities like archery and a miniature zip line. The re-enactments were probably the best part of the Castle Days because they really took me back to feel like I was in the 17th century. The museum inside this castle was also incredible, filled with lots of information and wonderful old models made to look like scenes from the 1900s. The use of real antiques was interesting since many museums use only models for displays. My favorite part of the museum was the huge display of dozens of different animals found in Estonia. The castles and the Castle Days were a highlight of my trip.



Medieval Days battle enactment at Kuressaare Castle. 2016

In conclusion, I loved the trip, it was one I'd wanted to go on for years and it truly lived up to my expectations. I'm so happy that my grandfather, Dave Kiil, came along, he made the trip even more exciting since he knew a lot about many of the sites we visited. This was definitely one of the best trips I've ever taken.

Every year 5000 to 7000 Participants Ski in the Tartu Marathon

Grant McLeod, Medicine Hat, Alberta

Grant McLeod, retired plant breeder and geneticist from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada enjoys Nordic skiing in the Worldloppet Marathons most winters. He particularly enjoys the Tartu Marathon because of the varied terrain and the friendly festive Estonian culture.

My interest in Estonia was initially sparked because of the Tartu Marathon; which is a member ski race of the Worldloppet, <http://www.worldloppet.com/calendar.php?aasta=2017>, since 1995.



Far left photo: Grant McLeod at Sapporo Ski Marathon in Japan, 2011

Left photo: Lack of snow at the Tartu Marathon in 2016 forced cancellation of the race. The photo shows the marathon track two days later.

Worldloppet is a series of 20 cross country skiing marathons around the world on five continents. A brief history of the event, some historical facts and a list of men and women champions can be found at: <https://www.tartumaraton.ee/en/about/history/TartuMaraton/>.

Travel to Estonia from North America is usually to another destination in Europe and then on to Tallinn. There are daily flights from almost all large cities in Europe to Tallinn. Travel within Estonia is very easy, with several different bus companies and some rail, serving all parts of the country. After a long flight, I usually take a night in Tallinn to wind down and rest a bit before going on the next day to Tartu and Otepää. I usually use the Tallink Express Hotel <https://booking.tallink.com/?locale=en&country=XZ> which is good value for money and has a fantastic smorgasbord breakfast included in the price. This hotel is only a short five minute walk from the 'Old Town', which is fun to explore.

The Club Tartu Maraton, organizes a series of six marathon events throughout the year. In 2017, the year begins with the Tartu Linnamaraton (nordic skiing) on February 26; next will be the Tartu jooksumaraton (running marathon) on May 7; the Tartu Rattaralli (bicycle road racing) on May 28; the Tartu Rulluisumaraton (inline skating) on August 20; the Tartu Rattamaraton (mountainbike marathon)

on September 17. Details on all of these events can be found at www.tartumaraton.ee

The ski race begins with a mass start at the Tehvandi Sport Centre www.tehvandi.ee/index.php?PID=pages&Menu=53&Lang=eng&ver=2 in the town of Otepää. The Tehvandi Sport Centre was initially set up for the training of elite athletes; however, in recent years, it has expanded to become a “Sport for All” centre. During almost any weekday, you can see both elite and citizen cross country skiers training at the facility. In addition, there is a biathlon range and one will see local as well as international biathlon teams training there. While I was there, I also observe several school classes receiving ski technique instruction in and around the centre.

The start of the Tartu Marathon is a bit different than other races with fireworks being set off at the sound of the start pistol. It is a mass start with 5000 to 7000 skiers lined up in Tehvandi Stadium. For the first few kilometres there are 10 to 15 tracks to allow skiers to ski somewhat freely while faster skiers move ahead and the field thins out. There is the occasional lineup at the top of steeper downhill sections. After the first ten kilometres, there are four tracks most of the way. The course is quite scenic with continually rolling terrain with both short and long climbs, through woodlands and across open fields: however, one can diagonal stride over most of the hills quite nicely, depending on the conditions of the day. The route dips a bit to the southwest from Otepää then circles back to the north to finish in the small village of Elva.



