



Members of the Store Norske men's choir perform during a torchlight vigil Sunday at Longyearbyen Cemetery during an All Saints' Day service filmed by NRK to be broadcast Nov. 1 as part of a five-part series focusing on the Norwegian church's role in raising awareness about Arctic climate change. Other episodes will air during the four Sundays of Advent.

Church airs climate concern

Local All Saints' Day service to launch five-part series on NRK TV

The nave glowed dazzlingly and even the bell announcing the beginning of the service rang louder and clearer than normal, at least until a technician lowered the volume on a previously unnoticed speaker.

A bit strange even for a place celebrating

miracles, but no more so than the fact the bells were for show – anyone wanting to witness the scene needed to be there when the "real" alert chimed 15 minutes earlier. Or hearing Leif Magne Helgesen's seemingly ordinary

See TELEVISION, page 4

Same job, but new challenge

Tougher Svalbard economy confronts Gov. Odd Olsen Ingerø after four-year interval

When Odd Olsen Ingerø left after his first term as governor, it wasn't because he'd seen enough of Svalbard.

"The last time I was here I had big plans to see the island, but I stopped at the office most," he said.

Ingerø, 58, is back for a second term after serving four years as head of Norway's criminal police department. He said the duties of the job seem similar, but a lot of things big and small have changed considerably.

"During the 14 days I have been here I have been using the time to get to know my colleagues because almost all of them are new in office," he said during an Oct. 6 interview in his office.

Ingerø, who actually replaced Per Sefland as governor a bit before that on Sept. 15, said at the other end of the spectrum "the international interest in Svalbard is more than it was

See INGERØ, page 2

Inside

Headlines from Svalbardposten

- Students find motorists driving too fast
- Store Norske gets OK for mobile phone relay
- UNIS professor wins polar research award

Page 3

Weather forecast

Page 3

Events calendar

Page 4

Bargain hunters look through a table of toys during a rummage sale Saturday at The University Centre In Svalbard to benefit the CARE campaign. The annual two-day sale offers many Longyearbyen residents one of their few chances to buy secondhand household items.



Oops: Gov. is *not* omnipresent

Two articles in the Oct. 6 issue of *Icepeople* stated Gov. Odd Olsen Ingerø went to Svea to deal with protesters from Greenpeace, probably a surprise to those who saw him in Longyearbyen at the same time. He dealt with the matter in town, working with other officials at the scene. Rest assured, we are not treating our new leader as the Messiah.

Spending change to bring change

Rare chance to buy used items begins final week of CARE events

There's a boutique open for a few hours a couple of days each week. And the dumpsters. But for the most part secondhand bargain hunting in Longyearbyen is out of season.

Buying new children's clothes is pricy, especially since they may fit for only a couple of months. Acquiring large items such as carpets

and furniture can mean huge shipping charges from the mainland, and woe to those who don't like the color.

Which is why those were among the first items out the door of the annual flea market at The University Centre In Svalbard on Saturday

See CARE, page 3

Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

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Corrections policy

When we screw up you'll know about it – on the front page. One of the big complaints about newspapers is they tend to bury corrections and clarifications deep inside where few people who read the original article see them. If we need to fix something, an alert box on the front page will state what story is in error and where the full correction is printed.

Submitting material

Letters, columns, photos and other material are welcome, but we can't offer pay for published items since nobody here is getting paid at the moment. Submissions in electronic form (text, Word documents, JPEGs, etc.) are highly preferred, although typing and/or scanning of items will be considered on a per-case basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, clarity, accuracy, libel and other reasons, but we will also make every reasonable effort to contact the author about any changes prior to publication.



Svalbard Gov. Odd Olsen Ingerø, back in his familiar office after a four-year absence, says getting to know unfamiliar new colleagues is among the main things initially keeping him busy.

Gov. seeks better Russian conditions

INGERØ, from page 1

four or five years ago." Also, coal mining has gone from a thriving industry to a struggling one and Svalbard's Russian settlement of Barentsburg has been significantly hurt as a result.

