

SUNSET VILLA ASSOCIATION



BULLETIN



MAY | JUNE | 2020



**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWALS**

**ERIK
JORGENSEN**

**VIKING SHIP
CONTEST**

MAY

SAT MAY 2 | DANISH FEDERATION MEETING 2:00-4:30 PM

Danish Heritage meeting. All welcome.

SUN MAY 3 | BAKER DAY 10 AM TO 2 PM

Hansens Bakery onsite and smorrebrod smorgasbord at The Danish Place!

SAT MAY 16 | WORK PARTY! 9 AM TO 1 PM

Work is rewarded with a hot Danish lunch!

SAT MAY 30 | WORK PARTY! 9 AM TO 1 PM

Work is rewarded with a hot Danish lunch!

ALL EVENTS

cancelled due to

COVID-19

CHECK THE WEBSITE
FOR UPDATES!

JUNE

SAT JUNE 6 | AEBLESKIVER COOKING PARTY! 9 AM - 4 PM

Drop in! Snacks provided. A great way to learn a Danish tradition!

SUN JUNE 7 | 65TH CONSTITUTION DAY 10 AM - 4 PM

A wonderful multi-generational Danish festival.
\$10 adults, kids under 13 free.

SAT JUNE 27 | SANKT HANS FIREWORKS 8:30 PM TO MIDNIGHT

Fireworks, music, hotdogs & icecream. Dance party and aebleskiver in the Dome after.

SUNSETVILLA.ORG/EVENTS

*For more information on events, please contact
communications.sunsetvilla@outlook.com*

STEEPED IN HISTORY,
SUNSET VILLA MEANS SO MUCH TO SO MANY!



SUNSET VILLA
LET'S KEEP IT GOING!

PLEASE RENEW OR BECOME A MEMBER.
WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

<http://www.sunsetvilla.org/join-us.html>



SUNSET VILLA ASSOCIATION

#11-7150
Concession 1
Puslinch, Ontario
N0B 2J0

*communications.sunsetvilla
@outlook.com*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS




Monica Jensen
Herman Glemser
Kirsten Skafte
Jennifer Higgins
Benny Beck
Eric Skovsgaard
Pernille Jorgensen
Laura Qusen

KEEP IN TOUCH

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 www.sunsetvilla.org

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

The hot topic around the world right now is COVID-19 and it's no different for Sunset Villa. We have been working hard over the past month to rework how we manage things at the park in light of this global pandemic. We have many senior citizens living on the park grounds year round and their health is a significant concern for us. We also understand the need and desire of those who have trailers and rent campsites to escape to Sunset Villa for some much needed respite. We have some snowbird campground tenants as well who use Sunset Villa as their Canadian residence during the summer - they have flown home and have no where else to stay. It's a challenging situation as we are completely volunteer run Board, and we run on a tight budget so communal spaces like the laundry rooms in the rental buildings and the biffy (campground washrooms), areas where a virus could easily be transmitted are of particular concern. For all of these reasons, and many more, we have had to close Sunset Villa until further notice.

We are hopeful that that with everyone's social distancing practices, this virus will subside soon and the government will start to release some of the restrictions around social gathering in public places. We are committed to opening the park as soon as we are able and allowed. Updates will be announced via email and on social media - if you're not already signed up to receive emails, please sign up here: <http://www.sunsetvilla.org/subscribe-to-us-1.html>

In other news, we have had to say farewell to our President, Lisa Olsen. Lisa has served on the board of Directors for three years and as President for the past 2 years. In her time as President, she completed a countless number of projects to improve Sunset Villa. Her dedication to Sunset Villa is incredible and we are very sad to lose her. In particular, we will miss her attention to detail, work ethic, creativity and most of all, just having Lisa around.

From all of us on the board, thank you Lisa for all of your very hard work, you are one in a million. Arlene Lange, as Past President will assist Monica Hummer, Vice President, and the other board members through this transition. At the next AGM, which is also on hold due to the global pandemic, a new President will be elected by you, the members.

To those of you who haven't renewed their membership yet, we understand that financial difficulties abound for everyone right now as they do for Sunset Villa as well. If you are able to renew your membership, your financial support is needed. Please contact the membership Director membership.sunsetvilla@outlook.com to renew your membership or see page 18 of the bulletin for the membership application/renewal form.