Grant McLeod at Medieval Pub in Old Town Tallinn.

Along the track there are several timing and feeding stations; where many volunteers serve skiers food and drink to restore energy, as well as waxing stations where experts will assist skiers to touch-up or repair bad wax jobs. After 63 kilometres, you come to the finish line in Elva. It is like a big party in progress for most skiers. There you pick up the sack you have sent to the finish with a change of clothes and warm-ups, and head off to get the after race food but on the way you pass by a station where they are handing out large cups of warm dark beer. And you just have to accept one, because you think it is a part of Estonian culture. From the finish, busses will return you to either Tartu or Otepää.

If you like liqueurs, be sure to sample the local liqueur Vana Tallinn, which literally means ‘Old Tallinn’. It comes in strengths of 40, 45 and 50% alcohol. The 40% version is really smooth to sip while the higher alcohol types are a bit harsher and better for dilution in creme liqueurs.

My first trip to Estonia was in 2007 and since then I have returned in 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2016 to ski the Tartu Marathon. In 2016, the ski marathon was cancelled because of a snow meltdown due to rain and warm temperature during the two weeks before the race, so I got to do a bit more exploring in and around Otepää. Regardless of the cancellation, Tartu Marathon is still one of my favourite marathons and I will again return in February 2017.

Cooperative established by Medicine Valley Estonian pioneers still active Eckville Co-op one of Western Canada's oldest

Compiled by Eda McClung, Edmonton , Alberta

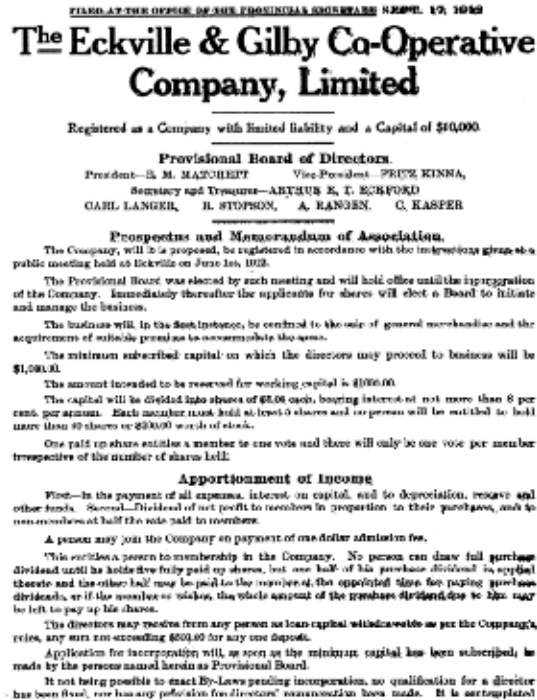
At a recent meeting of the Eckville Co-op, the General Manager said "our members have talked to us about history. You said it was important to keep the history of Eckville Co-op. As many of you already know, the Co-op has been a part of Eckville for over 100 years. However it has not always been the Eckville Co-op you see today. Back in 1912, the Medicine Valley Estonian Society met to discuss the formation of a consumer cooperative. The result of this meeting led to the formation of the Eckville and Gilby Cooperative Company. It wasn't until a quarter of a century later, in 1938, that it became the Eckville Co-operative Association".

In 2012, Michael Dawe of the Red Deer Archives spoke at the 100th anniversary of the Eckville Co-op. He described it as "one of the oldest continuous cooperatives in Western Canada. There are not many organizations, who can grow and thrive for 100 years". He described the early, phenomenal wave of settlers heading to Alberta in search of land, "The Last Best West". By spring of 1905, the Red Deer Land Titles office recorded the largest number of homestead entries in all of Canada.