Returning to office hasn't been quite as simple as getting to know new people and developments. He was forced to intervene in last week's blockade of the Svea coal mine by Greenpeace, leading police and other officials in ordering the protesters to leave or face arrest. Ingerø is among those who believes it's Svalbard's first such protest, but he said dealing with it so soon after taking office wasn't an extraordinary challenge.

"It's more of an ordinary action when we do police work all our life," he said.

Ingerø was a deputy judge in Vardø from 1980-1981 and a police department official at the municipal and national level for more than 20 years. He spent more than a decade working closely with Russia as head of the East Finnmark police in Kirkenes, although he said that relationship is considerably different than in Svalbard. There he was in a town working with the Russian city of Murmansk and its 1 million residents.

"I looked at us as a little brother," he said.

In Svalbard the Russians are under Norwegian law, a relationship filled with a mixture of cooperation and disputes sometimes resulting in prosecutions for criminal violations. Ingerø said the main issue he expects to face with them is ensuring they comply with regulations as they seek to develop mining, tourism and fisheries projects, but a top hope is improving their economic struggles.

"I hope the difference in the living standard with Barentsburg (and Longyearbyen) will be decreased," he said.

About 800 people were working in active Russian mines when Ingerø left his first term as governor in 2005, compared to 400 to 500 working mostly on restoration projects today after an underground fire halted nearly all their mining activity.

He said many of the Russian tourism and fisheries projects were being discussed when he left, so progress is happening slowly, but there is a noticeable improvement in their food, working conditions and salaries.

He said he has not had serious discussions with Russian officials yet, but hopes to in early November.

Ingerø said he thinks, with the knowledge available today, mining in the Norwegian settlements by Store Norske probably has a 15- to 20-year lifespan.

"I think Store Norske will be doing mining for many years to come, but the main stores in the field depends on how much they take out every year," he said.

The availability and regulation of new mining sites is part of the ongoing debate by the Norway's Parliament about Svalbard's future, but Ingerø said his responsibility is providing facts, not opinions, to policymakers. He said that's not a problem, knowing the Norwegian government has already endorsed the general concept of continued mining as long as it's done in compliance with strict environmental regulations.

"The greatest challenge with this job is to accept the overriding policy," he said. "My job is to balance protection and the opportunity" for commercial activity.

His predecessor, Seiland, earned headlines nationwide shortly before departing office by calling a total ban on heavy oil in Svalbard. He said the ban primarily affects large cruise ships, and will reduce pollution and the risk of major environmental damage if a spill occurs. A similar ban enacted in Antarctica this year has some companies scaling back tours when the restrictions take place next year, citing the high cost of lighter fuel.

Ingerø said he expects increased oil regulation, but "I think it will take years." But better contingency planning and emergency response equipment is vital.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.



Volunteers serve Thai food during the flea market Saturday at The University Centre In Svalbard. A cashier at the sale said food was the first thing sold, ahead of any material goods.

Meals, music, auctions wrap up fundraising

CARE, from page 1

Sunday. The dining hall was filled with tables of clothes, toys, books, appliances, TVs and other items donated by residents – including a three-tray commercial copy machine – with proceeds going to the international CARE campaign to benefit impoverished women.

Also in keeping with the tradition of flea markets everywhere was the availability of quick street food, although instead of hot dogs and burgers it was a fairly authentic resemblance of the roadside stalls in Bangkok.

"I think toys were the first thing we sold," said Pernilla Carlsson, a UNIS PhD student volunteering as a cashier for the sale. Also "quite a bit of Thai food. I think that was the first thing, actually."

The most popular item, Carlsson said, was children's clothes.

Hundreds of residents swarmed the hall for the best pickings shortly after the sale began at noon Saturday, a scene familiar to any veteran bargain hunter. Also familiar were the few stragglers hunting through the remnants during the closing minutes Sunday for any missed treasures selling at name-you-own prices.

By the end there were still plenty of clothes, books and other things – including what looked like all of the large non-flatscreen TVs – needing to find a new home.

"That is the question we are asking our-

selves," said Daniel Vogedes, another PhD student at UNIS helping box leftover items as the sale ended. He said some items are donated to the local secondhand boutique and others to organizations in countries such as Finland and Russia.

