

AJAKAJA

SUMMER 2010 • VOLUME 32



ALBERTA ESTONIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY



Alberta Estonian Heritage Society (2010)

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

AjaKaja

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

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| Non-members may purchase AjaKaja for \$5.00 per copy by contacting Eda McClung |
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Members and friends are encouraged to submit articles, photographs and heritage-related items to Eda McClung at emcclung@shaw.ca

Visit "Alberta's Estonian Heritage" website: www.albertasource.ca/abestonians



AJAKAJA

Alberta Estonian
Heritage Society

Summer 2010
Volume 32

From the Editors' Desk

'Flowers and butterflies drift in color, illuminating spring'
Author Unknown

Butterflies in flight over a pleasant summer meadow are beautiful and enchanting. They symbolize freedom, travel and transformation. They undertake epic odysseys and undergo an astonishing metamorphosis.

For this spring/summer issue of AjaKaja, we chose the butterfly to symbolize the story of Alberta's Estonian pioneers. They made amazing migrations, had an instinctive impulse for freedom, and the resources for adaptation and survival. Over a century later, their descendants still demonstrate that willingness to change and transform. Alberta's Estonians are recognized for celebrating and documenting their heritage but it doesn't end there.

AEHS is working actively to be in the present by using the Internet to further our informational, social, and cultural goals. As outlined in the President's Message, our next major project will be an update of the AEHS user website. AEHS has earned recognition for documenting its unique history. However it also wants a worldwide link to others who share present day interests. Staying current is a task we ignore at our own peril.

The multi-generational makeup of our membership provides us with a unique opportunity. A sense of adventure continues to be reflected in the community spirit of present-day generations.

Will the younger generation continue the symbolic flight to preserve their heritage? Will they embrace communications technology to develop global links to Estonian interests? This is our present and future challenge.

A multi-media format of our heritage information is now in place. We have the capability to continue the story and to communicate globally with those who are interested. We invite your involvement. Feedback on our use of Internet and other communications media to enhance the AEHS is welcome.

Although no formal province-wide Jaanipäev is planned this year, we hope you take time to celebrate a wonderful Estonian Midsummer.

Eda McClung and Dave Kiil

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Pärnu-Jaagupi Parish Folk Costume



President's Message

Tere!

Congratulations everyone! We have completed five years as the Alberta Estonian Heritage Society!

Something in the passing of time captivates us. Looking back, we remember that after combining the resources of the Alberta Estonian community and establishing ourselves as a registered non-profit organization, we embarked on a DVD documentary project. This, as you know, was not a simple conglomeration of pictures and facts, but a professionally organized work of art that provided an historic profile of a cultural community. It is a story, which can be appreciated by anyone regardless of ethnicity.

The information gathered for the DVD and the experience gained during that process provided a logical progression to another ambitious project, the establishment of an historic website documenting Alberta's Estonians. This website covers the history of the people, places and events of the Estonian Pioneers, world war immigration and the descendents through to the present and makes it available for worldwide access.

Additional information arrived with the repatriated collection from Toronto. The third project was more traditional, and in part, was the completion of a task initiated by the Centennial of 1999. This



is a book documenting the Alberta Estonian story. It is in its final phases and will be available this summer. It too will be another quality endeavor of which to be proud.

The challenge of organizing and accessing our accumulated material has been a concern to us. However, through a series of negotiations, the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton has agreed to store, categorize and make available our prized collection.

Our personal website is five years old, and, as is the case with technology, it's time for an upgrade. Time. There's that word again and with it an implied project and a hint of predictability.

As you know, over and above these projects, we have enjoyed Jaanipaev celebrations, centennial events and other successful social activities. The print you hold in your hands this moment is a classic example of the energy and dedication of our talented volunteers.

Einstein theorized that time is a variable dependent on mass and speed. While it is interesting to speculate on how we might work that phenomenon to our advantage some day, our accomplishments, utilizing conventional time over these last five years, are quite remarkable. Perhaps it's *what we do* with time that captivates us.

Hats off to all of you!

Bob Kingsep

Dear Albertan's, Ajakaja readers



Photo by Ulle Baum

From left: Ambassador of Latvia to Canada His Excellency Margers Krams, Ambassador of Lithuania to Canada Her Excellency Ginte Damusis, Honorable Peter Van Loan, Member of Parliament and Mr. Riho Kruuv, Charge d'Affaires of Estonia to Canada.

Riho Kruuv is the Charge d'Affaires of the Estonian Embassy in Ottawa.

It gives me great pleasure to address you in 2010 Summer edition of AjaKaja. By now, I have been in Canada on diplomatic duty for almost half a year but since the last edition was published at the moment of my arrival, I was not able to introduce myself and send my greetings to you then.

As with every issue there are pros and cons; so there are also benefits for being late. Now that I have had the opportunity to visit Calgary and Edmonton, meet some of you, and pass enroute another important city for Estonians - Red Deer by bus, I am more informed about your history, life and everyday issues. I hope this helps me to serve you better and provide you with support from our distant fatherland, Estonia. For many of

you Estonia is a land of grandfathers, great grandfathers or even great great grandfathers. Yet, if you still read this journal there is probably still some Estonian blood in your veins. This is something you can be proud of.

As mentioned above, I had a chance to visit Alberta in mid February enroute home from Vancouver Olympics to Ottawa. This quick visit to Alberta was motivated by my desire to learn as soon as possible specifics of different provinces of Canada and make myself known amongst Estonians living in Canada and Canadians of Estonian descent. Meeting many members of Alberta Estonian Heritage Society both in Calgary and Edmonton, and a nice coincidence, celebrating with them 92nd anniversary of the Republic of Estonia, I feel I am a step closer to that objective. I was also lucky to be one of first visitors to the recently opened Art Gallery of

Alberta. Believe it or not, I was welcomed with a Russian heroic WW II song, well known to me from Soviet occupation Russian propaganda films. Of course, it was just part of one exhibition, nothing personal but a surprise nevertheless.

My visit to Alberta gave some of you a chance to renew your Estonian passport and ID card, or apply for it first time. Identifying Estonians around the world and allowing them to identify as Estonian citizens is very important for our country. It doesn't help much in preserving Estonian language abroad but helps the holders of the documents to maintain their Estonian roots and spirit. What is even more important, it keeps open the window for those who consider moving back to Estonia, now a full member of the European Union and NATO. Since Estonia is a small country and nation, we welcome all Estonians willing to return, in particular, those with knowledge, skills and enlightened minds regarding world affairs, international trade and technologies.

"Identifying Estonians around the world and allowing them to identify as Estonian citizens is very important for our country."

For those not yet Estonian passport holders, there is a bilateral Youth Mobility Agreement, signed between Estonia and Canada and soon to be ratified by our legislatures. This agreement gives Canadian citizens temporary rights to work in Estonia which may become an important step in learning more about the country and the practice of living there. This agreement may also help to bring in Estonian language teachers for Estonian communities across Canada.

We also want to provide our best to serve those of you who are not returning to Estonia. This is why we are planning to open an Estonian Honorary Consulate in Calgary. It will serve as a hub in attracting Alberta investments to Estonia and helping Estonian exporters fill local niches with Estonian products. It will also serve you in solving some problems in communicating with Estonian authorities and help those Estonians that need immediate assistance while visiting Alberta. Hopefully, we will officially open the Consulate in second half of this year.

We will also try to initiate cultural programs in order to provide Estonian movies, musicians, dancers and other performers. This is where we

need your enthusiastic cooperation to find the best places, dates and artists of your choice.

Speaking of political affairs, we are pleased to enjoy superb bilateral relations with Canada. Despite the fact that we are a Member State of European Union and there are occasional, minor grey clouds (issues like seal trade, climate change and so called bank tax), our relations are very good. Currently, EU and Canada work hard to negotiate Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) to make our bilateral trade and investments flow more freely and securely. Estonia is hopeful that completion and full implementation of this agreement will also help Estonian businessmen to expose Estonian products to Canadian and Albertan markets.

"This is why we are planning to open an Estonian Honorary Consulate in Calgary."

Estonia and Canada are partners who aspire to provide a more secure world for all of us. This is why our soldiers fight together in southern Afghanistan under ISAF and many other crisis areas of the World. We have both suffered heavy losses. We share an almost identical vision on present and future issues as members of NATO. We were sad that Canada's Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Lawrence Cannon was not able to visit Estonia this spring for NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting. The results of the meeting were very good. Good for Estonia, Canada and NATO as a whole. Our joint efforts and work will also continue in the future as security is never a completed task.

In conclusion, let me express my desire to visit Alberta again in near future and during this visit I hope to meet more of you. I hope that together we can do a lot to preserve Estonian language and spirit in Canada and keep it a shining piece of cultural identity in the palette of the global Estonian family.

With sincere regards,

Riho Kruuv

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A Heritage Book

Freedom, Land, and Legacy: Alberta's Estonians 1899-2009.

Dave Kiil and Eda McClung

"...it is for me a very emotional experience to see a road sign say "Linda Hall". Linda is the wife of an Estonian National hero...We have done very little to discover the recorded history of Estonian archives. So with your help and interest...we will move forward". (Comments by Estonian President Lennart Meri during his visit to Stettler, 2000).

This book represents the completion of the three-stage Heritage Project of the Alberta Estonian Heritage Society (AEHS): initial project was a 30-minute documentary "Alberta's Estonians" DVD; second project was development of the "Alberta's Estonian Heritage" website, a comprehensive digital historical record; third and final is this book, a history of Alberta's Estonians in written form.



Looking back, the Stettler Estonian-Canadian Centennial in 1999 was the pivotal event which triggered awareness of and passion for Estonian roots. The visit to Stettler by Estonian President Lennart Meri in 2000 strengthened the value of our heritage focus.

The book provides a current context for the history and aspirations of the Estonian pioneers and the hopes of post-World War II immigrants. Its 300 pages are richly illustrated with photos, tables and maps from the pioneer era to 21st century highlights.

The unique legacy of Alberta Estonian pioneers is expressed in the diverse, province-wide, multi-generational AEHS, formed a short five years ago. Many members contributed materials to document and preserve their cultural heritage. This collective effort is recognized by Estonian organizations in Canada and Estonia. We can take pride in our accomplishments.

