

Yhdistyksen näkyvimpiä toimintoja ovat vuosittain järjestettävät *ETMU-päivät* ja neljä kertaa vuodessa ilmestyvä pohjoismainen tieteellinen aikakauslehti *Nordic Journal of Migration Research*.

## Kiitokset

Kuten lehdestämme ilmenee, myönnettiin minulle ETMU:n tunnustuspalkinto erittäin merkittävästä

työstä etnisten suhteiden ja kansainvälisen muutoliikkeen tutkimuksen edistämiseksi Suomessa. Nöyränä ja kiitollisena otan tunnustuksen vastaan. Ison siivun palkinnosta annan kollegoilleni Siirtolaisuusinstituutissa, jotka ovat todella olleet innolla ja ammattitaidolla edesauttamassa siirtolaisuutta ja etnisiä kysymyksiä koskevien asioiden työstämisessä.

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*FinnThunder 2012, July 27<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Thunder Bay, Canada-*

## FinnThunder 2012 represented many-sided Finnish culture in Canada



FinnThunder 2012, held July 27<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Thunder Bay, Canada, marked the 73<sup>rd</sup> Finnish Canadian Grand Festival since the event was started in Sudbury in 1940. It was already 11<sup>th</sup> time that Thunder Bay and, prior, to 1970, Port Arthur had hosted this celebration of Finnish culture in Canada, according to Ulla Ahokas, Chair of the Organizing Committee. Thunder Bay is home to approximately 13,000 Finns and has the highest concentration of Finns per capita in Canada. Thunder Bay's sister city in Finland is Seinäjoki and there was a delegation from Seinäjoki in the festival. This sister city activity is already established in 1974.

The cultural programme was many-sided with for example lectures, workshops, Marketplace with wide variety of booths, dance, films, sports, food, art exhibition, children programme, and live music. There were such performers like jazz pianist Danny Johnson, guitarist Wayne Faulconer, Thunder Bay Pelimanni Orchestra, Pat and Bill Towell, Doc Jerry, and Billy Manzik and Lisa Edberg, who are coming to tour in Finland in 2013.

There were participants around Canada, Finland and also from the USA. Thunder Bay is located close to northern states of the USA. It is even easier access from there than for example from Vancouver, Canada, which is located almost 2,500 kilometres away from Thunder Bay. Canada is the country with long distances! All participants were not Canadian

Finns or Finns, but there were also Canadians who were married to an ethnic Finnish person. Or just Canadian persons, who were interested in Finnish language and culture, like Elaine McLean with whom I had lunch discussions one day and she had no roots to Finland.

The Institute of Migration had own booth at Marketplace in Hammarskjöld High School. There were lots of visitors who were interested in the institute's activities. Some of them were first generation Canadian Finns who had emigrated themselves to Canada. Quite many visitors were, however, born themselves in Canada and were representing second- or third-generation Finns in Canada. The interest towards Finnish culture has not diminished among them but it is flourishing in many forms.

The booths at Marketplace were showing this variety of Finnish culture. There were persons who were selling kantele -music instruments, Carelia pies, rye bread, pulla -coffee bread, Finnish lures, wood products, himmeli, and so on. On Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6 pm, Thunder Bay was attempting to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the most people simultaneously participating in a Nordic Walk. There were much over 700 persons par-

participating – but instead of this huge amount of participants it didn't reach to break the World Record which is still 1 026 persons and in the name of Swedish people (Nykänen 2012).

The lectures were covering many topics, something for each participant of FinnThunder. There were themes like “A Century of Finnish Canadian Letters” by Samira Samaro, “Finn Factor in North American Weaving” by Pirkko Karvonen, “Learning the Finnish and Argentinian Tango” by Tomas and Erita, and “A Century of Sisu” by Kathy Toivonen. I had three lectures dealing with “Finns Abroad: The profile of emigrants, their destination countries and thoughts about returning to Finland.”

In the FinnThunder 2012 newspaper, there was an interview of Finnish culture expert Pentti Junni done (Lahtinen 2012). He ponders what Finnishness means to an immigrant. It means strong willpower, *sisu*, desire to strive ahead in life regardless of limited professional and linguistic skills. Simultaneously it has meant for example acceptance of differences while steering towards a vision of a better future.

The main attraction of Thunder Bay was the Finnish Labour Temple, which opened its doors in 1910. There were many events of FinnThunder in this venue, and its Hoito (Care) Restaurant was famous itself. The restaurant had in its menu such foods like Hoito Burger, Finlandia Burger, Karjalan Piirakka with Egg Salad, Finnish Wieners, etc. The meals were good and the portions were very large.

I had a pleasure to get to know second-generation Canadian Finn Jane Chapman who is living in Thunder Bay. Her father J. Albert Pudas, “Puddie”, moved from Siikajoki, Finland, to Thunder Bay in 1900. He entered the history books as the first Finnish born player in the NHL. In 1936, Pudas coached the Port Arthur Bearcats who represented Canada in the Winter Olympics in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Bavaria, Germany. Canada won a silver medal with Pudas as coach (the only medal Canada won at these games).

After FinnThunder 2012 Jane Chapman took me to an excursion around Thunder Bay. We visited for example in the International Friendship Gardens. The garden showcases unique monuments representing many ethnic groups in the Thunder Bay area. Finland has own monument with two bronze swans. We had also meeting with Library Technician Kathleen Crewdson at the Lakehead Univer-



From left Elli Heikkilä with Pirkko and Albert Karvonen at Hoito Restaurant.

sity, Northern Studies Resource Centre. She showed us interesting archival collections which include materials of Canadian Finns.

Finally, it is important to mention Thunder Bay's 50 million ton city mascot known as the Sleeping Giant, the panoramic Sibley Peninsula, in Lake Superior. This mascot can be seen from the city area of Thunder Bay and it resembles a giant lying on its back.



J. Albert Pudas.

## Sources

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