

Summer 2023

What's New? So Many Projects!



Left: Markerville Community Gardens located by Fensala Hall. Thanks to Red Deer County and Al and d'Arcy Gamble. Right: new interpretive signage has been installed in the hamlet, at Tindastoll Cemetery and at Hola School. Thanks to Ron Stephansson, John McKechnie and Doug Taylor for building the frames and to Donna and Oliver Nelson for leading the project.



Left: Gordon McCheane and Al Gamble man the grill on Canada Day

Below: Van Der Gun family enjoying pancakes on Opening Day

Right: Roberta Lynn Fetch, Supper and Songs



Introducing our Summer Staff

This year we have four staff members working hard in the Kaffistofa to serve your meals and ice cream.

Jake Murray will be entering Grade 11 in the fall at Spruce View School. Once he graduates, he would like to go on to university to obtain his degree in Architecture. He enjoys music and would love to start his own band. This is Jake's first season working at the Creamery.

Nevaeh Baumann and her family live in the old Markerville school-house. She is the oldest of five and loves to spend her down time reading and skateboarding. During the winter season she plays hockey with the local West Country Chiefs. This is her second season working at the Creamery.

Makena Osborne is going into her third year of psychology studies at the University of BC. Spending her summers working at the Markerville Creamery continues the family traditions of her great grandfather Carl Morkeberg and her great great grandfather Dan Morkeberg.

Naomi Kure recently graduated from high school, and successfully completed the Royal Conservatory of Music Grade 10 exam on cello. Naomi loves to spend time hiking in the mountains, dancing, and playing card games with her friends and family. This is her second year working at the Creamery.

Manager's Message

The Kaffistofa and Creamery Museum are in full swing.

Our school programming was busy this season. We had over 1100 students, teachers and parent volunteers tour our museum during the span of six weeks. Our programming was limited to Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as Stephansson House has limited their opening to five days a week.

We have a few changes this season at the Kaffistofa. We are open seven days a week as of July 2. We will operate from 10am-5pm Sunday - Wednesday and 10am-7pm Thursday through Saturday. The menu has seen a few changes as well, with more Icelandic desserts/cookies on our menu, such as piparkokur, an Icelandic pepper cookie, ponnukokur, and of course the delicious vinarterta. We offer freshly made potato salad and Greek salad as sides for your open-faced sandwiches. The smoked salmon continues to be a favourite. Make sure to check out our menu options at www.historicmarkerville.com.

We are glad to see so many people come out to enjoy our Supper & Song events on Thursday evenings. This year we have added a new feature: a \$10 supper meal. To date, the turnout has been a huge success. On opening night, we had 43 people enjoy the beef on a bun, baked potato and cheesecake, and stay for the wonderful entertainment by local artist Roberta Fetch. The following week, Outlaw Music performed to a crowd of 80.

Coming on August 13 from 12—4 pm is our annual Cream Day event. We will have live entertainment, ice cream making and cream separating demonstrations. There will be an old-fashioned carnival theme, with lots of games and activities for the little ones, and rides on our Cream Can Express. It should be a great day to learn some history of the Creamery and spend with the family.

If you are interested in volunteering at any of our events, please contact me at 403-728-3006.

Pam Oxtoby

Pam, Jake, Nevaeh,
Makena, Naomi



President's Message

My, my . . . what a busy society to be the president of. There is never a dull moment. I would like to thank all the board members, committee members, Society members, managers and staff for stepping up when asked to help with the various demands needed to keep us all on the right track.

Staffing grants were greatly reduced and will make the bottom line challenging this year. Pam and Brooke are working hard juggling staff and trying new hours and new menu items to make the best of the situation.

We were all saddened with the passing of Larry Kjearsgaard. This left a big hole on our board. I would like to thank Beth Huising for stepping up and taking on the Treasurer's position. About the same time we also had a bookkeeper change. Please help us welcome Kayla Lang to this role. A big thank you to Elize Van Der Gun for filling in while recruitment for a new bookkeeper took place.

Trevor Christian has stepped down from his position on the board after five years. I would like to thank him for his time given to the society. Ron Stephansson has agreed to come on the board as a replacement.

