

THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF
THE ICELANDIC
CANADIAN CLUB
OF TORONTO



FÁLKINN

ICCT FÁLKINN 50th Year No. 8

Mark Your Calendar!

- Tuesday, September 14
ICCT AGM at 7pm
- September 17-19
Earthly & Cultural
Metamorphosis
Conference,
Winnipeg, MB
- Wednesday, Sep. 29th
Nordic Night Film Se-
ries Returns
- Sunday, October 3
Eruption of
Eyjafjallajökull with
Kristinn Guðjónsson
- Thursday, Oct 21
Icelandic Canadian
Cultural Symbols
- October 27, Nordic
Nights—"From Turf
Cottage to the Cover
of Time: The Dramatic
Life Story of Holger
Cahill"
- Saturday, April 9, 2011
Þorablótt

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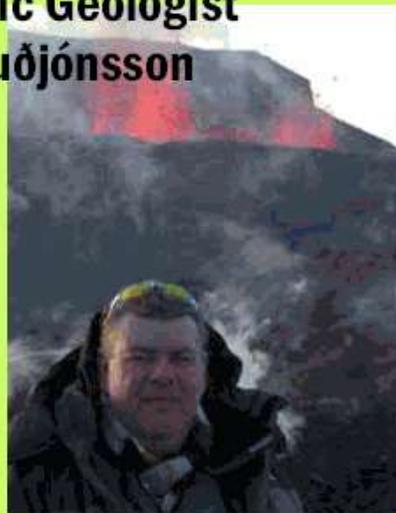
Sunday October 3rd, 2010

Time: 2:30 pm—Reception to follow

The Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto
and Andy Orchard, Provost, Trinity College,
are pleased to present:

ERUPTION OF EYJAFJALLAJÖKULL

With Icelandic Geologist
Kristinn Guðjónsson



**Innes Town Hall
Innes College
University of Toronto
2 Sussex Ave (at St. George)**

www.utoronto.ca/townhall

**Space is limited; please call to
reserve a seat for Kristinn's
Volcano show 416 946-3346;
or email :
brenda.duchesne@utoronto.ca**

**For more information,
Call Heather 647 349-4610**

**Organized by the International
Visits Program of the Icelandic
National League of North
America with the support of:**



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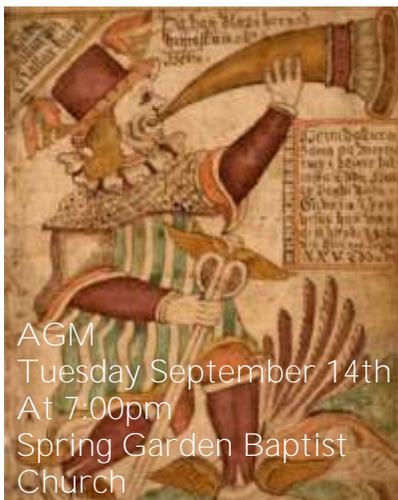
Join Us At the ICCT AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is right around the corner. We invite you to join us, express your interest in the club and share with us your suggestions and ideas on all our events for the upcoming year. Although we held an AGM in May, 2010 we have decided to move the date of our AGM to coincide with our year end which is June 30th. There will be no new elections; however there are a few vacant positions we are looking to fill.

Some of our planned events include:

- Bi-monthly Icelandic films at the National Film Board with special guest artists or musicians at the reception preceding the film and followed by an optional social gathering for youth (19-35 yrs) for drinks and socializing.
- Þorrablótt (April 9th)
- Icelandic classes - reading, writing and conversation commence the first Monday after Thanksgiving

Let's make this year our best and most proud year to be Icelandic-Canadian!



AGM
Tuesday September 14th
At 7:00pm
Spring Garden Baptist
Church

(112 Spring Garden Avenue)
THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO
ALL MEMBERS OF THE ICCT

Earthly and Cultural Metamorphoses Conference



On September 17–19, 2010, the 7th Partnership Conference between the University of Manitoba and the University of Iceland will take place in Winnipeg (Elizabeth Dafoe Library, The Icelandic Collection), and in Gimli (Johnson Hall and the New Iceland Heritage Museum). The title of the conference is “Earthly and Cultural Metamorphoses”, held in memory of Professor Haraldur Bessason. Helga Kress, Professor Emeritus, will give the keynote address on Stephan G. Stephansson and women poets in Iceland.