At the time of writing, the design and layout of the book is nearing

completion. Hopefully it will go to print this summer and be available by early fall. Members of AEHS and other agencies will be informed of price and availability at that time.

We gratefully acknowledge generous financial support from the following granting agencies:

*Eesti Vabariigi Haridus-ja Teadusministeerium
(Estonian Ministry of Education and
Research, Compatriot Program), 2009.
Eesti Sihtkapital Kanadas (National Estonian
Foundation in Canada), 2009.*

Preserving Cultural Heritage of the Estonian Diaspora

Piret Noorhani

Piret Noorhani is President of the Baltic Heritage Network (BaltHerNet). She currently lives in Toronto.



President of the Baltic Heritage Network Piret Noorhani (left) and Secretary Karin Kiisk

It has repeatedly been stated that it is difficult to get an overview of the Baltic diaspora's cultural heritage, as the relevant archival collections and information are so scattered. At the end of World War II, 70,000 to 90,000 Estonians fled the Soviet occupation and left their homeland. When earlier (and later) emigration is taken into account, it is clear that Estonia has significant diasporic communities. Their decades-long cultural engagement has produced voluminous collections of archival records.

The historic political shift in the late 1980s and early 1990s was accompanied by a technological one. At the time that Estonia regained independence, the world was going digital. The Internet with all its possibilities of virtual communication and networking has helped revive and connect scattered communities around the globe. People's thinking regarding where and how to preserve the cultural heritage of the diaspora and make it accessible has also changed.

The general mindset in Estonian state memory institutions before and around the turn of the millenium was one where archival materials of the diaspora communities should be brought back

to the historic homelands of the peoples in question. Today, it is self-evident that archival materials can also be held in the countries where Estonians settled, provided that their proper preservation and accessibility are assured. The view that (the Estonian diaspora's) archival information ought to be widely accessible is not only influenced by the political process of democratisation but also by the expectations that have arisen within the public due to the development of new information technology.

The work with these geographically scattered collections is complicated though extremely important. In order to gather information about memory institutions and individuals involved with Estonian archives in the diaspora, a round table meeting concerning these archives was hosted by the National Archives of Estonia in the spring of 2005. In 2006 an international conference on Baltic archives abroad was held in Tartu. The collaborative network was extended to embrace partners from Latvia and Lithuania as well as from the Latvian and Lithuanian Diaspora. The co-operation continued, and our undertakings received financial support from the Compatriots Program of the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research.

In early 2008, the non-profit organisation BaltHerNet was established to facilitate further co-operation. The multilingual electronic gateway www.balther.net had already been launched in 2007 to gather information on the archival collections and cultural heritage of the Baltic diaspora. Its aim was to ensure access to these materials, to value the cultural legacy of the Baltic diaspora and to promote the study and preservation of this heritage. The portal contains advice and instructions on the organization and preservation of cultural heritage, information about memory institutions engaged in the work in Estonia as well as abroad, research of the cultural heritage of the Baltic diaspora, databases, portals, electronic publications, bibliographies, electronic exhibitions; news on events, grants, trainings, job offers, events, a gallery, news archives and a forum.

Simultaneously with the portal (that is, in 2007-2008) several home pages were completed as well. Archives such as the Estonian Archives in the U.S., Tartu Institute's Dr. Endel Aruja Archives and Library (Toronto), Estonian Archives in Vancouver, Estonian Archives in Germany and the Estonian Archives in Sweden got their own home page. BaltHerNet also organized the translation of the Australian Estonian Archives' home page into Estonian. The Australian archives were at the time the only one with a home page in English.

Thanks to the support of the Compatriots Program, BaltHerNet's Estonian working group has managed to launch projects with the aim of improving the condition and accessibility of collections. Thus our experts have helped and advised Estonian archives in Sydney, New York, Toronto, Vancouver, Stockholm, Hamburg, Cologne, etc. In 2009 and 2010 archivists from the Estonian National Archives visited the Immigration History Research Centre in Minneapolis to describe the collections of the Estonian Archives in the U.S. preserved there. This cooperation continues, as it is necessary to make information on all essential collections available on the Internet.

The archives of Orto Estonian Publishing House have been prepared for digitising at the Library and Archives of Canada. The digitisation will hopefully be completed this spring. Digital copies of Orto's correspondence and contracts will then be accessible in Estonia. Copies will be preserved in the Cultural History Archives of the Estonian Literary Museum.

Such collaborative projects usually have several partners and BaltHerNet is not, nor should it be, the central agent or coordinator in such projects. We often act as mediators to bring together people or institutions and provide them with information for writing applications for financial assistance, where to send old books or to find a restorer of historical flags. Sometimes we just generate ideas, trusting others to carry them out.

We have organized information days for diaspora communities and at home:

- 2006 in Stockholm;
- 2007 in Stockholm and St. Petersburg;
- 2008 in Hamburg, Tartu, Toronto (seminar "Preserving the Cultural Heritage of the Baltic Diaspora" -

together with other Balts for the first time;

- 2009 in Stockholm (joint seminar "Mapping and Preserving the Audiovisual Heritage of the Baltic Diaspora" with the Baltic Audiovisual Archival Council and again including other Balts) and Petroskoi.

In 2009 seminars for young researchers were started. The third seminar was held in Tartu on April 20, 2010. BaltHerNet organized two summer schools for volunteers working at Estonian archives abroad: 2007 at Koke and 2008 in Kāsmu. The next summer school will take place June 28 to July 2, 2010 in Viljandi.



BaltHerNet Summer School at Koke in Võru County, Estonia, 2007

BaltHerNet has had the pleasure of witnessing Alberta Estonians' ardent and focused research and recording of the history of their ancestors, the earliest Estonian settlers in Canada. Alberta Estonian Heritage Society serves as a good example for other compatriots abroad. The Estonians of Alberta have shown that it is possible to preserve your cultural and historical knowledge abroad over a long period of time, even in a situation where knowledge of the mother tongue has started to disappear. Alberta Estonians are also a good example of how one can use IT- opportunities in a fruitful and efficient manner, how to cooperate with memory institutions in the country of residence and in Estonia and even how to find financial support for activities. We wish them all the best in their efforts and hope that the Alberta success story will reach as many Estonians abroad as possible- to give those who doubt the strength and courage to preserve their cultural heritage.

Alberta Estonian Heritage Society Annual General Meeting, 2010

Dave Kiil



*Attendees at the Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Estonian Heritage Society,
May 1, 2010*

The inaugural meeting of the then-fledgling Alberta Estonian Heritage Society (AEHS) was held in Red Deer in April, 2005. Five years later, AEHS again held its AGM in Red Deer to review activities and to discuss future ventures.

AEHS President Bob Kingsep presented an overview of AEHS activities during the previous operating year: the 2009 AGM, attendance of many members at the 2009 Song-and-Dance Festival in Tallinn, the West Coast Estonian Days in Seattle, participation at the Baltic Heritage Network Conference in Tartu, and Estonian musicians Eri Klas and Lucas Waldin conducting the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Rasmus Lumi and

Riho Kruuv, Charge d'Affaires of the Estonian Embassy in Ottawa also visited Alberta.

Treasurer Toomas Paasuke presented the financial report for the year ending February 28, 2010. The Society had a healthy bank balance at the end of the reporting period. Peter Asmus reported that AEHS has 91 paid-up members with a total of over 160 individuals. Membership fees will remain unchanged for 2011 at \$20.00 for Individuals and \$25.00 for Families.

As reported in the Winter 2009 issue of *Ajakaja*, the "Alberta Estonian Heritage" website is now maintained by the University of Alberta (U of A), in

Edmonton. Additional historical material has been received since the transfer of the website from the Heritage Community Foundation to the U of A. The meeting approved additional funds to update the website with material not previously included.

Production of the illustrated book "Freedom, Land, and Legacy: Alberta's Estonians 1899-2009", compiled and edited by Dave Kiil and Eda McClung, will be printed in Summer 2010. The book's contents will trace the history of Alberta's Estonians from early pioneer era to recent events and activities. The 300-page book will be richly illustrated, and will include a selection of color photos.

Dave Kiil outlined work underway to prepare material to be donated to the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA), including:

- Files of the Medicine Valley Estonian Society retrieved from the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa.
- Correspondence files of the Calgary Estonian Society retrieved from Tartu College in Toronto,
- Archival materials, including over 100 original photos of Alberta's Estonian pioneers, retrieved from the National Estonian Archives in Estonian House in Toronto.
- Documents, articles, books and thousands of photos collected for use in the production of "Alberta's Estonians" DVD, "Alberta's Estonian Heritage" website and the book "Freedom, Land, and Legacy: Alberta's Estonians 1899-2009."

It was decided to make Society funds available to help prepare the archival materials for preservation at the PAA.

Eda McClung reported that the 2010 Summer issue of AjaKaja will be published by mid-June. Members were invited to submit articles and other content by mid-May. AjaKaja remains well received by members, and increasing number of copies are requested for purchase.

Bob Kingsep reviewed the status of the AEHS website and led a discussion resulting in a consensus to update the site beginning in fall 2010. It was agreed that a project group be established to revamp the existing website, with greater emphasis on a new homepage and current information about AEHS activities and events. It was agreed that assignment of specific members with defined responsibilities could contribute to increased user level and raise the profile of the AEHS.

Scheduling of Jaanipäev celebrations was discussed at length. Given that the next West Coast Estonian Days will be held in Portland, Oregon in August 2011, it was decided that the next Alberta Jaanipäev will be held in June, 2012. Eda McClung and Allan Posti agreed to find a suitable venue for this major AEHS event.

In conclusion, 2009 was an active and productive year, with 2010 anticipated to see the completion of several major projects involving the history and legacy of Alberta's Estonians. Bob Kingsep thanked everyone for their participation and support.

Leah Hennel wins 2009 National Pictures of the Year Award

Winning shot of 'parked' dogs takes first place

Gwendolyn Richards, Calgary Herald, April 26, 2010

Two Herald photographers have been honoured by their peers, winning awards for their feature and sport photos.

Leah Hennel took first place for her shot of two dogs under a Dog Parking sign in the feature category, while Stuart Gradon won third for a photo of a skip celebrating his Brier win in the sports action category at the 2009 National Pictures of the Year Awards.

The honours were handed out Saturday night at the annual News Photographers Association of Canada conference in Toronto.

