



The Legend of St. Urho

By Sherry Kurin.



Menahga, Minnesota

The legend of St. Urho is the product of not one person but many. St. Urho was created by Richard Mattson, from Virginia, Minnesota, in 1956. As the story goes, this particular Finn grew tired of hearing the tales of St. Patrick banishing the snakes from Ireland and created St. Urho, whom

Mattson credited with chasing the frogs from Finland. Several names—Ero, Jussi, Eino and Toivo, to name a few—were suggested for this newly minted “historic” personage but did not have a “saintly” ring. Coincidentally, Urho Kekkonen became the president of Finland in 1956, and some feel that this is where the name might have come from.

Gene McCavic took the St. Urho legend and, with help from Mattson, wrote an “Ode to St. Urho.” It told of a *poika* (boy) who got strong on *feeliasour*, or sour milk (note from editor—does anyone have a starter? It is very good stuff!) and *kala mojakka* (fish soup). The ode states that Urho chased out those rogs (those frogs) with a loud voice, saying repeatedly, “Heinasirkka, heinasirkka, mene taalta huteen (“grasshopper, grasshopper, go to hell”).

(Brief note on the Finnish language: Finnish has several fewer consonants than English, missing B, C, D and G. As a result, there are no sounds for those letters. B becomes P, C becomes S or K, D becomes T, and G becomes K. There are also no articles in Finnish—“the,” “a” or “an” are not a part of Finnish grammar.)

Dr. Sulo Havumaki, a psychology professor at Bemidji State College in Minnesota, is credited with changing the legend from frogs to grasshoppers that came to eat the grape crop that would become wine (ancient Finland was a much warmer place than it is now). St. Urho is

credited with saving the vineyards and the jobs of the workers. This is how he became the patron saint of Finnish vineyard workers.

St. Urho’s Day is celebrated by wearing royal purple and Nile green on March 16th, the day before that of the better-known Irish saint (although the ode lists the day as the 24th). Since its creation in 1956, the St. Urho legend has spread and is now celebrated in Finnish communities all over the United States, Canada and even in Finland itself. In some areas the two saints’ days are celebrated together, but in more traditional Finnish celebrations the better-known saint’s day, March 17th, is merely an afterthought, a day to sleep off a hangover.

Ode to St. Urho

By Gene McCavic and Richard Mattson.

Ooksi Kooksi coolama vee
Santia Urho is ta poy for me!
He sase out ta hoppers as pig as pirds
Neffor peefor haff I hurd tose words!

He reely tolt tose pugs of kreen
Braffest Finn I effer seen
Some celebrate for St. Pat unt hiss nakes
Putt Urho poyka kot what it takes.

He kot tall and trong from feelia sour
Unt ate kala moyakka effery hour.
Tat’s why tat kuy could sase toes peettles.
What krew as thick as chack bine neetles.

So let’s give a cheer in hower pest vay
On sixteenth of March, St. Urho’s Tay.

Note: The Ode as originally written refers to St. Urho chasing out frogs instead of grasshoppers, and to May 24th as St. Urho’s Day.

Winterfest ’09

By Tammie King, photographs by Erick Leskinen.

This year’s Winterfest was a warm, sunny, beautiful day. Lots of people came out to enjoy winter activities and food. The sauna was hot, the dippers were plenty, and everyone loved the reindeer, named Thunder.

(Continue)



Jumping into the hole cut into the ice of Sun Lake.

Thanks to all of the culinary wizards who donated 23 Chili Entrees for our contest. Top awards this year went to Kathy Bretschneider, 1st place; Marty and Caren Boatman, 2nd place; Pam Linick, 3rd place. Honorable mention went to Greg Pelto.



Julie Tanner with Thunder.

Thank you to everyone that helping to make this event a success. It's a real testament to all of you and the Finn Camp. So many people give their time and share their unique talents, from the hole cutters to the kitchen help. Working with all of you is such a treat. It makes such a difference when we all get involved, work as a team and get it done.