Stay well and we hope to see you soon,
The Sunset Villa Board of Directors

HAPPY 70th SUNSET VILLA

On Mar 17th, 1950, a meeting of 16 Danes was held at the home of Mr & Mrs Frederik Nielsen in Toronto. For years the Nielsens crusaded to establish an 'old people's home', similar to the ones in Denmark. A committee was created that night.

On May 13, 1950, the Association was officially formed at Magnus Jensen's home in Toronto. The name Sunset Villa was chosen as a symbol for the peaceful rest one feels after a long and busy day. Magnus would be President for the first 9 years.

On Aug 23, 1950, Sunset Villa was incorporated as a non-profit with members without share capital.

On Oct 1954, the vision became a reality when Sunset Villa was purchased from the Maclean's estate (of Macleans Publishing).

On June 5, 1955, Sunset Villa was officially dedicated at the first Grundlovsdag (Constitution Day).

The Board enjoys celebrating milestones, and we had many plans this year, which are now shelved due to Covid-19. Until now, we have been calling this our 65th, because of the method adopted of counting Constitution Day years, which also coincides with the age of property as Sunset Villa.

However, it failed to recognize the preceding years of hard work that made this all possible. As such we have adapted our Constitution Day logo to say 70 years of Hygge.



To avoid confusion in the future, it might be a good idea to stick with one counting method. Afterall, when we become 100, do we celebrate twice - in 2050 AND 2055 to mark both occasions? That gets confusing and costly. Maybe next year could be "Constitution Day - 71 years of Hygge!" for instance. Then we can count our way up to 100! That delicate decision is for next years Board to decide. What do you think?

Read the whole story of Sunset Villa in this years Federation Book. You will need to order yours in advance asap by emailing secretary.sunsetvilla@outlook.com because the Gift Shop is closed.

SELF ISOLATION CRAFT!!



CARDBOARD VIKING SHIP CONTEST!

Create a homemade cardboard viking ship. Email us a clear image of your creation to secretary.sunsetvilla@outlook.com. We will post your creation on Sunset Villa social media pages for all to see.

Rules: You can use cardboard, fabric, tooth pics, paint, crayons, pencils etc. Everything must be homemade, no LEGO.

We will announce the winners in the next Bulletin and on social media!

Submissions Deadline: June 15, 2020

SUNSET VILLA NEEDS ONE PURPOSE

As a volunteer over the past couple of years it has become clear to me that Sunset Villa doesn't have much of a long-term purpose. Ask me what the goals and aspirations of Sunset Villa are, and I cannot answer you. Ask me if it has a future, and I will say I am not sure.

Our organization needs one purpose, and I would like to find out what our members think it should be.

The original purpose of Sunset Villa was written in 1950. The founders wanted to build a retirement home for people of Danish descent or intermarriage. They were concerned that the elders in their midst wouldn't manage without the kind of social security net they knew in Denmark.



**KARINA DAHLIN,
LONG TIME MEMBER,
PLANNING COMMITTEE
FORMER CAMPER**

By the time the first Sunset Villa residences were built in 1972, Canada's social security had changed, and you could argue that the original purpose of Sunset Villa had become redundant.

But the founders were on a roll; they had bought the 52-acre property, and members wanted to create a place where Danes could meet. It worked. Danes flocked to the events at Sunset Villa.

In 1967 we even had the future queen come and visit.

As years passed, attendance dropped off, Sunset Villa started to fray at the edges, and today there is barely enough money or



SUNSET VILLA NEEDS ONE PURPOSE

volunteers to run the place. At the moment, in my mind, Sunset Villa has two strengths: the restaurant and the cemetery, and they are both independent operations. Also, the Danish brand is strong – good food, beer, hygge, laughter, cooperation – and people who come to Sunset Villa are happy to be part of our Danish community.

LET'S BE REALISTIC

Our current mission is the establishment and maintenance of:

1. **Non-profit residential accommodation** primarily for people of Danish descent or inter-marriage for the purposes of establishing a retirement community for people retiring due to age and other reasons;
2. **A community for cultural activities** for people of Danish descent or inter-marriage;
3. **Recreation facilities and activities** for people of Danish descent or inter-marriage.