Hennel was on her day off and was meeting a friend for coffee when she spotted the award-winning shot. Grabbing her camera, she snapped the photo.

"When you're a photographer, you're a photographer all the time," she said. She also received a honourable mention in the sports feature category for a photo of



Leah Hennel, photographer

Calgary Flame Jarome Iginla walking past members of the Prairie View Hutterite colony.

"I was thrilled to know people like my work," Hennel said Sunday, adding she plans to buy a new lens with her prize money.

"Photography, for me, is not just a job. I live, breathe and sleep it."

Gradon was covering the 2009 Tim Hortons

Brier in Calgary when he caught the celebratory leap of Ontario skip Glenn Howard after a final rock victory in an early-round match.

Herald editor-in-chief Lorne Motley praised the pair of photographers.

"We are very proud of Leah and Stuart. They fully deserve the honours," he said. "Both are young photographers who work hard to be the best. These awards recognized their extraordinary efforts."

Leah Hennel is a 5th-generation descendant of Kristijan and Annie Marie Hennel who settled near Stettler in 1903.

Volunteering at Vancouver 2010 Olympics

Krista Leesment and Aino Uus

Eda McClung



Krista Leesment at the Whistler Sliding Centre

Krista Leesment is no stranger to the Olympic experience. Her first taste of the Games was in Calgary in 1988 and “I have been a fan ever since”. She volunteered at the Athlete’s Village in Torino in 2006 and worked on the VANOC Corporate Sponsor Service Team since 2007. As a member of the Service Team, she was based in Whistler as a Regional Marketing Manager where she “roamed” among all six Whistler venues to ensure that requirements of their 65 corporate sponsors were met promptly and to their satisfaction. This meant racing between venues such as the Whistler Media Centre, Medals Plaza, Olympic Park and the Sliding Centre.

Although the pace was supremely demanding, Krista reflects that “It was an honor to be part of such an exceptional team and to help to deliver such an amazing event. But above all, huge kudos to all Canadians for welcoming the world with such grace and enthusiasm”.

Aino Uus, whose family came to Canada in 1949 and lived for a time in the Eckville area before moving to Toronto, was also a volunteer with VANOC for the 2010

Olympics. Following a 12-month training program, she worked and lived with the 30 Estonian athletes, trainers, doctors and team personnel in the Whistler Olympic Village. She was joined by volunteers from Vancouver’s Estonian community, Alar Suurkask and Järi Puusepp. Their job was to provide transportation to the athletes and trainers, driving them to Callaghan Valley for biathlon and cross-country training and competition. Driving the Sea to Sky Highway at night is a challenge she will long remember. The ultimate reward was an Olympic Silver Medal for Estonia won by Kristina Smigun-Vaehi in Women’s Cross-Country.



*Ladies 10-km Freestyle Cross-country Skiing
Silver Medallist: Kristina Smigun-Vaehi,
Estonia*

Aino reflects that “Working and living with the Estonians and athletes from the other countries for one month in Whistler was an awesome experience that I will never forget.”

Otto Nicklom Celebrates 90th Birthday

Eda McClung

Otto Nicklom, a stalwart and beloved member of Alberta's Estonian community, recently celebrated his 90th birthday. AEHS extends heartiest congratulations to Otto, his wife Gladys and their family on this remarkable occasion. The following is from a letter sent to honor Otto on this occasion by Bob Kingsep, AEHS president:

"You have been a loyal, consistent and personable contributor to our Society, one who has helped us understand the era that followed our pioneer ancestors and you have continued to the creation of AEHS. Your unique perspective stands as inspiration to those of us who aspire to contribute to understanding the Estonian presence in this province. We look forward to many more years of your enthusiastic involvement".

Otto and his wife Gladys are both descendants of Estonian pioneer families to the Stettler area. Otto's parents, Gustav and Pauline Nicklom homesteaded in 1908 in the Linda Hall area. Gladys' parents, Alex and Elvine (Klaus) Soop, settled near Big Valley in 1925. Gladys and Otto married in 1949 and farmed for many years west of Big Valley. They have two daughters, Dianne and Melodie, and five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



*Gladys and Otto Nicklom
Wedding, 1949*

Last year they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary! It was a happy occasion for their family, friends and community. Otto and Gladys were honoured for years of community service, longstanding friendships and their work to preserve the Estonian history of the area. All members of AEHS congratulate and honor this special family. Their commitment and support to the Society as well as their sociable, fun loving spirit draws others to them. One only has to think back to the "Queen of 4:00 AM" contest at Jaanipäev to recall how much fun Otto



*Nicklom's 60th Anniversary, 2009.
l-r: Melodie, Gladys, Otto, Dianne*

himself was having as its organizer. Those present will also recall the genuine interest and fondness with which Estonian President Lennart Meri engaged Otto and Gladys during his historic visit to Stettler in 2000.



*Otto Nicklom with the "Queen of 4 AM" at Jaanipäev,
Linda Hall*

The following is an account of the pioneering Nicklom/Soop family drawn from family records, interviews and community history books.

Gustav and Maria (Koppas) Nicklom Family

Gustav Nicklom, Otto's grandfather, was born in Rakvere County, Estonia, on March 22, 1868. His parents, Joosep and Lisa had two sons, Gustav and Tõnu. Lisa died young. Joosep was known as a very trusted man, a talented story teller with a great imagination to create tales of horror. He worked for a wealthy landlord until he was able to buy his own farm in Pranti Mets, Nurmekunde Village, quite early in his life. This is where his sons (Gustav, Tõnu and Ants) were born. Ants inherited the farm. Joosep was born there in 1903..

Gustav served in the Czarist army for four years. In 1909 he immigrated to Canada with his sons August and John, and was employed by the Grand Trunk Railway in Ontario, and in logging camps in Montreal. Gustav homesteaded about 1913 in the Linda Hall area and sent for the rest of his family as money was saved.

Gustav had been a rector in the church in Estonia so it was natural for people to ask him to officiate at christenings and funerals. Pastor John Sillak lived in Medicine Hat and could only occasionally visit his congregations.



Gustav Nicklom and family. August (back row, centre) conducted christenings and funerals in the Stettler settlement. Photo taken in Nurmekunde, 1905.

Gustav was handy with blacksmith tools and did all his own blacksmithing. He was also an amateur inventor. He worked on many different ideas. For example, he tried to build a complex perpetual motion machine but he finally gave up.

Gustav's oldest son August homesteaded in the Wooded Hills country west of Finn. He married Pauline Furman and they had 14 children in all. Three died young and are buried in the Estonian cemetery near Linda Hall. Otto was the third eldest. Due to the large number of children

in the family, Otto was raised by his grandparents, Gustav and Maria Nicklom. He attended primary school in Docendo School District. In 1934 he began working his grandfather's farm and continued to do so until 1949 (except for the years 1942-1945 when he served on the Canadian Armed Forces). On April 27, 1949 Otto married Gladys Soop in the Stettler United Church. After their marriage, they began farming the Alexander Soop homestead, eight miles west of Big Valley. They eventually purchased this land and farmed there for the next 46 years.

Gladys was born on October 30, 1927 to Alexander and Elvina Soop, Estonian pioneers who settled in the Big Valley area. Alex Soop was born in Tver, Russia on May 17, 1901. In 1920, when Estonia had gained its freedom, he moved to Tallinn where he worked as a tailor, police officer and served in the armed forces. In 1925 he came to Canada as a single man and worked on farms in the Big Valley area before starting on his own in 1926. A year later, Alex married Elvine Klaus, daughter of William and Elizabeth Klaus, of the Stettler area. In the early 1930's, Alex and Elvine farmed west of Big Valley and as time passed, they had three daughters: Gladys, Florence and Margery. Gladys was baptized by Rev. John Sillak during one of his trips to Stettler from Medicine Hat.



Front row: Elvine and Alexander Soop, Back row: Margery, Florence and Gladys, 1977

In the early days, farming was hard and laborious work. Horses were used to clear the land and with no refrigeration, preserving food was a necessity. In addition to a mixed farm, Alex sometimes supplemented their income by using horses to do road work. In the fall he worked on threshing crews. When there was a full moon,

he would stook grain almost all the night. For entertainment, during gatherings with family and friends, Alex would play his accordion which he had brought from Estonia. He was musically talented and also had an interest in photography.

In the late thirties, great innovations were made in farming methods making farming easier. In 1937, Alex owned the first rubber tire tractor in the community, a Model D John Deere. In 1967, Alex and Elvine sold their farm to Otto and Gladys and retired to Stettler. Alex passed away May 1985 and Elvine passed away in June 1995.

Gladys attended Vimy Hill School and graduated from Stettler High School in 1946. She was working for the Royal Bank in Stettler at the time of her marriage in 1949 when she moved to Big Valley area. Otto and Gladys have two daughters, Dianne (born 1945) and Melodie (born 1962). Their farm operations evolved from cattle to grain farming exclusively. Improvements were continually added but in 1995, after 46 years of farming, they retired and moved into their new home in Stettler.

The Nickloms are proud of their two daughters, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Dianne and

her husband Dale Allen reside on an acreage near Spruce Grove and own a globally based chemical/technology business. They are AEHS members with active interests in their Estonian heritage. Melodie, married to Les Peters, lives in Lacombe with her young family and works in Red Deer with Parkland Schools.

Otto and Gladys were long time members of the Elks Lodge and Royal Purple Lodge in Big Valley. In 1997, they made their first trip to Estonia and visited with Soop relatives in Narva. Otto and Gladys both speak Estonian, the language of their parents.

In 2009, following several years of service, Gladys retired as Treasurer for Stettler Seniors Association. In retirement Otto enjoyed floor curling, bowling and TV. Their love of dancing has continued throughout their marriage. They admit they still take to the dance floor several times a week. There's no denying music runs deep in the Estonian soul!

Gladys and Otto are proud of their pioneering heritage and contribute to Stettler remaining the heart of Alberta's Estonian community



L to r: Otto Nicklom, Estonian President Lennart Meri, Mrs. Helle Meri, Gladys Nicklom, Linda Hall, 2000

Lustwerk Family, Pioneers in northern Alberta

Loretta (Lorie) Hark

My family lived in Estonia at the time that the Russian revolution swept through the Russian Empire, including Estonia. Martial law was declared in the capital city of Tallinn and Estonia gained little from the revolution, which was followed by a period of tense stability leading up to the declaration of World War I in 1914.