The sale was part of a month-long series of events raising funds for the CARE campaign, which culminates in a 24-hour telethon Oct. 18 on NRK. Numerous local events are scheduled during the final week, including:

- A spaghetti dinner hosted by the Longyearbyen Bolognese Association (really) at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Ungdomsklubben (youth club). Food will be served until 8 p.m. or it is sold out, with donations for any amount accepted.
- A dinner of reindeer stew, followed by music and other performances by students, at Longyearbyen School starting at 4 p.m. Thursday. Dinner will be served until 5 p.m., followed by performances in all classrooms, with winners announced at 7:30 p.m.
- An open house with coffee in the governor's fireplace lounge on the second floor of the old museum from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday.
- A baptism liturgy with an offering to benefit CARE at 11 a.m. Sunday at Svalbard Church.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Students monitor motorists, find most drive too fast

Students who think Longyearbyen motorists are driving too fast are taking matters into their own hands. Using a stopwatch they timed vehicles driving a 50-meter stretch near the center of town. They said the results were disheartening, since it should take six seconds at the 30 km/h limit for residential areas imposed by signs recently put up around town and the average speed was 38. "We measured one who took 3.65 seconds, which means they drove almost 50," said Tor Selnes, school recreation assistant. City officials praised the youths, saying the issue is worthy of addressing through increased public awareness and police exercising speed control.

Store Norske gets OK for mobile phone relay station

Store Norske has received permission from the Svalbard governor's office to place a mobile phone repeating station at Slaknosa in Reindalen. The company had to remove two illegal stations in the area and pay a 500,000 kroner fine last year. The new station is in a far less visible location. The station is along a run used by workers traveling and transporting equipment between Longyearbyen and Svea, with the company saying full mobile coverage is vital for safety reasons, especially during poor weather that had necessitated rescue efforts in the past.

UNIS prof wins Nansen Award for polar research

Geir Wing Gabrielsen, a researcher for the Norwegian Polar Institute, is the 2009 winner of the Fram Committee's Nansen Award for polar research. Gabrielsen, an adjunct professor at The University Centre In Svalbard, leads research on environmental contaminants. He often uses seabirds in his studies, since they are high in the food chain and easily available for studying how toxins are transported by air and ocean into polar regions.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Snow up to 10 cm. SW winds at 35 km/h. High 2C (-6C wind chill), low -7C (-12C wind chill).	Cloudy and colder. NW winds at 9 km/h. High -7C (-11C wind chill), low -13C (-17C wind chill).	Sun, then flurries. W winds at 9 km/h. High -8C (-12C wind chill), low -9C (-12C wind chill).	Snow. E winds at 16 km/h. High -8C (-13C wind chill), low -9C (-13C wind chill).
Extended forecast: Sunday, cloudy, -6C (-9C), -12C (-20C); Monday, snow, -7C (-17C), -11C (-18C); Tuesday, snow and increasing winds, -8C (-14C), -9C (-21C); Wednesday, periods of snow, -7C (-18C), -9C (-22C).			

Data provided by AccuWeather.com



Congregants light candles following communion during the All Saints' Day service Sunday at Svalbard Church as NRK crew members film the liturgy for broadcast during the actual commemoration of saints Nov. 1.

Church and climate on TV, at UNIS

TELEVISION from page 1

first words from the pulpit.

"Welcome to Svalbard Church on All Saints' Day," the priest said, a full four weeks before the actual commemoration of saints on Nov. 1.

The spotlights, makeup and a lot of electronic cables all helped capture a service to be broadcast by NRK on Nov. 1 as the first in a five-part "Open Skies" series focusing on the Norwegian Church and climate change in the Arctic. The other four episodes, filmed from glaciers and other Arctic locations, will be broadcast during the four Sundays of Advent.

Longyearbyen Church will be the first to chime its bells in a "Rop fra Arktis" ("Cry from the Arctic") relay progressing south through Norway and Sweden until the United Nations Climate Change Conference opens in Copenhagen on Dec. 6. Discussions about the issue will also take place Nov. 20-22 at the church and The University Centre In Svalbard.