Amongst these arrivals were the Estonian pioneers who settled in the Medicine Valley, west of Red Deer. Tamara Palmer, in *Freedom, Land and Legacy* (2010), writes "these settlers had a noteworthy penchant for cooperative endeavours" as evidenced in the formation of the Eckville and Gilby cooperative company in 1912 with Fritz Kinna elected president. There was also a mutual fire insurance company, a cattle sale cooperative, a Savings and Loan cooperative for members of the

Society and strong support for a local chapter of the farmers' society (United Farmers of Alberta, Gilby Local), formed in 1911. The Society invested all of its disposable funds in the Cooperative; its prosperity followed and was commented on in lively speeches at subsequent meetings.

In reading the Minute Book of the Medicine Valley Estonian Society (not easy to do as it is handwritten and in regional dialect), it is fascinating to follow their discussions for a cooperative undertaking. At the March 10, 1912 meeting at the home



'Registration Certificate, September 17, 1912'

Sam Kinna, they accepted the proposal (*põhjuskiri*) prepared by Jaan Wernik (See AjaKaja Winter 2014 Issue #41) for a Savings and Loan cooperative (*Hoiu ja laenu ühisustegevuse asutamine*). The proposal was also signed by Henry Kingsep and Paul Koot. In August 1912, they reported that no one had made a deposit nor asked for a loan (*'raha on kassas, kesgi ei ole välja võtnud ehk laenanud'*)! The Alberta economy soon experienced a slowdown and in 1914, people's attention turned to the War effort.

By the time of the 50th celebration of the Eckville Cooperative Society in 1963, the historical overview was presented in English by John Liivam, son of August Liivam who arrived in the Medicine Valley in 1926. He had reason to be proud. The Estonian initiative had multiplied from a few hundred dollars to several hundred thousand. The Eckville Co-op continues to adapt and evolve as times change but its Estonian roots are remembered.

Estonian Lutherans of the Linda Hall District

Eda McClung, Edmonton, Alberta

(Excerpts from 'Lutheran Pioneers in the Stettler Area and Their Churches' by Alfred Erichsen, 2014).

As early as 1899, Estonians started immigrating to Canada with some of the farming community establishing a settlement at Sylvan Lake. By 1902, the available land in the area was all taken. Magnus Tipman and Mihkel Kutras made a trip from Medicine Hat looking for available land in 1904, and that year six families moved from Sylvan Lake to the Stettler area. As more families came, a second settlement was made on available land near Big Valley. The settlements were named "Linda" and "Kalev"

after married giants of Estonian mythology. Their son "Kalevipoeg" (son of Kalev) is supposed to have established an Estonian fortress settlement at the location of modern Tallinn and named it in honor of his mother "Lindanisa".

The pastoral needs of this community were handled by an itinerant minister John Sillak. He was this group's only minister. He probably came to this group traveling on foot from the railroad at Red Deer., starting in 1904 or 1905. In 1905 he suggested to them to organize and request a permanent churchyard and cemetery. This was granted by the Provincial Government in 1906. He encouraged them to build a church to meet their requirements, and make the cemetery and church permanent. They would have to pay an annual \$10.00 tax for the cemetery if the church was not built. As a result, a small chapel was built in 1906 that had room to accommodate 30 people. Pastor Sillak visited the Linda area two or three times a year performing baptisms, confirmation lessons and funerals. In his absence, Gustav Nicklom who had been a Lutheran Church vicar in Estonia, conducted christenings and burials.



1906 Estonian Chapel near Linda Hall

Deane and Irene Kerbes provided details of Holy Lutheran Church in an article 'Landmark Estonian Chapel-100 Years Old', in the Alberta Estonian Heritage Society magazine 'AjaKaja'. The following includes details from their account. The Estonian Cemetery and Chapel were established in 1906, located on SE1/4-37-19, about one mile east of present day Linda Hall. The Government gave a grant of 10 acres from this quarter-section to the Evangelical Lutheran Church (*Püha Johannese Lutheri Kogudus*), the Holy John Lutheran Congregation. This church had its beginnings in 1911. People gathered at the home of Joseph

Hennel for the purpose of organizing the Congregation. John Sillak who had a Ph.D. and spoke several languages addressed the assembly as to which foundation it was to be organized. Sillak traveled over an enormous area, serving scattered Estonians and other Baltic immigrants from California to Manitoba.