During that time the Lustwerk family operated a fur trading company across the Baltic countries and Siberia where they had hunting and trading lodges. A boat was used to transport the furs from Estonia to Germany and to bring back cloth, pots or whatever else was requested by their customers. It was during one of these trips that they were chased by a Russian boat, which they skillfully ditched on a sandbar. Their boat cleared the sandbar because it rode higher on the ocean.

Estonia was always under threat of invasion because of its small size. Therefore my grandparents George (Jüri) and Miina Lustwerk decided to leave the country with their two daughters a year prior to the beginning of World War I. However, the boat sailing for Brazil could only take three more passengers. George and Miina and their younger daughter Martha travelled to Brazil.

My mother Anna sailed on the SS Tietgen which arrived in New York on August 27, 1913. She continued her journey by rail from New York to Barons, Alberta. She attended the Lacombe Seventh Day Adventist School where she learned to speak English and where she acquired her cooking and sewing skills.

George and Miina's son

George (Jüri) stayed behind in Estonia with his wife Juula (Julia). They later immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, with their sons Ferdinand and Endel. They arrived in New York on June 21, 1924, on the Berengaria, which sailed from Southampton, England.

Anna was the first hired girl who worked for the Erdmans, an Estonian family who farmed near Barons, Alberta. In the fall Anna worked in the cook car that travelled with the threshing outfits.

Later on Anna found employment with a family in Calgary as a nanny. She travelled with the family on vacation, which enabled her to visit many places she may not otherwise have seen such as Catalina Island in 1917.

Anna next found employment at the Chateau Lake Louise as a pastry chef, where she enjoyed the mountainous scenery and the hot springs. She saved enough money while working at Lake Louise to open her own hat shop in Lacombe.

George and Miina decided to leave Brazil because of the hot, humid weather and the bugs and the snakes. They sailed on the SS Nandyck, which docked in New York on December 17, 1925. Their daughter Martha stayed in Brazil with her husband Gustavo Kangur, whom she had met on the ship from Estonia to Brazil.



*George and Miina Lustwerk on their
homestead near Bonanza, 1945*

George and Miina initially farmed rented land at Barons, but then they heard there were homesteads available in the Peace River Country. With the help of Anna, they loaded their possessions in a box car and travelled to the Peace River area where George and Anna each acquired quarter section

homesteads.

Upon arriving on their homesteads, they set up a tent as temporary living quarters. Determined to fulfill their dreams of owning land and a home of their own, they got to work immediately. A log house, barns, chicken coop, ice house and even a sauna-workshop were built. Fences and corrals were erected. The fields were cleared of trees by axe or burning and the stumps were pulled out using horses. Scoop-outs or dams were created for water sources. In the winter, ice was saved in blocks and put in the ice house packed with sawdust for better drinking water and for keeping food cool.



Anna (Lustwerk) and Stanley Tompkins, 1952

For the first year water was hauled from Bear Creek where clothes were washed and hung on bushes to dry. Anna noticed men's clothes anchored with rocks being washed by the running water. She scrubbed them and hung them on bushes to dry. She was later thanked by Stan Tomkins, the gentleman whose homestead was just across the fence. One day he was building a house and she asked him what he was building it for. He said it was for them to live in when they got married. She looked after his horses for the winter while he went back to Ontario. In the spring he returned with a box car of stock to sell to the other settlers to help



Miina and George Lustwerk, flanked by granddaughters Evelyn (left) and Loretta (right) in front of their Bonanza home, 1946

them fulfill their dreams. That fall they were married. Evelyn was born 1932, Ralph in 1937.

Life was always busy as there were everyday chores and seasonal chores that had to be done. The gardens were crucial for food. The long, sunny summer days helped the gardens and crops grow. The barns

were cleaned out and the manure was spread on the gardens in order to grow the best vegetables possible, even rhubarb. Miina grew poppies that seeded themselves. She used the seed to make poppy seed rolls and glazed poppy seed buns. Pernickety plants were grown in the hot bed which had a layer of chicken manure on the bottom for heat production. Grandma planted her cabbage in there so she could make her kraut and sour cabbage heads for cabbage rolls. Her kraut soup was great as was her baked kraut, carrot and ribs.

During the summer wild raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons, chokecherries, cranberries, gooseberries and red and black currents were picked and canned.

The cows were milked so that we had milk and cream, and Mom made cottage cheese. I remember shaking a syrup pail containing cream to make butter for home baked bread or buns. Home churned ice cream was the greatest summer treat ever!

One of George's favorite treats for lunch was homemade bread spread with sour cream which was topped with salted pickled herring and chopped onions.

The chickens gave us eggs, and a baked or fried chicken was delicious! Chicken with noodles or chicken dumpling supper was even better. The smaller chicken feathers were washed in old tick bags and hung on the clothesline to dry. They were used to fill pillows or featherbeds. When

eggs were abundant, Grandma made her special recipe for pickled eggs. Egg salad sandwiches were great for lunch.

It made our parents and grandparents proud to go down into the cellar in the fall and see the root vegetables in their bins, the canning on the shelves, the onions hung and the kraut and cured cabbage in the crock. At this time a couple of geese or ducks harvested from the grain field or prairie chickens cooked in cream sauce with wild mushrooms picked from under the pine trees was delightful.

The hay was cut, dried and stored in the loft. When the grain was mature it was cut with a binder, the sheaves were stooked to dry, then the threshing was done. The stack of straw was used for winter bedding for the livestock. The chaff was shoveled into the chicken coops so that the hens could have a good time scratching and picking out the weed seeds and small grains to eat. The grain was in the granary. The best was selected for seed for the next year otherwise it was a treat for the livestock. The extra animals were shipped to Edmonton for sale.

My parents and grandparents prayed there would not be an early frost or a wet fall and early winter so the crops could be harvested successfully.

The firewood was piled by the house to help keep us warm in winter. Then it was time to go hunting for a moose to fill any empty jars and to butcher and can fryers or older hens. We made delicious stews and the canned meats were great for school sandwiches with mayonnaise or butter and onions. We packed our lunches in syrup cans or lard tin lunch boxes.

Grandma and Mom made thick wool comforters in the winter from wool sheared from the sheep. They also sent wool away to the woolen mills to be made into blankets. Grandma spun the wool using her spinning wheel, and they made knitted scarves, mitts, socks and toques from the yarn. The mending and sewing was done and summer quilts were made from scraps of fabric.

The boys and men had winter trap lines in the bush, which reduced the number of predators.

There was a bounty on coyotes and wolves. A brisk walk on snowshoes to check on the traps was usually successful.

The chickens (cluckers) were set on eggs in the straw in the loft of the chicken house in the spring. Seeds were ordered out of the seed catalogues and summer shoes were ordered from the Eaton's or Simpson's catalogue—by the way outdated catalogues were very useful in the outhouses. The calves and lambs were born in the spring. The sheep were sheared and the wool was shipped. Soap was made with gathered fat or in the fall a bear would provide enough fat to make soap and meat to make sausages.

The winter pelts were shipped away for extra money as they were now stretched and dry.

As our parents aged and required some extra help, my mother decided to sponsor a family from Estonia. They were Herman and Sigrid Tiislar and their son Enn, arriving in Bonanza in late fall 1949. They helped our parents on the farm for about a year and then moved to Toronto. We recently contacted Enn and his wife Parja, who currently live in Canmore, Alberta.



*Herman Tiislar and with Son Enn, in
Bonanza, ca 1950*

Sadly our grandparents and our parents are gone, but they are not forgotten by us. I know they left this world proud of their accomplishments and in peace knowing they did their very best. They lie side by side in the Bonanza, Alberta, Cemetery.

The Mike and Alma Kerbes Story

Irene and Deane Kerbes

Mike Kerbes was the second son born to Peter and Julia Kerbes, on Sept. 28, 1898 in an Estonian settlement in Russia. He immigrated with his parents, two brothers and five sisters, to Canada in March, 1911 at the age of thirteen. Peter and Julia twinned Mike with his younger sister, Marie, to gain cheaper fare on the boat. This twinning later cost Mike one year of his Old Age Pension. The family traveled by train across Canada arriving in Stettler, Alberta where they were met by his uncle, Joe Hennel. The Peter Kerbes family lived with his brother John, Sophie and family, Jaan, Annette and family as well as Peter's Mother Liisa. They lived together in John's small home in the Linda Hall district before Peter and family moved to the Peterson farm near Docendo School. Mike attended Docendo School for the only education he received – one day! In later years, Mike's wife, Alma, was instrumental in helping Mike further his education in English. The family moved to a homestead on S.W. ¼-14-36-21-W4th in 1912. Mike worked with his parents, clearing and working the land using oxen, horses and later gasoline powered tractors. Peter and Mike were able to acquire a Cross- Motor Case Tractor and other farm equipment to cultivate their land.

As a young man in his teens, Mike worked in lumber camps and mines (sometimes as Camp Cook) in Idaho and Montana to support his family.

Mike had a strong desire to own motorized vehicles. He bought a Model T Ford car in the early 1920's. In 1924, Mike met and courted a local school teacher, Alma Clark. Mike liked practical jokes. To eliminate competition for Alma's affection, Mike put water in the gas tanks of the other fellow's cars in the winter – the gas lines froze! Consequently, Mike was able to court Alma without distraction as his competitors were busy thawing their gas lines! Mike eventually convinced Alma to be his wife and partner for life. They married on July 30, 1926 in Stettler. They began their married life living with Mike's folks in the lumber house which had been built in 1922 on S.E. ¼-23-36-21-W4th.

Kenneth Kerbes was their first child, born on April 14, 1927. Constance and Melvin Kerbes were born in 1928 and 1929. Julia Kerbes helped Alma with these home births. The house was getting crowded so it was decided that Peter, Julia, Edward and Carl would relocate to other Kerbes land at S.W. ¼-25-36-21-W4th. Peter and his sons continued to farm together until Peter's death on April 4, 1930. He is buried in the historical Estonian Cemetery near Linda Hall.

The dark, dirty thirties were difficult, but Mike and Alma welcomed many children into their family beginning with Deane (1930), June (1932), Ronald (1933), Kathleen (1935), Leila (1936), Donna (1937) and Margaret (1939). Their youngest son, Eldon was born in 1941 and the family was complete when Beverley was born in 1945. Sadly three of these children, Constance, Melvin and Ronald passed away very young.