On behalf of the Conference’s Committee, and the University of Manitoba’s Department of Icelandic Literature and Language, we hope that the diverse conference’s program will be of interest to you. It will feature panels on ‘Migration Then and Now’; ‘Icelandic People, Places, and Cultural Politics in Western Canada’; ‘Nations, National Identity and Literature’, and ‘Immigrant Teachers and System-

atic Change: Problems and Progress’, to name a few.

A detailed program for the conference, along with a registration form for both the Conference and the Gala Dinner that will take place on the evening of September 18th, can be found on our website (see address below). On September 19, 2010, at the New Iceland Heritage Museum. Professor Helgi Björnsson from the University of Iceland will introduce a new film on Iceland’s largest volcanic eruption, the Laki eruption 1783-84, followed by a brief discussion on volcanic activity in Iceland, and an introduction to the “Institute of Jón Steingrímsson”. Jón Steingrímsson (1728-1791) was the local reverend and the spiritual leader of the settlement of the village Kirkjubæjarklaustur, and is immortal in the Icelandic history for his legendary Eldmessu (Fire Sermon). He chronicled, also, the events of the Laki eruption with astonishing scientific insight in a pioneering geological contribution.

Earthly and Cultural Metamorphoses Conference

SEPTEMBER 17-19

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

For more information and registration, please contact the Icelandic department’s General Office:

Telephone: (204) 474-8487

e-mail: um_icelandic@umanitoba.ca

Íslenskar Sumarbúðir by Graham Smith



Viking encampment at Islendingadagurinn where re-enactors performed for the yearly event

I am lucky enough to have been one of the few kids from Toronto to attend the Icelandic camp in Gimli, Manitoba. It was a great camp with some great people and I encourage other kids of Icelandic descent to go next year.

Brad Hirst and Christine Schimnowski were the camp directors. They were assisted by four counsellors: Sam, Britney, Kenely, and Gummi--short for Guðmundur. Two of them were teachers who work with Brad and a couple were former campers. Gummi was Brad's personal dictionary at the camp, since he is a native Icelandic speaker.

The majority of campers were from the Winnipeg/Interlake area, although a few travelled to get to the camp. A couple were from British Columbia and a small group were from the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary. I was the only camper who lived east of Manitoba.

The camp was held at Camp Veselka, near Gimli, in Manitoba. It sits on the edge of Lake Winnipeg and has lots of trees and dragonflies (who eat the mosquitoes!) The one week camp is usually held

during the week before the Gimli Icelandic festival--Islendingadagurinn.

We started our days at camp with the "Viking Swim" in Lake Winnipeg. I was one of the campers who got out of bed early every day for a brisk morning dip. We also did crafts, learned Icelandic language and culture, and read sagas. Personally, I really enjoyed the language classes even though I had no previous experience speaking Icelandic. We used a free flash card program called "Byki" to learn new vocabulary. We also learned to sing some Icelandic songs including, 'Á Sprengisandi,' but don't ask me to sing!

We went on two trips to Gimli, once to the New Iceland Heritage museum, and another to the Viking Statue to have our picture taken for the local newspaper. Brad and Christine were quoted in the article that appeared in the Interlake Spectator on July 30th (see: <http://tinyurl.com/34eggqr>.)

Because the camp ends just as Islendingadagurinn starts, my family stayed so that we could attend the festival. My favourite was the Viking encampment where re-enactors



Graham Smith—Recipient of the ICCT 2010 Camp Scholarship

"lived" as the Vikings did. They demonstrated warfare tactics which were really cool. I also enjoyed the Fris-Nök tournament which is a game I learned to play at the camp. It involves bottles on posts and a "Fris"bee which you use to "Nok" the bottle off the post.

The Icelandic camp is a unique opportunity for kids like me to meet other kids of Icelandic heritage and to learn about Icelandic language and culture. I enjoyed the camp and want to go back next year.

Þorablót

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday April 9th 2011

Þorablótið hafið

„Guð gæfi, að ég væri kominn í rúmið, háttadur, sofnadur, vaknadur aftur og farinn að éta“.



Advertisement for a Þorablót in the restaurant Naust, 1959. The text, drawn from a humorous folktale, reads "I wish to God I had gone to bed, fallen asleep, woken up, and started eating again."

Report From the INL of NA by Gail Einarson-McCleery

During my first summer as President of the INL of N.A. I decided to take the position seriously, but also have some fun by going to all the Icelandic Festivals I could squeeze in!

I started out with putting together a power point presentation (with Jody's help!) ... it included pictures from each of the 23 member clubs and affiliates, from Seattle to Ottawa, and information on what the INL was all about. The Scandinavian Festival "Hjemkomst" at the end of June was its first outing, and all went well. This Festival in Fargo, N.D. attracted 18,000 people and was very rich in program, music from Iceland, displays and even a full size Viking boat and live reindeer! Our former President, Garry Oddleifson was there to represent Logberg-Heimskringla and a number of us from Gimli took part in the Costume Parade.