"I think it's nice the church has very strong opinions about this and wants to get involved," said Sylvi Inez Liljegren, a journalist and producer for NRK, who watched much of the All Saints' service on a laptop computer displaying a split-screen view from the three cameras in the sanctuary.

"When you look at the scenario for the next 100 years the scientists say it's going to be a temperature change of six to eight degrees (Celsius)," she said. "It's sort of like an alarm clock for the rest of the world."

While the congregation watched special performances by the Longyearbyen choir and other musicians, a separate concert of sorts was taking place among the television crew.

A man working a sound console at the rear pushed buttons and twisted knobs almost as fast as the organist (and, for actual music, sang along with many of the hymns while doing so). Attached to a camera was a thick stack of cards with Simen Henriksen, 16, a Longyearbyen

student aiding the crew, throwing one on the floor behind him toward another worker every minute or so, much like the page-turner for a classical pianist.

Henriksen, who's lived in Longyearbyen for eight years, said he plays music and is active in other local arts, but doesn't have any TV crew experience and isn't sure exactly why he was recruited.

"They just texted me and asked me if I wanted to help them," he said.

The service lasted the customary hour with a few other minor differences, such as moving the post-communion candle lighting to the rear of the nave due to the camera and lights up front. Afterward, Helgesen said he's been filmed by television cameras before while working as a priest, but this is the first time a full service has been taped for broadcast.

"It would have been worse if it was (live)," he said. "It's a lot of work. It's a nice experience also."

The service was followed by a torchlight vigil, with many waiting at the church for two hours or returning at the 5 p.m. start so the cameras could record the event at dusk. About 50 people carried torches from the church to Longyearbyen Cemetery, where more songs and a brief sermon by Helgesen were captured.

Helgesen will host the opening of the "Rop fra Arktis" seminars Nov. 20 at the church, the beginning of the bell relay Nov. 21 at Skjæringa and a climate exhibition at the church Nov. 22. Climate experts and other officials are scheduled to participate in panel discussions and other events at UNIS on Nov. 21.

The event stems from a "Climate And Ethics" conference in Longyearbyen between church, research and industry officials in September of 2008. Bishops have said they hope other European countries will participate in similar events before the climate summit.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

What's up

Oct. 14

4:30 p.m.: Dinner to benefit CARE, hosted by the Longyearbyen Bolognese Association. Food served until 8 p.m. or sold out. SMS messages to 975 43 933 are requested to help determine how many people are coming. Donations of any amount accepted. Ungdomsklubben.

Oct. 15

4 p.m.: Dinner and performances by students at Longyearbyen School to benefit CARE. Reindeer stew served from 4 to 5 p.m.: Dance, mini concerts and other activities in all classrooms until 7:30. Evening will end by honoring winners of performances.

Oct. 17

Noon-3 p.m.: Open house in the governor's fireplace lounge to benefit CARE. Second floor of the old museum.

Oct. 18

Midnight-midnight: CARE auction, NRK 1.

11 p.m.: Liturgy of baptism. Offering will benefit CARE.

6-8:30 p.m.: Auction to benefit CARE. Brasseri Nansen.

6 p.m.: Movie: "G-gang," U.S. comedy-family film dubbed in Norwegian, ages 7 and up. Huset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Upperdog," Norwegian drama, ages 11 and up. Huset.

Oct. 20

5-6 p.m.: Electricity drill. Power outages may occur during this time.

Oct. 22-25

Dark Season Blues. Full schedule of events at <http://blues.svalbard.com> and in the Oct. 20 issue of *Icepeople*. Festival passes available beginning Oct. 19 from the Mix kiosk, 1,000 kroner for all days, 900 kroner for Oct. 23-25.

Oct. 25

8 p.m.: Movie: "Inglorious Bastards," U.S. action/drama, ages 15 and up. Huset.

What's online

Icepeople.net provides daily updates of news about Svalbard and the world's polar regions, plus extras for articles from the print edition. Among the latest news:

- *Shoes bring foreign seeds to Svalbard*
- *Hovercraft hunts Arctic asteroid's impact*
- *Maverick scientist lauds greenhouse gas*
- *\$200 turkey sparks Arctic price debate*