The land was acquired from Christian Hennel in 1906. It is believed that Hans Asberg was the main carpenter when a simple all lumber structure was built by Estonian volunteers and a cemetery was created. The simple wooden chapel is on a knoll overlooking the landscape. On the east and west walls are four foot square windows, a door on the south and a cross on the top of the peak. The interior has plain wooden pews and an altar painted gold. Pastor Sillak held services here, baptized children and buried the deceased. When Pastor Sillak was unable to serve the congregation, Gustav Nicklom, conducted the necessary services.

The first caretaker of burials in 1906 was Hans Asberg, as he was the only one who could speak English. In 1909, this job was taken over by Gus

Nicklom until 1916. The position was open until 1930 when Martin Hennel filled it until 1937. Joseph Tipman became secretary-treasurer and he kept burial records until 2000. They were



*Estonian Pioneer Cemetery by the 1906 Chapel
near Linda Hall, 2016*

eventually transferred to Vern Raho. According to statistics, there were three burials in 1907, the first

of many to follow. Unfortunately, Pastor Sillak decided that two deceased persons had not followed the teachings of the Lutheran faith so these persons had to be buried outside the cemetery. At a later date, the government granted another acre of land allowing the fence to be moved thereby adding the two graves to the cemetery.

Local people helped to maintain the cemetery and gave generously of their time and money to build a fence and to care for the church. Those who helped had the eternal right to bury their deceased in the cemetery.

In the 1970's, the Estonian Chapel and Cemetery were declared an Alberta Historical Site. Beneath rows of iron crosses and many beautiful headstones, approximately 100 Estonian pioneers provide mute testimony to the Estonian presence in the area. In 1996, a trust fund was set up for the perpetual care and maintenance of the chapel and grounds.

Reverend John Sillak, Fiery Lutheran Pastor of the Prairies

Reverend John Sillak was born in 1864 in Dorpat (Tallinn) Estonia. He graduated from the Faculty of Theology of the University of Tartu in 1886, and married Anna Loorberg in 1889. In 1891 he moved to England to improve his English. He became a renowned linguist and was capable of speaking and writing in over ten languages, including Estonian, Latvian, German, English, Latin, Hebrew, Greek and Arabic amongst others. His fluency in languages enabled him to translate the Lutheran Confessions into Estonian and Latvian.

In 1891, he received an invitation from the Iowa Synod of the Lutheran Church to serve as a pastor and missionary guiding American Estonians, Latvians and Russians. To help in this assignment, he attended post-graduate studies at the Springfield Seminary of the Missouri Lutheran, graduating in 1892.

In the spring of 1901, he accepted an invitation to serve the needs of Lutherans in Canada and moved

to Josephburg, east of Edmonton. In 1903, he moved to Medicine Hat, Alberta. This position required extensive traveling throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northern United States.

He accepted his role as itinerant pastor, traveling to scattered Estonian settlements, performing religious ceremonies. Considering the magnitude of his constituency, it's obvious that he was a very dedicated servant of the church, traveling by train, sometimes horse and buggy and often by foot to carry the ministry to his people. For example, in the spring of 1902, he arrived by train from Medicine Hat to Red Deer and then walked to Eckville for services. There were divisions amongst the Estonian community regarding the church and some felt the church was more a deterrent than a help. On one visit he became angered that people were dancing on a Saturday night before they were to take communion the next morning. This appears to have been his last visit to Eckville. Rev. Sillak had

strong opinions on what it meant to be Lutheran Christian.

Stettler area congregants recollect Rev. Sillak arriving in the 1930's in a Model T Ford which needed cranking to get started. He stayed with local families and held services in people's homes, sometimes in German. The Chapel was the most appropriate site for funerals and baptisms. This was a divisive time in the community. A schism was created by the strong anti-communist beliefs of Rev. Sillak and the cooperative socialist beliefs amongst some in the Estonian community. Added to this was the overall impact of the 'dirty thirties'.