Mike and Alma Kerbes, 1926

During this time Mike and Alma worked very hard to feed, clothe and educate the large family and to expand their land holdings. They raised cattle, hogs, turkeys, and chickens for their own use and to sell. A very large garden was always planted and preserved for the long winters. Wild berries were picked by the tub-full and also preserved for winter use.

Mike drove a cream truck for the Alix Creamery. He also worked on road construction and trapped fur-bearing animals.

Mike and Alma built a herd of range-cattle while acquiring more land and farm implements. Mike was mechanically inclined, and enjoyed working and repairing machinery and vehicles. He owned many trucks, cars and new farm equipment. On two occasions he was able to order and pick up a new Ford Galaxy 500 car from Ford Canada in Oakville, Ontario. Despite the tough times, Mike and Alma were very hospitable and social. Their home was often the scene of community and family functions, including hosting Lutheran Church services presided over by Rev. John Sillak.



Mike and Alma Kerbes family, ca 1946

nurses, teachers, engineers, computer-technologists and many professions in oil industry and government.

Mike, often assisted by his sister Martha, encouraged and taught his large family in traditions of Estonian dancing. Their home was often the venue of parties with dancing and singing around the old piano Mike bought from his sister, Ida Yurman, of Chester, Montana. Mike also taught

the family appreciation for Estonian barley sausage, herring, sauerkraut, rye bread, smoked meat and headcheese.

Practical jokes and visiting were things Mike enjoyed; as well as visiting sisters, brothers and other Estonian neighbors. Mike was an active member of the Farmers Union of Alberta.

Mike passed away suddenly on September 25, 1968. Alma, with son Deane and daughter-in-law Irene, continued farm operations until 1973. Alma, at age 101, passed away April 26, 2003.

Mike was proud of his Estonian heritage and passed this on to his family who still follow many Estonian traditions. Interest in family roots was keen as four of Mike and Alma's children, their spouses and some grandchildren have travelled to Estonia to meet relatives.

Members of the Kerbes family are active members of Alberta Estonian Heritage Society, Linda Hall Men's Club and the Estonian Cemetery Club.

To sum up the life of Mike Kerbes, you could say he enjoyed the simple things of life: his family and friends as well as the freedom to do his choosing. He was extremely hard-working, fun-loving and kind-hearted. He "LIVED TO WORK AND WORKED TO LIVE".

In 2011, it will be 100 years since Peter and Julia brought their large family to Canada. To date there are over 100 descendants of Mike and Alma Kerbes living in North America!

"All the Kerbes kids, us in-laws too
Are glad they chose each other
For we have had, each one of us
The Grandest Dad and Mother"



Mike and Alma Kerbes farm near Stettler, 1969

In 1942, Mike was able to purchase a half-section on N.1/2-19-36-21-W4th. The land was eventually cleared and cultivated to become productive farm land. In 1958 the family, with the permission of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Assistance program, together with Alberta Fish and Wildlife Association, constructed a stock-watering pond. In 1961, this Pond was stocked with rainbow trout and named the Kerbes Pond. It remains listed in the current Alberta Guide to Sport Fishing Regulations and is enjoyed by anglers of all ages. The Kerbes descendants placed a granite commemorative rock at this site in 2007.

Educating the children was important to Mike and Alma; several of their children completed post-secondary education. Many of the Kerbes grandchildren and great-grandchildren continued on to become lawyers, doctors,

1825 Estonian Bible

This 1825 'Piibli Ramat' (sic) (Bible Book) contains all of the Old and New scriptures translated into Estonian. This, the third edition, was printed in St. Petersburg.

Eight other books, including catechisms for school children and Lutherans, and a pocket-sized 'Uus Lauluraamat' (New Songbook) printed in Tallinn in 1901, have also been submitted by descendant families for inclusion in the Alberta Estonian Collection.

The New Songbook came to Canada in 1922 and remained in Olga Klaus's (nee Soop) possession until her death in 1977.

The Bible was brought to Canada from Estonia in 1903 by Josep Tipman and his wife Anna Redeer. Before coming to Canada they had lived in Russia, purchasing land from the Estate of Baron Brante, farming there until land in Canada was being offered at \$10 for a quarter section (160 acres).

The Bible was passed on to Joseph J. Tipman, their son, and his wife, Anna Louise Tipman-Kirton. It remained in the deserted farmhouse for many years after the Tipman's left and was eventually retrieved by their



Front page of 1825 Bible

daughter, Glorian Louise Smith and her husband, Leigh. They took the Bible from the deserted farmhouse to their home in Kingston, Ontario.

In 2008 Glorian was diagnosed with an incurable condition and, when she realized that she had only a short time to live, wanted to find an appropriate place for the 1825 Bible. She contacted a cousin, Marlene Kuutan (nee Tipman), in Toronto hoping that Marlene's connection to the Estonian community there would assist in finding an appropriate place for the Bible. After much research and thought and then the realization that Alberta Estonian

Heritage Society would be establishing a collection at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, it was determined that the most appropriate place for the 1825 Bible would be to return it to Alberta to become part of the Alberta Estonian Collection at the PAA in Edmonton.

Story and Bible submitted by Marlene (Tipman) Kuutan.

Donated by Glorian Louise Smith (nee Tipman), b. May 31, 1934 in Stettler, Alberta. Glorian died on June 20, 2008.

Rosalie Peetof and Robert Linderman

Anita Linderman Madill and Lea
Linderman Sepp



Rosalie Peetof and Robert Linderman, Winter 1925

In 1920 the Bolshevik revolution was gaining momentum. Life in Crimea was becoming increasingly difficult with civil disobedience and shortages. Rosalie Peetof was part of a small group of young people who obtained Estonian passports under the newly declared independence of that Baltic state. They left Evpatoria in July for the two-month train journey through Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Austria to Germany where they boarded a boat to cross the Baltic Sea, arriving in Tallinn, Estonia in September. Rosalie took a teaching position in Hagery, a short train ride from Tallinn. She started corresponding with Robert

Linderman who, at age 16, had left his home in Assamalla, Estonia in 1912 to join his elderly grandparents, Otto and Mai Meer in Canada. The Meer's and seven of their grown children had emigrated from Crimea to South Dakota and then, in 1909, to southern Alberta to take up homestead land. Daughter Anna, married to John Linderman in Estonia, remained behind.

In November 1924, Rosalie left Tallinn on the ocean journey to America to meet this young man. They were married on a cold January day in 1925. Mom and Dad settled on the Martin Meer farmstead in the Foremost area of southern Alberta in 1928 when Martin and Kai moved to Washington, USA.



Robert Linderman and Rosalie Peetof, Summer 1925.

Although the farm was not very prosperous, they managed to send money and food parcels 'home' and sponsored the Snieckus and Magi families from Displaced Persons camps after the Second World War. Pauline Snieckus and Rosalie had been family friends in Evpatoria and made the journey together to Estonia in 1920. By the time Rosalie and Robert's daughters Lea and Anita came along, the only Estonians remaining in the area were Dad's elderly uncle John and his wife Anna. Trips to Barons and Eckville were important for connecting with an Estonian community.

Editor's note: Lea Linderman Sepp passed away in fall 2009.

Reminiscences of my life in Alberta

Viktor Virak, Toronto

Time has shown that my personal and working life experience in Alberta between 1963 and 1974 occupies a special niche in my memories since my arrival in Canada in 1951. The following background story explains my connections with Alberta.

I was born in Narva, Estonia. In 1932, our family moved to Tallinn where I graduated from LX Gümnasium with Senior Matriculation in 1943. After that, as Junior Seaman, I worked for Eesti Merelaevandus (Estonian Shipping Co.) until September 1944, when my family escaped the approaching Soviets to Sweden in a small 20-foot motorboat over the stormy Baltic Sea.

The caring and humane reception by Swedish people allowed me to build a new life in Sweden (including my marriage to Aino Ohi in 1946). We lived there until May 1951 when our family left for Canada and Toronto.

In September 1951 I entered the School of Architecture at the University of Toronto. We moved to Montreal in 1953 and I completed my studies at McGill University's School of Architecture, graduating in May 1957 with a Bachelor of Architecture degree.

After working with the architectural-town planning firm Rother-Bland-Trudeau, I joined the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (C.M.H.C) in Ottawa in 1959 as an architect. The main mandate of the C.M.H.C was to improve the housing and living conditions of Canadians, while administering the National Housing Act (N.H.A).

My initial work experience was obtained in Central and Eastern Canada.

I won a N.H.A Planning Fellowship and arranged a leave of absence from C.M.H.A. In May 1963 I obtained a Master of Architecture (Town Planning) degree at McGill University in Montreal.



*Aino and Viktor Virak in front of their
Edmonton home, 1969.*

Then came change: I was appointed to the position of Branch Architect-Planner at the Edmonton Branch of C.M.H.C in June 1963. My responsibilities encompassed Alberta and Northwest Territories.

This was for me the first contact opportunity with the Wild West. And we liked it from the first moment!

My work experience confirmed that my first impressions were correct, in particular

regarding working relationships with professionals, government officials, and citizens groups. There was a spirit in the air to encourage Alberta to grow in the best possible way. Professionals were respected. My position involved a great deal of travelling in Alberta and Northwest Territories.

Following our arrival in Edmonton, we eventually purchased a house on 100th Avenue and 136 Street where we lived and experienced Edmonton winters until 1974, when I was transferred to the Victoria Branch in B.C.

"There is no doubt that the time spent in Alberta was the richest period of my life, both professionally and personally"

In 1963, Edmonton was a city of young people who did not mind long winters and who were building careers and families. Community spirit was high; the physical demonstration of this was Klondike Days in July. Edmonton was the gateway to the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife and Inuvik. The huge region was served by Pacific Western Airlines. Without competition, the service was so-so, earning folklore nicknames like "Please Wait Awhile" and "Pray While Airborne". However, it was a safe airline - an important asset for this huge region.

When we arrived, we did not know a single person in Edmonton or Alberta. Terra incognita! We soon established contact with Salme and Jaan Raud; through them we met Lea and Walter Silverton in Barons. Friendships were established easily. Through them, we met Salme and Andreas Pilt, Lea and Ivar Ruus, and Irma Ernesaks. The Raud's later moved to Penticton, B.C., where we visited them while we lived in Victoria. Jaan died there in 1976; Salme later in 1987. Presently, we still have strong ties with the Ruus family in Calgary.