It has been interesting talking with visitors to Markerville and to hear them gush about how interesting and well kept the hamlet is. The pride of ownership is shown and should be appreciated by everyone.

John McKechnie

President John relaxes in the living room of the Buttermaker's House between tours on Icelandic Picnic Day.



Newly elected SGSIS board at the Annual Meeting in March. From left: Past President Al Gamble, Theo Van Der Gun, Treasurer Larry Kjearsgaard, Mary Flemming, Secretary Tara Noyes, Suzie Sveinson, Tracey Christensen, Bernice Andersen, President John McKechnie. Missing: Trevor Christian, Joerg Hannes



Fensala Hall CONCERT SERIES

24 Main Ave., Markerville, AB

Matt Masters

Saturday, Sept 23, 2023

John Wort Hannam

Saturday, Nov 11, 2023

Brooke Wylie Band

Saturday, Feb 10, 2024

John Hewitt Trio

Saturday, March 16, 2024

Suzie Vinnick

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Single Ticket Price **\$30**
Purchase the Season and **SAVE!**

Season Tickets

\$125

Cash, cheque (payable to SGSIS),
and e-transfer available
(finance@historicmarkerville.com)

2023/2024 SEASON

Sponsored in part by

Red Deer County
Recreation and Culture Board
Division 5



www.historicmarkerville.com

Cook Scholarship Awarded

by d'Arcy Gamble

The Cook Family Scholarship Committee is please to announce the 2023 recipient is Hudson Huising. Hudson lives with his parents, Beth and Jim Huising, east of Markerville. The youngest of three siblings, he is ready to spread his wings and tackle the world! Well, at least tackle the University of Lethbridge where he will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science. Once done, Hudson may look for work in land reclamation or another environmental field of interest, or continue on with an Education degree. Time will tell as he gets his first year under his belt which I'm sure he will be "slam dunking" once he gets established in Lethbridge.

Hudson is an avid and accomplished basketball player on the Spruce View Vikings team which did well in their season, coming second in their league and third overall in the zone championships. He hopes to tryout for the Pronghorns in Lethbridge so he can keep honing his skills and playing the game he loves. Hudson also played hockey with the West Country Chiefs through his school years and at 6'6" I'm sure whether it is basketball or hockey, he is a force to be reckoned with. Good luck Hudson!

Hudson has lived in the Markerville area with his family for the last 16 years and his heart is very much country. From helping his parents with the haying, yard/garden work, and mowing grass he is at home in the outdoors. In fact Hudson loves mowing grass, as it gives him a sense of peace as well as time to reflect on things. Growing up in the area has taught him a lot, says Hudson, from helping with the Long Table Dinners in the past, to riding his snowmobile to town to get cookies from the Cookie Walk, to getting ice cream at the Creamery, and mowing at the Tindastoll Cemetery. To quote Hudson, "Markerville is a place you can't just forget about even if you just pass through. It's got a sense of pride about it that can give you a sweet feeling when you visit."

Hudson has discovered that community is important and being an active contributor to one's community is what keeps it alive and well. Being part of that gives you that "feel good" feeling. His thoughts on the lasting impact of Markerville's Icelandic heritage on the community is summed up in four words—"survival, entrepreneurship, community building, and most of all, love."

Come meet Hudson at Cream Day or, if you are getting groceries at Spruce View, you may run into him there.



d'Arcy Gamble presents Hudson Huising with the Cook Scholarship at Spruce View School graduation ceremonies. Principal Claire Funk is at the microphone.

Vonin Baking

by Donna Nelson

Ladies' Aid Vonin gathered together in May to do their traditional baking spree for the Creamery Museum Kaffistofa in Historic Markerville. Even though most of the present Vonin members also belong to the Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society, Vonin, which means "hope" in Icelandic, is a separate group that had its beginnings in 1891. Vonin has been active through all the years since then. Some of their original mission was to educate youth about the Christian faith, help the less fortunate, and assist those suffering from illnesses or hardship. Our current winter mission is to "gladden the hearts," an Icelandic term, by delivering tins of Scandinavian cookies to about three dozen seniors or shut ins in the community and taking time for a visit with them.