The mission doesn't work. First of all it's illegal to discriminate according to nationality. Second, the mission is too broad for a small, struggling volunteer-run

organization. We need to be realistic about what we can do. Is it number 1, number 2, number 3 or something completely different?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Everyone has thoughts about what is best for Sunset Villa. However, if we don't have a common purpose, fault will be found with whoever takes on a leadership role because the leaders aren't doing what others believe is right. This way no one wants to lead and then what? I am asking that if you care about the future of Sunset Villa send me your thoughts. **Please email me at kdwriting@yahoo.ca.** All you need to say is "I think the purpose of Sunset Villa should be X, Y or Z." This is a voluntary project without any obligations for me or the board. However, with your help, I hope we can suggest something that works. Let's give it the Viking try!



Did you know? Har du hørt?

1950

HOW THIS STARTED

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Nielsen of Glencairn are credited with campaigning to get a Danish "Old People's Home" started, and so meetings began to form Sunset Villa Association.

1955

MACLEAN ESTATE

Sunset Villa was purchased from the Maclean's (of Macleans Publishing) for \$28,000 (equivalent to \$272,000 in today's dollars.)

1950

MEMBERSHIP COST

In 1950, a membership was \$1.50, and there were 36 members.

MORTGAGE BURNING

Sunset Villa celebrated the end of debt with a mortgage burning ceremony on Jan 29, 1983.

1983

MEMBERS ONLY

For a long time the restaurant was for members only, (and guests). You had to sign a guest book to enter!

1980

THE ASSOCIATION NAME

Decided in 1950, the names considered were:
Valhalla, Sunset Farm, Solvang, Aldershville, Sunset Home and Sunset Villa!

1950



GREETINGS FROM AN EMPTY CHURCH

The Danish Church in Toronto is empty, just like all other places that were created to gather people. It is totally wrong that the church door is locked. But that is the way it must be because the way we fight the Corona-crisis is to be together - apart. I have been in the empty church several times because I am inviting you to online services every Sunday.

I have made video-worships you can participate in on the church website www.danishchurchtoronto.ca or [Facebook](#).

Please join from your tablet, phone or computer and listen to hymns in Danish and prayers in English. One of the services I have made is about worries. We are in a time of trials feeling worried because of the isolation; we are feeling concerned about our health and the health of the beloved ones; about the future. We want to be together, to hug and shake hands and smile and laughter - together. It is a very unfamiliar situation we are in because we want to be light to one another - and we will be again. In that, we can have faith and hope! Your Danish Church is still here despite the crisis, at the moment online, and after the isolation, all activities will be up running again. We are looking forward to that!

When it will it happen, we don't know yet but stay informed on our website.

Stay safe! Stay home!

And all the best!

Pastor Simon, The Danish Church in Toronto

DANISH CHURCH TORONTO



ERIK JORGENSEN



Erik Jorgensen

was born in Haderslev, Denmark in 1921. He studied and worked in forestry in Denmark, and in 1955 the Department of Agriculture invited him to come to work here in Canada.

He had a long and distinguished career as a forest pathologist in Canada and was with the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture until 1959. Then he went to the University of Toronto and, while there, started a program to study and control Dutch Elm disease that was then ravaging elm trees all over Canada. Some in government considered it a 'weed tree' at that time, and were slow to deal with Dutch Elm disease. The lack of recognition of the importance of elm trees to the urban environment spurred Erik and the Forestry faculty to establish the Shade Tree Research Laboratory at the University, which later led to the Ontario Shade Tree Council.

Professor Jorgensen was the first to coin the term "urban forestry." In 1967 he defined it as "...a branch of forestry... for the cultivation and

**GREAT
DANES IN
CANADA!**

management...of urban trees for their benefits to the urban environment and their recreational and general amenity value". With hindsight, we can see that he was a visionary, recognizing trees benefit for urban society as a whole. He always advocated planting native species to regenerate Canada's natural heritage as well. After a stint in Ottawa, heading up the Forest Management Institute and where he created a national Urban Forestry Program, he moved to Guelph to manage the Arboretum at the University. While at Guelph, he was instrumental in bringing a program in Agroforestry to the University. In other parts of the world, farmers had long included trees into their cropping systems, but agroforestry as a discipline was new to Canada in the 1980s.