In Edmonton, we also were friends with the

Rein and Laine Sastok family. Regarding Silvertons, after Walter passed on, Lea made a home in Port Alberni, Vancouver Island. Hella and Herman Väärtnõu moved to Victoria where we stayed in touch.



Photo: Salme Raud
L to R: Jaan Raud, Aino Virak, Viktor Virak, Salme Pilt, Andreas Pilt. Christmas 1964

My experience in Alberta left me with many memories:

- Impressions of dynamic growth, honesty and a strong work ethic, spatial vastness of grain fields, good working relationships with local officials, cultural-artistic landmarks, and the vast grain-and-snowfields against the majestic Rocky Mountains.
- Culturally-historically-personally interesting contacts with Estonians of Edmonton, Calgary, Eckville, Stettler and Barons, with their historical landmarks of earlier generations. All this is proof of the perseverance of Alberta's Estonians and their continued efforts to preserve their heritage, including the significant magazine AjaKaja.

There is no doubt that the time spent in Alberta was the richest period of my life, both professionally and personally. I have only good memories of human friendships, now part of the rich history of Alberta's Estonians.

Meer Family Celebration of Water

Several members of the Meer family settled near Foremost in south-eastern Alberta in 1907. Additional stories about Estonian pioneers in the region were published in the Summer and Winter 2009 Issues of AjaKaja (Volumes 30 and 31).



Meer family dug-out

John and Anna Meer (standing) with their grown children Anna and Alex celebrate the completion of a dug-out on their homestead in the Foremost area of Alberta.

Anna Sr in her best silk dress and hat and John in white shirt attest to the importance of this occasion. There was a critical need for water in this arid farming area and dug-outs collected run-off from winter snow and spring showers to supply water for the household and livestock.

As well, it supplied precious water for Meer's renowned garden with the first rhubarb of the season and the biggest tomatoes. In the background left is the horse-drawn plough used to loosen the soil. On the right one can catch a glimpse of the horse-drawn scrapper used to excavate the earth in back-breaking labor for both man and beast.

John and Anna were in the Otto Meer family group of Crimea Estonians who immigrated to South Dakota and then to southern Alberta to take up homestead lands.

Submitted by Lea Linderman Sepp & Anita Linderman Madill, 2009

Harvesting in south-eastern Alberta



The wheat crop on the Martin Meer farm in the Foremost area was cut by a Push Header powered by a team of six horses. The cut wheat was transferred from the Push Header to the slant-sided Header Wagon pulled by horses who then hauled it to the threshing machine, ca 1920

Linderman family photo

Estonia's second city beckons

Fran Weaver, Helsinki Times, May 20, 2010

Already familiar with the charms of the Estonian capital Tallinn? Next time you cross the Gulf, head on a couple of hours further southeast to Tartu. This lovely, lively university town has plenty of history, as well as a vibrant cultural scene to suit its youthful population.

Tartu's proud residents brag that their 1,000-year-old city is the intellectual capital of the whole of Estonia, as well as the heart of the country's rustic southern provinces. This is not said as a slight against the generally well-educated people of Tallinn, but to point out that Tartu is home to many revered Estonian institutions including the National Museum, the Ministry of Education, the Supreme Court and the country's oldest, biggest, and best-known university.

Students make up as much as a quarter of the town's population of about 100,000. The university alone has around 20,000 students, and 3,000 academics. "Estonians often talk about 'the Spirit of Tartu' and very many of us have a special feeling for the city, as we have happy memories of our student days here," says Tartu graduate and part-time tourist guide Kristina Mullamaa, who today also teaches English and Swedish at her alma mater.

Detention cell

The university's stately neo-classical main building lies in the heart of Tartu's beautiful old town. In its attic is a graffiti-filled cell where Mullamaa explains that students used to be detained for heinous crimes such as swearing in class or returning library books late. "It was also a tradition for friends of the imprisoned

student to throw a rope up to the window of this lock-up, and then tie baskets of food and drink to the bottom of the rope for them to pull up, she adds.

Just round the corner from the university lies the town hall square (Raekoja Plats), the focal point of Tartu for students and visitors alike. The square sweeps down from the picturesque pink town hall to a sweeping curve of the broad, tree-lined River Emajõgi – Tartu's historic artery.

Statuesque smooching students

Several cosy cafés lie around the square, but Mullamaa explains that the most popular meeting place to start a date or a stroll around the old town is a fountain whose centrepiece statue features a young student couple exchanging a passionate kiss beneath a wet umbrella.



Statue of the kissing students

A grand old stone bridge that used to cross the river from the square was sadly destroyed during World War Two, but a new footbridge was eventually built during the Soviet era to replace it. This structure is topped by a narrow concrete arch, which daredevil or foolhardy students occasionally walk over to show off

their courage. Legendary images published anonymously on the Internet show a carefree young student couple lying on top of this arch sharing much more than a kiss.

The Leaning House of Tartu

Another must-see sight on the town hall square is the Tartu Art Museum, not so much for its artistic contents (which are interesting enough), but because this tall, narrow 18th century building today leans alarmingly to the west.

Mullamaa stresses that Tartu's calendar revolves around the academic year. "The liveliest time of year is the students' spring carnival, when they organize a regatta in the river using all kinds of crazy home-made boats," she says.

During the summer, river cruises head downstream to Lake Peipsi, where relic communities of "Old Believers" still adhere to an ancient form of Orthodox Christianity. Back in Tartu visitors can also go for brief trips in a lovingly reconstructed replica of the broad wooden Peipsi sailing barges earlier used to ship firewood, furs, fish, beer and other vital goods along the region's shallow waterways.

Landmark scientific achievements

Behind the town hall, the landscaped park of Toome Hill rises up to the atmospheric ruins of Medieval Tartu's red-brick Gothic cathedral, which overshadow a sacrificial stone marking an even older site of pagan pilgrimage. Other highlights of the park include two ornate bridges – Angel's Bridge and Devil's Bridge – as well as several monuments to Tartu University's esteemed scientists and their academic accomplishments.

The old astronomical observatory on the hilltop was the base for literally world-shaping exploits in the early 19th century, when a team led by

Professor Friedrich Struve made the first detailed measurements of the curvature of the earth, along a line stretching from the Black Sea to the Arctic Ocean – through Tartu.



University of Tartu Main Building

Nearby, a solemn statue commemorates the Tartu-based embryologist Karl Ernst Von Baer, who first discovered the mammalian ovum. "Students prefer to think of him as the clever man who first found out where babies come from!" laughs Mullamaa. Oddly, this part of the park is decorated with small graffiti images of baby-bearing storks, suggesting a preference for an alternative hypothesis.

Tartu's liveliest and most atmospheric restaurant lies deep inside the ramparts built around Toome Hill in the 1770s. Püssirohukelder (The Gunpowder Cellar) claims to be the world's highest pub. An arched brick ceiling soars 11 metres above drinkers and diners, creating unique acoustics for dance bands and karaoke nights. Specialities include rabbit, hearty soups served inside loaf crusts, fine wines from the adjoining cellar, and Püssirohukelder's tasty home-brewed reddish-brown ale.

Another eatery worth visiting is Eduard Wilde Lokaal, named after a renowned local writer. Locally hunted wild boar is often on the menu. An impressive boar speciman features among the hunting trophies displayed in the Rotary Club's back room, proudly shown to me by Wilde regular Tõnis Matsin, a sports physiotherapy professor at the university. "Tomorrow I hope to get another one like this",

he laughs. Outside the pub a bronze Eduard Wilde sits together with his Irish contemporary namesake Oscar. The two writers never met, however, and this whimsical statue is one of several enigmatic monuments around Tartu designed to make visitors stop in their tracks.

Delightful and disturbing sights

Tartu's inviting cafés, pleasant parks and secluded squares encourage students to linger longer in town after their lectures before heading home to study or sleep. This youthful and academic town also understandably has more than its share of cinemas, theatres, galleries and museums.

Two of Tartu's more unusual museums are quite disturbing. The Old Anatomical Theatre houses a gruesome collection of forensic and pathological specimens ranging from malformed fetuses to two-headed livestock, while the KGB Cells Museum reveals the worst side of the oppressive Soviet regime that ruled Estonia from 1944 to 1991. During his childhood, Tõnis Matsin was among more than 20,000 Estonians deported to Siberia in 1949. "I was only a small child when we were sent to Siberia, so it wasn't as hard for me as for my parents, but thankfully we were allowed to return to Tartu during the Krushchev thaw period in 1957," he remembers.

Matsin is also among the thousands of sporty students and teachers who keenly participate in two popular events held annually in the rolling countryside around Tartu: a skiing marathon in late February and a cycling marathon in September.

Medieval Heritage

During the Hanseatic Days Festival every summer (16-18 July) everyone in Tartu gets into the merry spirit of the event by donning medieval tunics, bodices and headdresses. Highlights include musical performances, fireworks displays and a tournament for would-be noble knights. Anyone interested in medieval heritage and handicrafts can find plenty to see, do and buy, at the craft workshops in St Anthony's Court, in the shadow of the

impressive brick Gothic St John's Church, known for the hundreds of quirky terracotta heads and figures that decorate its walls.



Outdoor cafes in Tartu's Town Square

Estonians are also seriously into singing- not the least because the singing of patriotic songs played a significant role in Estonia's independence movement. Impressive open-air concerts are regularly held in Tartu's immense song festival arena, with as many as 5,000 singers crammed on stage.

Like the rest of Estonia, Tartu is currently suffering from recession and unemployment, but residents and students can still enjoy modern luxuries in the form of plush, air-conditioned shopping malls and ubiquitous free wireless Internet connections, as well as their town's rich historic heritage.



Signs announce Hanseatic Days Festival and other summertime events on a promenade just off Town Square, 2009

The recession brought the folk dance revolution to Estonia

Eesti Elu (Estonian Life)

The Estonian folk dance world has never seen anything comparable over its last century of existence.

This past summer's Folk Dance Celebration themed "Meri" (English "The Sea") left hundreds of people standing behind the gates due to lack of seats in the stadium. It did not matter that the same concert was performed on three occasions. People were shocked – this is impossible?



