

**The Institute for Sub-arctic Landscape Research** has now been officially opened as part of the Silver Museum in Arjeplog, Sweden.

"We aim to forge a pathway through new and uncharted territory and become a dynamic research environment," explained Institute Head Ingela Bergman at the inauguration.

Friday 3 April could not have gotten off to a better start: the Silver Museum's new division was officially opened by Dan Brändström of The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities at 11AM.

What's more, just a few hours before the ribbon was cut and the institute officially opened its doors, news of the decision to grant the application for SEK 10 million in funding was received from the EU.

So it was with a spring in her step that Head of the Museum, Ingela Bergman, took the stairs down to the conference room where the inauguration was to be held.



"Normally small museums maintain, display and collect. But we don't intend to be just an ordinary museum. In spite of our small size, we intend to put a great deal of effort into research which will be both interdisciplinary in nature and will have an emphasis on basic research," Bergman continued.

The Silver Museum's constructing of its own operation including a research division is actually quite logical and in keeping with tradition. When Lapland physician Einar Wallquist began the museum in 1965, he was more than just a collector of artefacts; he was also a dedicated researcher within the field of medicine.

Dan Brändström, Professor and Vice President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities and former CEO of national research support organisation Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, was on hand to cut the ribbon in symbol of the institute's official opening.

-The Silver Museum has long been an important part of archaeological research both nationally and internationally. Its importance has now been even further cemented by the opening of the Institute for Sub-arctic Landscape Research.





Håkan Renström, acting Head of the Department of Culture and Education at the local County Council, was the first speaker to have the opportunity to wish the new institute a successful future after it was officially opened. The Silver Museum receives an ongoing annual grant from the County Council in support of its work.

“We have followed the development within the Silver Museum for a number of years via an annual activity report. The reports that have been presented to us by our representatives have been nothing but

positive,” Renström adds. Renström also passed on the greetings of Norrbotten’s Museum Curator Curt Persson, who could not be present today.

“Curt says that it is really encouraging when other, much smaller museums focus research in the same areas that the Norrbotten Museum is conducting research. He sees the Silver Museum as a leading example both nationally and internationally.

Municipal Council Spokesperson in Arjeplog, Mona Stenberg, emphasised the fact that the museum together with the new institute links the past with the present and is in harmony with the spirit of the work of founder Einar Wallquist.

“Here in Arjeplog, we’re proud of the efforts Museum Head Ingela Bergman has made on behalf of our community.”



Ann-Christin Burman, acting Custodian of Antiquities at the County Council, highlighted the importance of the Silver Museum’s research in increasing knowledge about the cultural environment and the value of the alpine region. “Research provides understanding and a new perspective on what is needed to create a society that is sustainable in the long term.”

After the inauguration ceremony itself, invited guests and the general public were given a tour of the newly built facilities, including the laboratories and administration offices.



A trip to Vilstugan Cottage near the Norwegian border was arranged for invited guests on the following day. There, Lars Liedgren, PhD and Professor Lars Östlund explained the reconstruction work and fire-lighting experiment that are currently under way.



Having eaten a picnic lunch seated on reindeer hides, the guests were then given a tour along the prehistoric trail towards Hiednikvalldá on snowmobiles, during which Associate Professor Greger Hörnberg, Professor Olle Zackrisson and Associate Professor Ingela Bergman gave talks on the cultural landscape of the mountains.

*Footnote including facts on the Institute for Sub-arctic Landscape Research:*

*Budget: SEK 6 million per year*

*Staff: Directors: Ingela Bergman, Associate Professor in Archaeology and Lars Liedgren, PhD, Archaeology. Two ecologists, a soil chemist, a librarian and a public relations officer are still to be recruited to the team.*

*The newly built premises cover 600m<sup>2</sup> and contain both laboratories and offices.*

Text and photo: Kjell Öberg