Encouraged by this, I decided to get into my costume and ride in a convertible and wave to all the people at the Parades in Gimli, MB (Islendingadagurinn) and Mountain, N.D. (August the Deuce) It was my first time to go to Mountain and it was very impressive. This tiny community puts on a great show, headed up by Curtis Olafson, President of the Icelandic Communities Association. This year guests included the P.M. of Iceland, Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir, the Karlakórinn Lóuprælar Choir, writer Christina Sunley (fresh from her INL of NA tour of Iceland), lots of events, genealogy by the Cousins Across the Ocean project, and local talent. However, the excellent BBQ was interrupted by heavy rain and even hail!

In my home town of Gimli, our float featured 3 year old Lauren Gondor in the Icelandic costume

made by her Amma, Phyllis Sigmundson Pollard of our Toronto club; she made a excellent princess! The P.M. was there also and the choir; the Fjallkona this year was Helga Peterson Malis, recently the President of the Gimli Chapter, and a former Exec. Secretary. Music abounded, both at the pier and at the pavilion in the park. All of the usual events, the sandcastle building contest, the races, the Islendingadunk, kept the children amused. Bill Valgardson, editor of Logberg, delivered the Toast to Iceland in his usual inimitable style. President Kathi Thorarinson Neal held it all together with her excellent volunteers.

After that, I decided to visit the Lundar club, having never been there despite growing up only an hour away! It was great to meet with their enthusiastic members in the lovely library donated by our club member Donald K. Johnson in honour of his teacher, Pauline Johnson, when she turned 100. The next day saw me in Arborg, in their Heritage Village, saying hello to David Gislason and his enthusiastic group. I got to see the choir again, and join them for the excellent lunch provided by the Arborg Club. When I arrived, our Icelandic teacher, Margret Björgvinsdóttir, and her tour group from Iceland were just finishing coffee! She said she was seeing me more than in Toronto, as we met up also in Mountain and Gimli!

Oh yes, and after Fargo, I went to visit the Blaine, Washington, club with our former President, Gerri Macdonald from Vancouver. They are a small club and quite new, but have accomplished a lot in a short time. I was very impressed by the statue they helped put up in the harbour, honouring the pioneers. I ended my August tour by going to see members of the Winnipeg Club at the Scandinavian Centre during their Folklorama... great food, entertaining Abba songs and a display of things Icelandic in the Ice-

land Room.

Now, we have the visit of geologist Kristinn Guðjónsson to look forward to on October 3rd... this is organized by the International Visits Program of the INL of NA, and the Toronto event is sponsored by Andy Orchard, Provost of Trinity College at U of Toronto. Icelandair is providing his travel to and from N.A. And he has promised to teach us all how to say Eyjafjallajökull!

And the best news of all is that Donald K. Johnson has just agreed to sponsor the new Ice. Film Fest, which will see the movies we screen in Toronto, travelling to clubs all over North America. Thank you, Don!

By the time you read this, I shall be in Iceland to attend the Annual Meeting of our sister organization, INL of Iceland, with a good friend of all of us ... their President, Almar Grímsson...



Dilla Narfason, of Gimli, Manitoba, Lauren Gondor and Gail Einarson McCleery at this year's Islendingadagurinn

“NORDIC NIGHTS”

Returning with another season of films

Presented by the Consulates of Finland & Iceland
and the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto
(Icelandic film sponsored by Donald K. Johnson, O.C.)



Reception: 6 p.m.

Film: 7 p.m. (English subtitles)

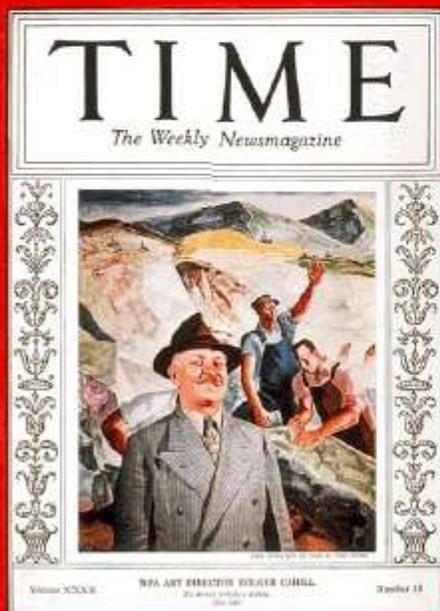
Venue: National Film Board,
150 John Street at Richmond

Wed. September 29 Finnish Film

“One Foot Under”/Toinen jalka haudasta

Director: Johanna Vuoksenmaa

A man diagnosed with a rare and incurable illness agrees to have a journalist do a story about him preparing for the inevitable. If only the diagnosis were correct.