*Photo by Dave Kiil
A view of the "Meri" (The Sea) dance celebration in Tallinn, 2009.*

The Dance Celebration is similar in scale to the Olympic Opening Ceremonies with over 7500 dancers performing on the big field at once. As recent as the turn of the millennium, it was believed that Folk Dance Celebrations would need to be dropped from the Song-and-Dance Festival scene due to lack of audiences. Nevertheless, folks had different opinions and the crowds came to the Folk Dance Celebration. There were not

enough seats even after rows of bleachers were added at the last minute before the concerts.

In the past year three of Estonia's leading folkdance groups – Leigarid, Kuljus and Tartu University Folk Ensemble – have celebrated their anniversaries with large scale concerts. There were doubts that a folkdance concert would fill up 1,800 seats at the prestigious Nokia Concert Hall at Solaris Center in Tallinn or at the Vanemuine Theatre in Tartu.

This summer's men-only folkdance festival in Rakvere is close to being sold out and it is only early spring. The Man's Folkdance Festival has attracted dancers from among the prominent people of Estonia - all the way to the government.

The women dancers have now announced their "own" dance festival.

What's up with all this?

As of today, the "Kaerajaan going to Europe" campaign is approaching 10,000 participants who have joined this crazy idea. This popular folkdance has been danced not only in Estonia and Latvia, but even in the USA. When the campaign was announced on Facebook, it took only 24 hours to get 100 members from 12 countries.

Folk dance teachers can tell you of the interest of folk dancing among teenagers

- a trend very unbelievable in the recent past.

Professor Marju Lauristin said the prophetic words a year ago as she described the human development of a depression era. She stated that "During a depression, the real values will surface".

As the result, it is a pleasure to see that the folkdance teachers who have carried on with the Estonian folk traditions throughout the years and taught folk dance in cold and small rooms, while being compensated just pennies, will see that their work has value.



*Photo by Dave Kiil
Folk dancers performing in Kalev Stadium
in Tallinn, 2009*

It is also my pleasure to see the tens of thousands of folk dancers, whose senseless jumping has been compared to that of a ridiculous country boy, know that their dancing has cultural value.

And thirdly, as a person of Finno-Ugric ancestry, I am aware of the inferiority complex of our people as we think that folk dancing, regi songs and Kaerajaan are not worthy to be called a culture.

We have a tendency to think that culture is where we are not. The Irish had to be

ashamed of their Step Dances and the Finns of their Jenka dance before they believed that these had real value.

Thanks to the depression, we Estonians can see these changes in our beliefs and self worth - the true acceptance in our values.

Author Rein Sikk/Eesti Päevaleht Daily
Translation by Tiina Oviir and Don Vendetti

Original in Estonian:
<http://www.epl.ee/artikkel/494394>

More information:

FB group - Cool Estonian folk dance
Kaerajaan is going to Europe
<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=logo#!/group.php?gid=361689294380>

FB fancelub - Kaerajaan ja Kaera-Jaan
Euroopasse
<http://www.facebook.com/kaerajaan.euroopasse>

FB group - How many Finno-Ugric
people are there on Facebook?
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=99235712109>

Estonian Folkdance and Folk Music
Association
<http://www.errs.ee/>

Contact: kadri@erss.ee ,
rcinsikk@hotmail.com

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Heartsick? An Estonian Pharmacy May Have a Cure

David Greene, NPR



Ulle Noodepera is a pharmacist at Old Town Hall Pharmacy, which first opened for business in 1422. It's famous for selling aphrodisiacs—but even more famous for a piece of almond candy that allegedly cures those who are lovestruck. At an international summit, leaders often have time to get out and explore. But the NATO foreign ministers who met in the former Soviet state of Estonia last week were running behind schedule because of the volcanic ash cloud hovering over Europe. They were happy to have made it at all.

"The only regret I have is that I had to spend all my time in meetings, instead of enjoying Tallinn once again," said U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, referring to Estonia's small capital on the Baltic Sea.

I escaped the meetings long enough to look around — and I'm happy the foreign ministers didn't.

Surely, they would have stopped at a major attraction in the town's

cobblestone square — the *Raeapteek*, or Town Hall Pharmacy

My guide, local historian Juri Kuuskemaa, told me the place opened in 1422 and may well be Europe's longest continuously operating pharmacy. Legend has it that in the 18th century, a former owner, Dr. Johann Burchart V, nearly saved a Russian czar.



Town Hall Pharmacy may be Europe's oldest continuing operating pharmacy

"When Peter the Great, Russian emperor, was dying and nobody could help him, he called Johann V," Kuuskemaa said.

But things didn't work out. The czar died before Burchart arrived.

The pharmacy is also legendary for its herbs, wine and medicines — and its love drugs.

"You can go to pharmacy and buy

special materials, so-called *aphrodisiacom*, and when you give to her or her, it is fate. Both could do nothing against it. And lady would love you to the end of their lives," Kuuskemaa explained.

But that's not all. "When you have two or three wives, for example, and you see one is happy but two are unhappy, you can buy here special materials to give to these two unhappies and they forget you, and they could find happiness with another man, not with you," Kuuskemaa said. "So it stops the love. It is an anti-*aphrodisiacom*, yeah. So love could be regulated with drugs."

On display inside, readily available, was the pharmacy's famous anti-aphrodisiac. Each individually wrapped piece of candy is packed with the secret ingredient: almond powder. People struck by love use it to cure themselves.

"How long we have sold it? ... I think 500 years," said pharmacist Ulle Noodepera.



Herbs dry at the Old Town Pharmacy

But Noodapera said visitors will also just come in and taste it — despite the risk. That's why I was worried about the

foreign ministers dropping by.

Noodapera says she didn't see any of the world leaders partake of the anti-love confection.

Which is a good thing. The last place you'd want to kill the love is at a meeting of the NATO military alliance. Kuuskemaa agreed.

"Love has more power as rockets in the world and it is the main power of the world and for humanity, and this power really can protect us," he says. "Love. Not rockets."



Graphic design by Lillian Munz, Calgary

Tartu University Named on List of Leading Universities in the World

For the first time ever, Tartu University (TU) appeared on the renowned list of the top 600 world universities, "Times Higher Education-QS World University Rankings".

"We can't say our exact position, because places 501-600 are represented as one big group of universities," explained the director of Tartu University's foreign relations department Virve-Anneli Vihman.

"Being among the top 5% of the world's leading universities is recognition of our university," said Tartu University rector Alar Karis. "I believe that it will help young people choose their path of education and encourage them to study at Tartu University," he said.

Harvard University remains at the top of the list, while Cambridge University has risen to second place, surpassing Yale University.

The creators of the list stated that the most remarkable fact is that University College London has risen to fourth place, ahead of Oxford University and Imperial College, which share fifth and sixth place.

Also remarkable is that the number of American universities on the list has decreased (42 in 2008, 36 in 2009) and European and Asian universities have increased. Of Tartu University's close neighbours, Lund (67th) and Uppsala (75th) Universities in Sweden are represented in the top 100, and Helsinki University in Finland is not far behind in the 108th position.

In compiling the list, factors taken into consideration are surveys of the leading figures at universities, the student-to-instructor ratio, citations in science publications, and the percentage of foreign instructors and students. This year 9,386 representatives of the academic world took part in the study, which is 47% more than in 2008.

Source: Estonian Review, 2009, 2010

The Intelligent Community Forum's evaluation committee chose Tallinn as one of the seven most intelligent communities in the world for the fourth time.

„This is a very big accomplishment. Not a single other community has been able to remain among the top seven for so long” said Mayor of Tallinn Edgar Savisaar.

Tallinn shares the title of Top Seven Intelligent Communities of the Year 2010 with Arlington County, Virginia and the city of Dublin, Ohio in the USA, the city of Dundee in Scotland, the city of Eindhoven in the Netherlands, the city of Ottawa in Canada, and the city of Suwon in South Korea. Of the seven in the finals, the most intelligent will be chosen in May. Last year this honour was given to Stockholm, Sweden.

Tallinn to Be Capital of European Law in 2012

21 May. 2010 (BNS) - A conference of the International Federation for European Law (FIDE) will take place in Estonia in 2012, and in connection with this Tallinn will serve as the capital of European law for that year. Julia Laffranque, president of FIDE Estonia, said that Estonia will be the first country from Eastern Europe to host the conference. The event, held every two years, brings together more than 500 lawyers from all over the world. The conference that presumably will take place in Tallinn at the end of May or in early June 2012 is expected to focus on three topics: the protection of human rights in Europe; relations between energy, environment and competition policy in the EU; and legal aspects of the information society in Europe based on freedom, security and law. A year earlier, at the end of May 2011, a high-level delegation made up of national FIDE presidents will come to Estonia to look at preparations for the conference. Laffranque added that the idea to choose capitals of European law in addition to European capitals of culture and green capitals emerged in the course of preparations for the conference. Tallinn will be the first city to bear this title.

Estonian Students Rank Third in Europe for Skills, Knowledge

27 November (BNS) 2009 - **Estonian students are third in Europe after Finland and Ireland for their reading skills and their knowledge of mathematics and science subjects, it appears from a recent European Commission report.**

According to the Education Ministry the share of students with a poor achievement level in science subjects is three times lower in Estonia than the average in Europe.

The share of adults in life-long learning has sharply increased. Although data from 2000 shows that Estonia's indicator was one of the lowest (6.7%), in 2008 it was firmly among the average countries in Europe with 9.8%.

In terms of the number of persons aged from 18 to 24, Estonia is close to the European average, but the number of people dropping out has contracted. Although the share was still 15.1% in 2000 and 14.4% in 2007, last year it fell to 14%.

The European Commission presented its recent report on the situation of education and schooling in the EU at a meeting of EU education ministers.

The report mentions that although achievement of four of the five education aims set for 2010 seems unlikely in Estonia, the country stands well out with its results.

Internet Penetration in Estonia Among Highest in European Union

9 December, 2009 (BNS) - According to a fresh Eurostat study, the share of Internet users in Estonia is above the European Union average, but when it comes to e-commerce the Baltic nation places at the lower end of the scoreboard.

At the beginning of this year 88% of young Estonians aged 16-24 used the Internet practically every day. The indicator was the same in Denmark and only one EU country -- the Netherlands -- recorded a higher figure or 90%. The EU average was 73%.