Vonin's summer priority is to bake flatbread, ponnukokur and vinarterta for the Creamery Museum Kaffistofa. To help keep the younger people informed and aware of how the baking is done, Vonin invites the Kaffistofa and Stephansson House staff to join us; we also appreciate their help, especially in the rolling of flatbread. This year, we had three ladies from the Steph. House, five Kaffistofa staff plus the two co-

managers, one Society member and eight Vonin members. It was indeed a crowd, but we spread ourselves out between the certified kitchen and the tables in Fensala Hall and of course, there was always a table in the corner for a coffee break and a visit.

We finished the baking session with a pot luck lunch and ponnukokur with strawberries and whipped cream for dessert. A regular business meeting followed to organize or assist with other festivities, like a bake table or promotion at local events, Vonin anniversary celebrations, and the June 17th celebration at Markerville.



Clockwise from top:
Makena Osborne and Rachel Reynolds roll flatbread;
Laurel Corbiere, Donna Nelson, Ellen Ingolfsson and
Bernice Andersen cook flatbread; Ellen Ingolfsson and
Sandra Hougstol make ponnukokur



Icelandic National Day Celebration

June 17

by Donna Nelson

A huge **thank you** to all who attended and/or helped with the June 17 event. The weather, being an unpredictable challenge as usual, kept us on our toes! Another challenge was that we had only three kids for the races, the first time ever to have so few, but there again, the “show must go on” even if it meant that some of us older folks had to join in to make it a competition, like in the 3 leg race!

Meanwhile some folks walked around the hamlet with Dr. Sandy and Dorothy Murray as tour guides, while others went to the Butter-makers House and were thoroughly impressed with all the manual labor, the handiwork, and the furnishings that have been gathered to make this house historically authentic, yet updated for safety and convenience. Thanks to John McKechnie for showing the House and driving the Cream Can Train, a popular event for kids, their moms or friends. Bernice Andersen and Ron Stephansson served up free ice cream cones, coffee and lemonade in the Creamery Courtyard as the people started

moving towards the hall before it rained.

About seventy five folks attended the program emceed by Bob Baker from Leif Eiricksson Icelandic Club. The highlight was crowning the Fjallkona, Helene Goodman from Calgary, performed by Donna Crozier from the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton, Nordurljos. After interesting speeches of his-torical reflections by Helene Goodman and Gwen Mann, the traditional pot luck took priority. We must never underestimate the value of our three clubs meeting together, sharing our heritage, encouraging one another, and yes, enjoying coffee, pot lucks and fellowship.



Friends to Remember

Don Olson, 60	February 7	Bettie Weigl, 80	April 9
Joyce Grant, 87	March 12	Phillip Anderson , 72	April 11
Bonnie Ruttle, 86	March 21	Wendell Miller, 73	April 15
Frances Neilsen, 93	March 22	Ruth Lehrman , 90	April 21
Larry Kjearsgaard , 73	March 31	Colin Kure, 78	May 9

We extend our deepest sympathy to family and friends

Historicmarkerville.com

Calendar of Events

Thursdays until August 24	Supper and Songs Creamery Courtyard	November 3, 4, 5	Christmas in Markerville and Cookie Walk
August 13	Cream Day	November 11	John Wort Hannam at Fensala Hall
August 20	Show 'n Shine		
September 4	Creamery Museum Closing Day	December 6 (tentative)	Christmas Social, Fensala Hall
September 15	Grand Opening of the Buttermaker's House	December 24	Christmas Eve Service
September 23	Matt Masters at Fensala Hall	Community Dinners are the last Sunday of each month at Fensala Hall	

Newsletter Acknowledgements

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SGSIS owns and operates Historic Markerville

- Historic Markerville Creamery Museum
- Fensala Hall
- Tindastoll Cemetery
- Markerville Church
- Hola School
- the Buttermaker's House and
- Iðunn Icelandic Library in support of our mission:

**Honouring the legacy of Markerville's Icelandic pioneers in
building a vibrant rural community and enriching the
cultural tapestry of Alberta and Canada.**



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