**Jorgensen coined the term
"urban forestry"
(viewed by many as an
oxymoron at the time).**

**Urban Forestry defined:
the cultivation and
management of trees for
their contributions to the
psychological, sociological
and economic wellbeing of
urban society.**

THE FIRST URBAN FORESTER

Professor Jorgensen continued to inspire students until his retirement. As early as the 1960's and 1970's Erik spoke of the need for more graduate training in urban forestry. At that time, forestry education was mainly to do with forest harvesting, whereas in the urban environment, the emphasis is more likely to be on individual trees and urban planning.

Professor Jorgensen's advocacy for more training for foresters was finally fulfilled with the establishment of Canada's first Urban Forestry Program at the University of British Columbia. Eighteen students were the first to receive their Bachelor of Urban Forestry degrees in May 2018. He would surely have been delighted.

Jorgensen authored over sixty articles and scientific papers on tree diseases and urban forestry. He founded the Shade Tree Council. He received several awards and recognitions for his work including the Maple Leaf Award in 1975 and Trees for Tomorrow award in 1993. He passed away in 2012, five weeks after his wife Gitte died. They are both buried at Sunset Mindepark. Erik will long be remembered for his pioneering work in urban forestry in Canada. In fact, at their November 2019 conference, the Ontario Urban Forestry Council gave his two daughters, Marianne and Birthe, a special presentation from Trees Canada honouring his contributions to urban forestry in Canada.

Written by Betty Andersen



*Photo: Nov 14, 2019,
Ontario Urban Forest
Council*

Birthe Jorgensen (L) and Marianne LaRose (C) accept presentation from Mike Rosen (R), past CEO of Trees Canada to honor their father Erik Jorgensen.



DANISH PLACE

THURSDAY—SUNDAY
11AM ONWARD

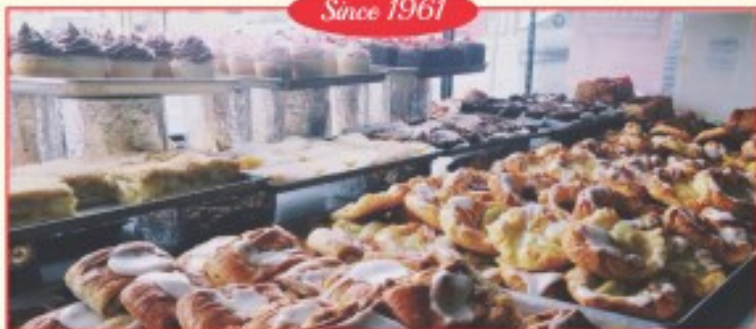
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CAMPING - ON HOLD

Due to Covid-19, all seasonal campgrounds in Ontario were ordered to remain closed by law until further notice. Snow Birds returning to Canada were then left wondering where they would live if they could not reside in their usual RV campgrounds for the summer. In response to these concerns, authorities made an exception to open campgrounds only to returning Snow Birds. Upon receiving written confirmation of this from the government, Sunset Villa responded by taking the necessary steps to get the park open for them, allowing them to live here earlier than usual (Apr 20, not May 1 when the season begins). It was a difficult decision for the Board, as opening for a few campers would mean considerable expense to Sunset Villa if the rest of the campground does not open this summer (it is anyone's guess how this will play out due to Covid-19). Sunset Villa was not obligated to open for them, but the Board chose to do the right thing.

Unfortunately the closure has meant that all other campers are not able to use, let alone access, their trailers during the lockdown. Mandatory closure was put in place to "stop the spread", and although it is very inconvenient, staying home is the also right thing to do. Stay safe everyone!