More broadly, of people aged 16-74, daily Internet

users made up 54% in Estonia compared to 48% in the 27-nation bloc on the average.

At the same time, only 17% of Estonians had purchased goods or services for themselves online, it appears from the survey. The EU average was 37% and the figures recorded in leading countries were above 60%

Estonian Capital Becomes Founding Member of Intelligent Community Association

21 May, 2010 (BNS). In New York on Wednesday, a representative of the Estonian capital Tallinn signed the founding treaty of the Intelligent Community Association (ICA), a body that seeks to co-ordinate co-operation between innovative and successful communities worldwide. The ICA is a nonprofit organisation that promotes the achievements of successful communities throughout the world, advances research programs, and attempts to ensure the best opportunities for information technology, and innovative and dynamic development.

In 2007 the Intelligent Communities Forum picked Tallinn as belonging to the top seven most intelligent communities in the world from among 300 candidates. Tallinn has earned the same recognition four years running, while in each year the number of candidates has increased. The decision about this year's most intelligent community will be made in New York late on Friday Estonian time.

Tallinn is represented at the Intelligent Communities Forum, the theme of which this year revolves around development of local talent and how to keep it, by City Secretary Toomas Sepp.

Islands off the beaten Track: Muhu Island

Muhu is an island off Estonia in the Baltic Region with a population of less than 2,000. The island has a working windmill, folk traditions, and a small luxury hotel and spa called Pädaste Manor.

Calgary Herald, 13/1/2010, p.E5

ESO Friday Masters Series

Fialkowska plays Chopin

October 15, 2010, 7:30 pm
Winspear Centre

Anu Tali, Conductor
Janina Fialkowska, piano



Estonian conductor, Anu Tali conducts Arvo Pärt's simmering and contemplative *Fourth Symphony*. Janina Fialkowska, one of Canada's most revered pianists, performs Chopin's *First Piano Concerto* in celebration of the 200th anniversary of his birth. The light hearted overture to Hector Berlioz' comic opera based on Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* is a pure musical delight.

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To order tickets:

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Online: www.edmontonsymphony.com

"Aktuaalne Kaamera" segment about Jim and Maureen Tusty's new film

Following is link to news article and video segment broadcast on today's "Aktuaalne Kaamera" ("Actual Camera") Estonian news program about Jim and Maureen Tusty's new film, "Songs Of Defiance..." The segment features interviews with an American schoolteacher who integrated "The Singing Revolution" film into his classroom curriculum, as well as with an educational foundation president involved in the effort to distribute "The Singing Revolution" DVDs to American high school teachers nationwide.

The segment shows that Americans have tremendous interest in learning more about Estonia and underscores the importance of supporting such ambitious efforts to promote Estonia in the U.S., where these films

interest in learning more will have a profound influence on shaping America's perceptions of Estonia.

<http://uudised.err.ee/index.php?06199416>



Filmmakers Jim and Maureen Tusty with young family

2014 Winter Olympic event in Sochi, Russia: An Estonian connection

Some of the skiing events for the 2014 Winter Olympics (Sochi) will be held in a Russian village called Estosadok (Estonian Garden), originally settled by 36 Estonian peasant families in 1886. The village is near



Krasnaya Polyana.

View of Estosadok Village in the Caucasian Mountains, Russia

Estonian classic author Anton Hansen Tammsaare, whose books have been translated into 39 languages, recuperated there from tuberculosis in 1912. Fourteen months in the Caucasus fully restored the writer's health.

Truth and Justice (Tõde ja Õigus I-V), written by Tammsaare in 1926-1933, is his most famous work. Considered as the greatest Estonian writer of the 20th century, his books provide an overview of rural and urban Estonian societies from 1870 to 1930.

The Tammsaare House Museum was established in Estosadok in 1988 and subsequently renovated with funds allocated by the Estonian Culture Ministry. The display is projected to run at least until the Sochi Olympic Winter Games.

A Tammsaare Museum, established in 1978, is situated in a summer-cottage style house in Kadrioru Park in Tallinn.



Street scene in Estosadok

The 2014 Nordic Combined events, consisting of ski jumping and a 10-km cross-country ski race, will be held at Estosadok. The village will become Russia's National Ski-jumping Centre following the Olympics. It is located less than 100 km north-east of Sochi in the Caucasian Mountains.

Links:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estosadok>

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Esto-Sadok>

Compiled by Dave Kiil

ALBERTA ESTONIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP, MAY 2010

Allen ~ Dianne - Spruce Grove, AB
Asmus ~ Peter & Jeannette - Airdrie, AB
Berry ~ Annette - Edmonton, AB
Clark ~ John - Denver, CO
Costello ~ Wilma - Calgary, AB
Derksen ~ Colin & Linda, Jack, Jamie - Edmonton, AB
Dinning ~ Shirley & Leonard, Emily - Edmonton, AB
Doherty ~ Linda K - Big Sandy, TN
Downie ~ Elizabeth - Calgary, AB
Erdman ~ Evelyn - Calgary, AB
Erdman ~ Ken - Calgary, AB
Erdman ~ Oscar - Calgary, AB
Erdman ~ Ronald - Vancouver, BC
Fodor ~ Steve & Evelin, Mitchell, Jasmine - Calgary, AB
Gue ~ Anita - Calgary, AB
Gue ~ Brian - Edmonton, AB
Gue ~ Kevin - Edmonton, AB
Gue ~ Lisa - Ottawa, ON
Hall ~ Gwen - Boyle, AB
Helenurm ~ Kalju & Margot - Calgary, AB
Hennel ~ Daryl & Gloria, Jeff, Tom - Myrnham, AB
Hennel ~ Lorne, Leah - Calgary, AB
Hennel ~ Rodney & Liz, Colin, Keith - Stettler, AB
Hennel ~ Ronnie W. F. - Stettler, AB
Herman ~ Derrill & Liia, Kirstie Peterson - Innisfail, AB
Kaarsoo ~ Karin Kaarsoo & Scott Chisholm, Andrew, Liisa - Calgary, AB
Kaarsoo ~ Kirsten Kaarsoo & Lyle McLeod, Callum, Alison - Calgary, AB
Kaert ~ Mati & Linda, Krista, Eric - Edmonton, AB
Kalev ~ Tiiu - Eckville, AB
Kalvee ~ Willy G. - Calgary, AB
Kenzle ~ Alice, Susan - Creston, BC
Kerbes ~ Deane & Irene - Stettler, AB
Kerbes ~ Hal - Calgary, AB
Kerbes ~ Marguarite - Stettler, AB
Kerbes ~ Richard - Saskatoon, SK
Kiil ~ Dave & Betty Ann - Edmonton, AB
Kiil ~ Glenn & Ingrid, Ranek, Kalev - Edmonton, AB
Kiil ~ Lisa & Diana - Edmonton, AB
Kingsep ~ Bob & Annette - Redwood Mdws, AB
Kivisild ~ Livia - Calgary, AB
Koper ~ Donna - Cochrane, AB
Kraav ~ Jüri & Helle - Calgary, AB
Kruuv ~ Riho - Ottawa, ON
Kuester ~ Matt F. - Edmonton, AB
Langeste ~ Helmut & Airi - Edmonton, AB
Leesment ~ Peeter & Helgi - Calgary, AB
Leilop ~ Aino - St. Albert, AB

Continued.....

Luik c/o Renate Smentek ~ Avo - Edmonton, AB
Maddison ~ Anneliese - Edmonton, AB
Maddison ~ Terry - Calgary, AB
Madill ~ Anita & Wallace - Calgary, AB
Magi ~ Enzo & Maimu - Calgary, AB
Matiisen ~ Arne & Carolyn, Janet, Melanie Dewar - Calgary, AB
McClung ~ Eda - Edmonton, AB
McElroy ~ Elve & Wilfred - Camrose, AB
Mottus ~ Brian - Whitehorse, Yukon
Munz ~ Lillian - Calgary, AB
Munz Gue ~ Martha - Medicine Hat, AB
Myhre ~ Mae - Port Alberni, BC
Nicklorn ~ Otto & Gladys - Stettler, AB
Pääsuke ~ Elizabeth - Edmonton, AB
Pääsuke ~ Mark - Vancouver, BC
Pääsuke ~ Rein & Janice - Calgary, AB
Pääsuke ~ Toomas - Canmore, AB
Pallo ~ Jack Henry - Red Deer, AB
Pastewka ~ Astrid - Calgary, AB
Peet ~ Ethel - Edmonton, AB
Pelto ~ John & Margaret, Christine - Sherwood Park, AB
Pihooja ~ Ralph Pihooja & Nella Collins, Liz Tardie - Edmonton, AB
Pilt ~ Shirley - Edmonton, AB
Põhjakas ~ Kaljo & Lilian - Lethbridge, AB
Posti ~ Allan & Maria, Ryan - Eckville, AB
Robertson ~ David & Christine, Brendan, Karl, Travis - Leduc, AB
Ruus ~ Ivar & Lea - Calgary, AB
Saar ~ Lembit & Iris - Calgary, AB
Saar ~ Rein & Patricia - Calgary, AB
Sandre ~ Ülo - Calgary, AB
Sastok ~ Laine - Edmonton, AB
Schuler ~ Kelly, Cameron, Carole Grant - Calgary, AB
Shongrunden ~ Astrid - Penticton, BC
Simm ~ Nurmí - Edmonton, AB
Sparrow ~ Lori, Lexi, Evan, Reed - Eckville, AB
Tiislar ~ Enn & Pärja - Canmore, AB
Tikka ~ Olev - Calgary, AB
Tipman ~ Bob & Kathy, Liisa, James - Calgary, AB
Ustina ~ Astrid, Holly Idenouye, Brooklyn Idenouye - Edmonton, AB
Ustina ~ Judy K - Edmonton, AB
Virak ~ Viktor - Toronto, ON
Visser ~ Mari & Igor, Constantine - Cochrane, AB
Wartnow ~ Floyd C - Delta, BC
Watson ~ Maret - Spruce Grove, AB
Weiler ~ Roland - Dundas, ON
Zach ~ Inge - Calgary, AB
Zielinski ~ Michel & Kristine, Jeffery - Spruce Grove, AB
Zoumer ~ Anne - Calgary, AB