Wed. October 27 Icelandic Film

**“From Turf Cottage to the Cover of TIME:
The Dramatic Life Story of Holger Cahill”**

Director: Hans Kristján Árnason

A fascinating documentary on the Icelander who moved the centre of the art world from Paris to New York...and rediscovered his Icelandic heritage and family late in life.

Added Attraction:

Finnish art (Ulla Nystrom-below) and
Icelandic art (Fontana Swing)
Artists present at screenings
Sept. 29 and Oct. 27



More information: Finnish 416 964-0066

Icelandic – Karen 416 817-7642

Fontana Swing
(Katrina Anderson)
www.fontanaswing.ca

The SNORRI Experience by Jesse Beatson



Jesse Beatson tries out President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson's desk at Bessastaður.

I've recently returned from a six-week journey in Iceland where I was exploring my roots, encountering the language and culture of my ancestors, and meeting members of my newly discovered Icelandic family. This is a Snorri's story. It begins with a confession – I'm already feeling hopelessly nostalgic.

Ever since I've been back in Canada I've been missing the smell of sulfur. It's an odd affection, admittedly, but it reminds me of hot springs and of Iceland's wild geology – the volcanic anarchy just below the island's ground. The absence of that smell has been one of many signals that I'm, as the cliché goes, back in Kansas again.

I miss my family in Eskifjörður

who I really got to know over my three week stay with them. They were very generous with their time and always supportive of my learning new things about Iceland, taking me on frequent road trips to new towns and historic sites, and at home showing me more than my fair share of Icelandic films. I was able to practice the little bit of Icelandic I had picked up in Reykjavik with them, perhaps even expanded my repertoire, but thankfully, we mostly spoke English. They made sure I had everything I needed for the work I was doing with a local maritime museum while I was with them. I would have never guessed, but I ended up having to paint an his-

toric fishing boat sitting in the middle of the museum's lawn, so I they lent me an old windbreaker and pants to keep me warm. I finally got the opportunity to repay their kindness in a small way. They were fascinated by their town's history so when I had to digitize an archive of old black and whites taken of the town for the museum, I was able to sneak in a USB on my last day of work and upload the photos on the family computer. They liked that a lot.

I am also missing the stark beauty of Icelandic landscapes. The rivers are cold, fresh, and completely drinkable. The many fjords around the island's perimeter are wrapped by mountains that act as protective rocky wings to the small fishing villages and farm lands along the banks below. Wet, hot plumes of Geyser steam come up from a multitude of bubbling sulfur ponds.

These beautiful moon-like scenes inspire more than tourists and newcomers. Local artists of all kinds get inspiration for their work from these surroundings. I enjoyed the visual art I saw on display in Reykjavik's many art galleries, but I was especially amazed by the music, much of which offered such perfect sonic reflections of nature. Local bands like Sigur Ros, Jónsi, Björk, and Gus Gus write songs capturing Iceland's distinctive glacial majesty. When the imagination of the listener wanders, they become the echoes of Elvin hymnals sung up in old abandoned mountain cathedrals. I've been listening to these bands regularly since I've been home and every time I heard them I'm transported to a place in my memory from the trip – at the peak, of Mount Esja, standing under the vast stone ceiling of Hallgrímskirkja Church, crouching at the foot of a waterfall in Eskifjörður, riding horses with the other Snorri's through the heaths of central Iceland...

It hasn't been easy readjusting to a world where it gets dark at night (Iceland enjoys perpetual daylight during the summer months), where fresh drinking water is scarce, and where a McDonald's can be found at every

SNORRI Experience continued from page 6

second street corner or highway exit (Iceland doesn't have a single franchise). In order to keep myself from doing something rash like withdrawing this year's tuition money and taking the next plane to Reykjavik, I've been telling everyone who will listen about my trip – how I was an extra in an Icelandic film, how my Icelandic family insisted on the existence of trolls and elves, how I went whitewater rafting with the craziest guides who leap from raft to raft and occasionally pulled one or two of us up by the lifejacket and throw us into the gurgling rapids only

to rescue us moments later. These are memories I know I'll get to keep for a lifetime.