TENT CAMPERS AT SUNSET VILLA IN THE 1960'S

IN LOVING MEMORY



PETER SORENSEN



SEPTEMBER 3TH 1934 - APRIL 13, 2020

PETER SORENSEN STARTED GOING TO SUNSET VILLA FRIDAY MORNINGS ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO. HE WOULD WORK WITH THE GERITOL GANG AT THE MINDEPARK AND HE WAS ALWAYS SO HAPPY TO LEAVE HOME ON FRIDAY MORNINGS TO GET THERE. PETER WAS SAD WHEN HE WAS NOT ABLE TO DRIVE ANYMORE AND MISSED HIS FRIENDS AT SUNSET VILLA. HE USED TO TAKE LONG WALKS EVERY DAY BUT THE LAST YEAR HE NEEDED A WALKER TO GET AROUND. HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED, AND LEAVES BEHIND HIS WIFE, EDITH.



EVALD STENTOFT GANDERUP



DECEMBER 2ND 1934 - MARCH 5 2020



BORN IN NORS (OUTSIDE OF THISTED, JUTLAND), DENMARK. HE CAME TO CANADA ALONE AT AGE 21. EVALD WAS A FARMER WHO LOVED NATURE, BIRDS AND WALKS AROUND THE MINDEPARK AND POND. HE LEAVES BEHIND ERIKA, HIS WIFE OF 49 YEARS, SON BILLY (AND CHRISTINE) GANDERUP AND DAUGHTER LISA (AND DARRYL) GIBSON. HIS GRANDCHILDREN BRITTANY, JUSTIN, JORDAN, COLE, ERIKA AND BRODY WILL MISS HIM VERY MUCH.

**SUNSET
MINDEPARK**



**Cemetery Board President &
Internment Director**

Soren Sondergaard

sondergaards@rogers.com

519-821-9296

Treasurer

Jannie Decoste

jjdecoste@rogers.com

519-303-0512

Mindepark Urn Cemetery, #11-7150 Concession 1
Puslinch, Ontario N0B 2J0

MEMBERSHIP

by Herman Glemser, membership.sunsetvilla@outlook.com

As of April 1st, 155 of our 530 members have renewed. Please consider renewing your memberships now. A membership form is in this Bulletin, which you can mail in with your cheque. Or you can send an email and an etransfer to finances.sunsetvilla@outlook.com. We also take credit cards (5% fee) - just send us your card #, expiry and CVS code.

We welcome these new members!

GUELPH B. Andersen, B&K Hoeg

BURLINGTON C&S Pedersen

ILDERTON J&S Jeppesen

ROCKWOOD I Knudsen

WATERLOO G&E Olsen

NIAGARA FALLS L&S Rasmussen-Akandwanaho

BRANTFORD B Musson

WOODSTOCK B Nielsen

LONDON J Nielsen

UTTERSEN K Overbye

WOODLAWN I&B Nielsen



MEMBERS ENJOYING CONSTITUTION DAY IN THE 1970'S



Membership Form

Membership Type	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	
Name			
Spouse's Name			
Street Address			
City	Province		
Postal Code	Email		
Home Phone	Cell Phone		
Birth Date (primary member)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	I agree to receive the bulletin online and permit Sunset Villa to send me periodic emails about Association events and information, from which I can unsubscribe at anytime		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I wish to have the Bulletin mailed to me		
Membership Fee Type:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family (including children less than 19yrs.)	\$80.00	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single (including children less than 19yrs.)	\$70.00	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior Family (65 years or older)	\$65.00	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior Single (65 years or older)	\$55.00	
Select activities for which you would be interested in volunteering:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Constitution Day and/or Nordic Market	<input type="checkbox"/>	Long term planning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gardening and/or property maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Becoming a board member
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	Graphic design
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/>	Promoting the Association

Your membership card will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment for your membership fee. Membership fees are renewable every year on April 1st.

Membership Fee Payment Options:

E-transfer: to finances.sunsetvilla@outlook.com. Please also send an email to finances.sunsetvilla@outlook.com with your e-transfer password and membership number or mailing address.

Cheque or money order: payable to Sunset Villa Association. Fill out the form and mail it to : Sunset Villa Association, Membership Chairperson, #11 - 7150 Concession 1, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0

Visa/Mastercard: \$3 fee. Send us your credit card number, expiry date and CVS code to finances.sunsetvilla@outlook.com or mail it with this form.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Planning Committee Chair

Hans Winther

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Internal Financial Reviewers

Johnny Larson

Rick Rowan

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