



2026 SVERDRUP TREE DEDICATION HONORING CAROL CHRISTIANSON

By Judith Hammer

Gather up now your cups and glasses of coffee, wine, or gin
Because our urban forest at Sverdrup Park just named a tree for Carol within
Wait, wait, wait a minute now, we need to know the score,
Of why and how and from whence she came, to land at Sverdrup's door

Way out west in Williams County, on her Grandma's own plotted homestead,
Next to Hardscrabble Township, was Round Prairie Township where you can still find her rural spread
After country school and into Williston for high school did she go,
Then off to the University, sailing along with the ebb and going with the flow

An acronymic alphabet comprises her life's work and its resumé
From Department of the US Army NG to FMHA within the USDA
A registered voter where ever she hung her hat
Her hobby is following politics-- to understand the sway, the swag, and all that

In her younger and more vulnerable years, textile arts grabbed her attention,
She's crocheted some lovely afghans, in my book, they do merit mention
Not only that, but she was a woman on the run,
Why, she'd race in marathons till her Nike's soles were just plumb done

And who knew she has a trove of Nordic art and treasures galore
And unbeknownst to most---citrus juicers, why, she's got them by the score

Oh, came that glorious day; at last! Her turn to retire,
Time to tune up the Roadtrak then turn down the house's furnace fire
She could pack up what was needed and put wanderlust to the test,

Maybe grab her passport, or maybe just head out west

She's traveled wide, she's traveled afar, and maybe I'm mistaken,
Of our planet's seven continents, is it just Asia remaining for her to awaken?
A birder, a gardener, a helper, a cook,
A baker, a hostess, what have I possibly overlooked?

Let us not forget the Mondays at First Lutheran Church
Let us all praise god for Tom and Jerry or our language class would have been in the lurch
So nearly every week comes Carol, often toting tasty baked goods and such
And Lyle brings the coffee; it's a really good lunch bunch!

Now as Carol reflects on her life and its dimensions, she discounts her contribution,
Ah, come on, ain't it time at last for Janteloven* to undergo redistribution?

The lutefisk supper every year Sverdrup Lodge does sponsor
The fisk! The lefse! How will this year's public responder?
Carol's been at the helm of the supper's biggest components
The spuds were the first; then there were the meatballs' moments
Sverdrup's grateful that Almont's recipe they would share
What would we do with those Swedes, if the meatballs were not there?

But then she assumed the highest of all stations
The overseer of the lutefisk that hath empowered Nordic nations
A half ton of cod, delivered, to be sliced and diced into pieces
Let's pray that the butter was melted just how it doth you pleaseth

The Bouncer? or the Greeter? you can take your pick,
but Nanc or Carol each month will tell you where to sit
Go, sit with your friends or, make new acquaintance
This is our Brotherhood of Humans, it cannot be replaceth

So what's next for this member so vibrant, so suave
Will she be at Trollfjorden, or at 4th District's conclàve?

It's these fun facts I've shared, so bear with me now
As we wave the Norsk flags, tipping our hats to kowtow
Ms Carol, step up, you must take a bow
For 'twas a mere 30 years ago to Sverdrup Lodge you did avow

We're in this together, through thick and through thin, I've said it before; now I'll say it again,
You're in pretty darn good shape for the shape that you're in!

**Janteloven: An unwritten Scandinavian social code that discourages individual boasting and emphasizes humility, equality and collective well-being. It dictates that no one should consider themselves better or more special than anyone else in the community.*