Rev. Sillak frequently translated religious texts and wrote thousands of pages of philosophical discourses. In recognition, he received an Honorary

Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Canadian Lutheran College. He passed away in 1953 in Medicine Hat, Alberta where a street has been named in his honor



*Reverend John Sillak
with Raymond Hennel.
ca 1953*

AEHS Website Status Report

Helgi Leesment, Calgary, AB

Our future website has been under planning for so long it almost feels 'old'. It is involving various kinds of input from many people. This includes past and current presidents, designers, contracted technical experts and firms, and several AEHS Board members. It is amazing to think that ten years ago Bob Kingsep did it alone. AEHS is fortunate to have had such a skilled and dedicated president.

Technology changes fast. In order for the website to be meaningful for users of all ages, it has to present information that is accessible on today's devices which includes smartphones, tablets, as well as computers. There will be a **Home Page**, **News/Events Page**, **Heritage Project Page**, **AjaKaja Page**, and **Contact Us Page**, each with appropriate links. A custom feature, currently under construction, is

administrative and will enable the Membership Director to easily send e-mails, print labels and keep up with address and phone changes.

The **Membership Page** will enable people to register and renew memberships. Payments can be made online or via regular mail and cheque. The same page will have order forms for our book, DVD, and individual issues of AjaKaja. A new section will feature photos, events, articles and miscellaneous material with input welcome from our readers.

We are approaching completion but not there yet. We look forward to getting the whole site available soon. We are grateful to the Estonian Foundation of Canada and their financial support of this project.



GRAV LAX SALMON

Despite the iron curtain, this world famous Swedish appetizer's recipe leaked in to Estonia through Finnish TV about 20 years ago. Various studies of recent years have indicated that red flesh fish is especially healthy. Thus, more and more salmon is replacing pork at the holiday table.

- 2 salmon fillets, skin on • 2 tbsp coarse salt • 1 tbsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp black or white pepper • fresh dill, chopped
- lemon wedges for garnish

To make the seasoning, mix together sugar, salt and pepper. Sprinkle a quarter of the mixture on piece of aluminum foil. Place salmon fillet with the skin side down on top of the foil. Sprinkle with seasoning mixtures and generous amounts of dill. Place second salmon fillet on top of the first fillet, skin side up, so that the flesh sides are touching. Add more seasoning and dill. Fold foil and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Consume within 48 hours. Scrape dill and seasonings off. Hold thin fillet knife almost parallel with salmon fillets and slice fillets very thinly. Place on platter and garnish with lemon wedges. Serve with slices of toasted white bread. Any leftovers can be used in soups or pies.

EESTI KÖÖK /Estonian Cuisine (2010) AS Ajakirjade Kirjastus

The Magic of the Tallinn Christmas Market

Estonian World in Life, November 18, 2016



Aerial view of Tallinn Christmas Market

Considered among the [ten most magical](#) Christmas markets in Europe, the Tallinn Town Hall Square becomes a romantic and atmospheric place where the local merchants sell a range of Estonian arts and crafts, as well as mulled wine and traditional food.

Tallinn's modern-day Christmas market has been running since 1991 and has gone from strength to strength. Once you have slowly walked through the streets of the magical medieval Old Town, finally strolling around the Christmas market in a nice winter day or early evening feels like you've just arrived in a winter wonderland – especially when it has snowed.

The first public Christmas tree in Europe

The tradition of celebrating the good Old Yule in the Town Hall Square goes a way back – Tallinn is also the place where the world's first public Christmas tree was erected. The tree was the focal point of a ritual that began in 1441 and involved unmarried merchants singing and dancing with local girls around a tree, which then was burnt. This was the first public Christmas tree ever put on display in Europe by the Brotherhood of the Black Heads guild, an association of local unmarried merchants, ship owners and foreigners that was active in the region at the time.