I think I finally understand the fanatical fascination my Viking-crazy Amma has with our ancestral homeland. I believe I may now even share it. As a young boy, she would tell me stories about Viking lore and mythology, about the uniqueness of Iceland, and most importantly, about our family heritage. She made me feel special to share a family line with the rugged Norse heroes of her stories. Now, having done my own genealogical research

and learning about my roots in Iceland through the Snorri program, I'm committed to persevering and protecting my Amma's stories about our family. As much as I don't like to admit it, she will not be around forever to tell them. Perhaps, then, the greatest gift my participation in the Snorri program gave me, above and beyond the incredible experiences and new friendships, is the ownership and confidence about my family's Icelandic heritage necessary to be able to pass it along to the next generation. I may be the first Snorri in my family but I doubt I'll be the last.

NEW ICCT NORDIC NIGHTS Film Membership

\$30 for 4 Icelandic Films!
includes free Finnish films
ART SHOW & SOCIAL
EVENT

Please confirm your commitment to the film program by mailing your cheque for \$30 to:

Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto
Note: Nordic Nights
Treasurer: Lynne Thorkelsson
1680 Scugog St.
Port Perry, ON L9L 1E2

Icelandic Canadian
Cultural Symbols
Thurs.Oct.21
7 pm

Spring Garden Baptist
Church

On the 135th anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers at Gimli, MB, LAURIE BERTRAM of the U. of T. will present her doctoral thesis on **Icelandic Canadian cultural symbols** including vinarterta, ghost stories and the relations with the native population.

Laurie was intending to do this presentation in Iceland, but circumstances have forced her to postpone that to the spring. So she has offered the lecture to us on the anniversary date. It looks like it will be very interesting. Now all we need is someone to make the vinarterta... offers???

BRANDit in Iceland Offers Women Business Owners Opportunity to Revitalize Their Branding

Reykjavik, Iceland (July 5, 2010) – A four-day workshop to create and reinvigorate personal and business branding for women business owners worldwide will be held October 14-17 in Reykjavik, Iceland. The workshop helps women achieve success through attaining a clear vision of their present strengths and future goals, identifying their passions, and creating a network of powerful women to support them along their journey.

More than 20 women from around the world, including Zimbabwe, New Zealand, the U.S., Croatia, London, Iceland and Mauritius have already registered. Those who register before July 15th will be entered in a drawing for a FREE roundtrip to Iceland. Entrepreneurs Runa Magnúsdóttir and Bjarney Ludvíksdóttir started BRANDit, offering women business owners worldwide an opportunity to revitalize their vision and gain clarity on themselves as a brand. Magnúsdóttir is

certified as a business coach by the International Coaching Federation and the CEO and Founder of Connected-Women.com. Ludvíksdóttir will use her experience as a casting director and co-owner of Eskimo Models, an Icelandic modeling agency, to capture each woman's personality via a new headshot, video trailer and press kit.

For more information:
www.brandit.is



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Fál kinn-The Fal con

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2011 INL Calendars Feature Traditional Recipes

The 2011 INL calendar features excellent mouth-watering pictures, information on the history of traditional food, and recipes.

Please see the flyer enclosed in this edition of the **FÁLKINN** to order your copy in time for Christmas!



Ferry Route Opens Gateway to Iceland's 'Pompeii Of The North'

A new ferry pier on Iceland's south coast is set to provide the first high-speed link to the **Westman Islands** - the site of Iceland's 'Pompeii of the North'.

The new **Bakkafjara** pier will reduce crossing times to Heimaey, the largest and only inhabited island of the Westman Islands, to just 25 minutes, with the new ferry link operating up to seven times per day. Previously visitors had to either fly or take a 2 hour 45 minute ferry crossing from Eorlakshofn pier on the Reykanes peninsula.

The new ferry link is predicted to make the Westman Islands 2010's 'hot' destination as a day-trip option from Reykjavik or for visitors exploring southern Iceland by car.

Located seven miles off the south coast of Iceland, the Westman Islands archipelago is characterised by dramatic volcanic scenery and steep sea cliffs, which are home to Iceland's largest puffin colonies. In August, visitors and islanders help to rescue baby 'pufflings' as they leave their nests for the first time and help them learn to fly.

In 1973, the islands experienced one of Iceland's most devastating volcanic eruptions lasting over five months and covering nearly a third of the original town of Heimaey.

Today, visitors can witness the massive impact of the eruption by looking around

some of the abandoned homes and buildings that were covered by volcanic ash and lava. Excavated by the "Pompeii of the North" project, the findings aim to provide an insight into the destructive force and awesome power of a volcanic eruption on this scale.



Icelandic classes commence the Monday after Thanksgiving.

For information contact

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