Thanks again and see you all next year.

Condolences

Don Matt whose father passed away.
Esther and Wayne Cobb and family on the loss of their youngest daughter, Beverly Aaltonen. A memorial service was scheduled to be held in the Finn Camp's Clubroom on Sunday, March 1, at 1:00 p.m.

New and Returning Members

A big welcome to new members Maxine Halperin, Jim and Deborah Santti, and returning members Jim and Donna Aro.

Facilities Rental

Spring is coming (eventually!) and with it the season of weddings and graduations. This is a reminder to you, the membership, that we have some terrific facilities here that can be reserved for use at a small cost. All it takes is a request to Karen Pye to make sure the date you want is available. For more information, please contact Karen Pye at 248-926-6219. We already have several occasions booked for the spring, so call early.

Work Hours and Project Section

If your committee has a project with available work hours, we would like to list this in the newsletter. With this service, all members would be informed of available projects with work hours and be able to schedule their time to participate in the project. Also, this would be an excellent place for committees to recruit additional members.

2009 UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Urho's Day

March 14, 8 p.m., Clubroom.

Come help us celebrate St. Urho's chasing the grasshoppers out of Finland. There will be live music, food, games and the crowning of a new 2009 king and queen. Come join the fun and show your support to your association! The cost at the door will be \$5. Don't forget to wear your purple and green!

Annual Meeting

April 26, 1 p.m., Clubroom, registration is at noon. All members are encouraged to attend this very important annual meeting. We are a cooperative organization and we need everyone to contribute in discussions and votes to make the Finn Camp a better place.

2009 UPCOMING EVENTS (*Continued*)

Woodworking Project	May 9
Sun Lake Cleanup	May 16
Fun and Games Night	May 24
Prom Night	June 6
Annual Fishing Derby	June 14
Juhannus	June 20

BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Future Planning Committee

March 5, 7:30 p.m., Boardroom.

Forest Management Committee

March 8, 10:00 a.m., Pole Barn.

Board of Directors

March 8, 10:00 a.m., Boardroom.

Visitors welcome at noon.

Sisterhood Committee

March 18, 6:30 p.m., Clubroom.

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Finn Camp Newsletter by Email

To date we have sent out both printed and emailed newsletters. To lower the printing and mailing costs of the newsletter, a number of members have now signed up to receive their newsletters by email. Starting with the April issue, members who are on the list to receive emailed newsletters will no longer receive a paper copy. To sign up to receive your newsletters via email *only*, send an email giving your first and last names, with "Subscribe to Newsletters" in the subject line, to newsletter_editor@finncamp.org.

Newsletter Items

Finn Camp members are welcome to submit items of news to be published in the newsletter. Calendar items should include a brief description and contact information about an upcoming event or meeting.

Items for the next newsletter are due by:

April 20, but the sooner the better.

Email to: newsletter_editor@finncamp.org

Or mail to:

Newsletter Editor

c/o DFCSCA

2524 Loon Lake Rd.

Wixom, MI 48393-1654

Or place items in the Clubroom's mailbox.

FOR SALE

2009 Finn Camp Calendar

These calendars are available to order for \$12.00 each. Shipping and handling is \$2.50 extra. Call Tammie King at 248-624-6691.

Please send a check to:

DFCSCA Sisterhood

c/o Tammie King

1826 Bruce St.

Wixom, MI 48393

Camp #50

On the west side adjacent to the bathhouse with a view of Loon Lake. Knotty pine paneling on the walls with tongue-and-groove flooring. With a new roof, vinyl siding, two new vinyl windows, a twin-sized bunk bed and one double bed. Call 989-736-6583 or 989-464-1918.

Camp #118

Located on the west side. It has a large deck for barbecues and built-in beds that sleeps four people comfortably. New roof was installed in 2008. Very nice camp for \$4,600. Call Eric Feldt, 248-926-6669 or cell, 734-320-2632.