Alberta Estonian Heritage Society

List of members, November 2016

Allen	Dianne	Spruce Grove	AB
Armstrong	Beverley	High River	AB
Boehrnsen	Sylvia	Calgary	AB
Collin	Marion	Airdrie	AB
de Launay	David	Peterborough	ON
de Launay	Geoff	Kanata	ON
Derksen	Colin & Linda	Edmonton	AB
Dinning	Shirley	Edmonton	AB
Elvey	Ruth	Sidney	BC
Erdman	John	Red Water	AB
Fodor	Evelin	Calgary	AB
Franchini	Karen	Burnaby	BC
Gue	Anita	Yellowknife	NWT
Gue	Brian	Edmonton	AB
Gue	Kevin	Hornby Isl.	BC
Gue	Lisa	Ottawa	ON
Gutsche	Horst	Barrhead	AB
Hall	Gwen	Ashmont	AB
Hennel	Gloria	Myrnham	AB
Hennel	Henry	Stettler	AB
Hennel	Leah	Calgary	AB
Hennel	Lorne & Anne Marie	Calgary	AB
Hennel	Rita	Stettler	AB
Hennel	Rodney & Liz	Stettler	AB
Hennel	Ron W. F.	Stettler	AB
Herman	Liia	Innisfail	AB
Jaako	Harry	Vancouver	BC
Kaert	Mati & Linda	Edmonton	AB
Kaljuste	Truuta Kai	Montreal	QC
Kalvee	Betty	Nanaimo	BC
Kalvee	Willy G.	Calgary	AB
Kenzle	Alice	Nanton	AB
Kenzle	Susan	Austin	TX
Kerbes	Deane & Irene	Stettler	AB
Kiil	Dave	Edmonton	AB
Kingsep	Bob & Annette	Victoria	BC
Kivisild	Livia	Calgary	AB
Koper	Donna	Cochrane	AB
Kotkas	Perry	Calgary	AB
Kraav	Jüri & Helle	Calgary	AB
Krasman	Leslie	Champion	AB
Kuester	Matt	Edmonton	AB
Lecerf	Elizabeth	Edmonton	AB



Leesment	Peeter & Helgi	Calgary	AB
Liikane	Epp	Everett	WA
Maddison	Anneliese	Edmonton	AB
Madill	Anita	Calgary	AB
Matiisen	Arne	Calgary	AB
Matiisen	Janet	Calgary	AB
McElroy	Elve	Camrose	AB
McClung	Eda	Edmonton	AB
McLeod	Grant	Medicine Hat	AB
Munz Gue	Martha	Medicine Hat	AB
Pääsuke	Mark	Vancouver	BC
Pääsuke	Rein & Janice	Calgary	AB
Pääsuke	Toomas	Canmore	AB
Pallo	Jack Henry	Red Deer	AB
Peet	Ethel	Edmonton	AB
Peetri	Ave & Kevin	Oman	UAE
Pilt	Shirley	Edmonton	AB
Pohjakas	Kaljo & Lilian	Lethbridge	AB
Renne	Thomas & Janice	Calgary	AB
Robertson	David & Christine	W. Vancouver	BC
Ruus	Allan	Calgary	AB
Ruus	Lea	Calgary	AB
Ruusauk	Siim	Sherwood Park	AB
Sastok	Helve	Edmonton	AB
Schleindl	Val	Edmonton	AB
Schuler	Kelly	Calgary	AB
Shongrunden	Astrid	Penticton	BC
Shursen	Evelyn	Stettler	AB
Simm	Nurmi	Edmonton	AB
Sorenson	Marlene	Calgary	AB
Tardie	Elizabeth	Edmonton	AB
Tiisler	Enn & Pärja	Canmore	AB
Tipman	Liisa	Calgary	AB
Tipman	Bob & Kathy	Calgary	AB
Ustina	Astrid	Edmonton	AB
Ustina	Stephanie	Victoria	BC
Visser	Igor & Mari	Cochrane	AB
Walters	Sylvia	Rimbey	AB
Wartnow	Floyd C	Delta	BC
Zach	Inge	Calgary	AB
Zielinski	Michel & Kristine	Spruce Grove	AB





Häid Pühi!
Head Ut Aastat!
Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!