



FÁLKINN

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

March 2005

ICCT FÁLKINN 45th Year Number 6

Going to Thorrablot



Celebrate in the oldest Icelandic way known to men: Eat, drink and be merry. Feed the viking inside you. Icelandic dishes galore (and Canadian dishes), fellowship and conviviality, entertainment and dancing. Bar opens at 6 with appetizers (including hardfiskur and pickled herring). Dinner at 7 p.m. – All the food which you would expect, and then some, great buffet with something for everyone.

Order your tickets from Treasurer Mel Johnson (905) 828-9222 - Order form enclosed

Don't wait. @ Adults \$35 Youth 7 to 18 \$20 Children 6 and under free

Music supplied by our own Jim Garrett on CD. Jim will also be our emcee for the evening.

Viking Play - Brenda Bjarnason has written a new play "Thor's Hammer and the Giant Thief" and the Elfinfolk Theatre Troupe is busy practicing.

ICCT Scholarship and Marion & Ragnar Memorial Scholarship will be presented

Take home a bargain from our Silent Auction. To add to the fun, we will have a 50/50 draw.

And - don't forget those great desserts - vinarterta, pönnukökur, halfmánnar – everything that the Icelander in you has been craving so long!

HELP! We still need donations for the Silent Auction. If you have a service or an item you would like to donate, please call Leah Salt at (905) 277-5298

**NORTH YORK
MEMORIAL
COMMUNITY
HALL**

**(Concourse Level -
under the Library)
5110 Yonge Street,
Toronto**

WHY THORRABLOT?

Nobody knows the origin of "Thorrablot". The first mentions of a celebration are from the 18th century, but it is likely that the custom is much older. In the later part of the 19th century, the upper class in Iceland began to have gatherings, which they called "Thorrablot". Those were old style drinking and eating feasts, where they sang old and new poems, and drank to the old gods and "the Þorri". Especially Þór was related to the "Þorri".

These feasts stopped in the beginning of the 20th century, except in the countryside, especially Eyjafjörður and in the eastern part of Iceland. In the middle of the 20th century, the "Thorrablot" had a revival in the towns, and then with special emphasis on traditional Icelandic food, which was not common in the towns any more. Among these national delicacies are rotten shark, ram testicles, "lundabaggi", svið (sheep heads) and so on.

Ever since the "Thorrablot tradition" has gotten stronger and stronger, both in Iceland and among Icelanders living abroad.

Since this is a self-catered event, we welcome your food donations and help in the kitchen, including teen-agers to serve. Call Kristin Olafson-Jenkyns at (905) 627-6921

Þorri and Other Old months' names

The Icelanders only had two seasons, winter and summer. The first month of winter was "Gormánuður", it starts on a Saturday, between 21st and 27th of October. That day is the "First Day of Winter". Next comes "Ýlir", which begins on Monday, between 20th and 26th of November. The third month of winter is "Mörsugur" which begins between 20th and 26th of December. Then comes "Þorri" beginning on Friday in the 13th week of winter, or from 19th to 25th of January. "Góa" is the fifth winter month beginning on Sunday, between 18th to 24th of February. The last winter month is "Einmánuður" which begins on Tuesday in 22nd week of winter, 20th to 26th of March.

Then we enter summer, the first month of summer is "Harpa" which always begins on Thursday after 18th of April, and that day is the "First Day of Summer", still a public holiday in Iceland, and one of the most important days in old times. Though almost non-existent nowadays, the custom of giving "summer gifts" is much older than giving Christmas gifts, in Iceland. Then there is "Skerpla" beginning on Saturday, between 19th and 25th of May. "Sólmánuður" begins next Monday after 17th of June. "Heyannir" starts on Sunday, from 23rd to 29th of July. Then there is "Tvimánuður", beginning on Tuesday, from 22nd to 28th of August, and to close the circle, "Haustmánuður" starts on first Thursday, after 20th of September.

**Don't miss out on
this one, order
early.**

**Fill in the enclosed
Order Form. Last
reservation day is
March 25th.**

Icelandic Travel Show, March 13th see back page



FÁLKINN-THE FALCON

Fálkinn is the newsletter of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto and is published 6—8 times a year.

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Finnish Films in March and April

BADDING

A drama by Markku Pölönen, 2000, 103 minutes. In Finnish with English subtitles. *Badding* is the story of a washed-up Finnish rock star from the 70's who has been talked into a comeback years later. Rauli "Badding" Somerjoki suffers from stage fright and is accompanied by old friend, Ossi, a former roadie turned journalist, whose real agenda is to get the scoop. Wednesday, March 30
6:30 & 8:30 PM
Admission: FREE
Information: (416) 964-0066 or e-mail: toronto@finland.ca

April continues with the musical theme: **Tango Movie Land of Happiness/ Tangoelokuva Onnen maa by Markku Pölönen**, 1993, 59 minutes
It is a nostalgic comedy set in Finnish countryside in the glory days of Summer of the early 60s. A prodigal son, Tenho, returns to his parents' farm from the city. Romance is in the air accompanied by popular Finnish tango tunes. According to Markku Pölönen this is his most autobiographical movie.
Wednesday, April 27
6:30 & 8:30 PM
Admission: FREE
Information: (416) 964-0066 or e-mail: toronto@finland.ca

INL CONVENTION APRIL 28 TO MAY 1, 2005

It's not too late to register for the Convention in the Vatnabyggd area of Saskatchewan. The theme is "Come Home to Vatnabyggd" and will include tours and sessions on the history of the area, Icelandic music, speakers from Iceland and across the country. Go to the INL website to check it out www.inlofna.org

Congratulations

to **Donald K. Johnson** ... it was just announced that he is to be a recipient of the Order of Canada. We will be telling you why he was nominated in an upcoming newsletter.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

ICCT member Merle Oddson plays cello with the Brampton Symphony, and they will be performing at 8:00p.m. on the 26th of March at the Brampton Heritage Theatre. The theatre is located at 86 Main St. North in Brampton. Phone for tickets at 905 874 2800. (\$15.00)

Merle writes: "It is the last concert of the regular season and we will be doing Haydn's London Symphony as the main feature. In addition the featured soloist is the principal cellist (not me!!) who will perform Faure's Elegy. We always perform some popular pieces as well as the classical things. Something for everyone! Come and say hello during the intermission (drinks and sweets served). Would be glad to see you.

I took up the cello again just four years ago, having played it as a child in Winnipeg in my school orchestras, (Laura Secord and then Gordon Bell H.S.) for 6 years. Then stopped playing for reasons lost in memory. Since I still owned the cello I thought it would be a good activity to re-kindle now that I have more time to practice, so I found a teacher and am learning a lot. I am having such a good time playing in the orchestra and highly recommend the activity to any former string players as a very engaging mental process. Doing something you love at this time of life is very rewarding."

WEAKERTHANS TOUR DATES

Rock group Weakerthans, led by John Samson (son of Tim Samson of Winnipeg) will be in this area:
April 8, 2005 Toronto - Lee's Palace (19+)
April 9, 2005 Toronto - Lee's Palace (all ages) AFTERNOON
April 9, 2005 Toronto - Lee's Palace (19+)
For their dates in Eastern and Western Canada, go to:
www.theweakerthans.org

Film of the Month - APRIL:

National Film Board, Icelandic Canadian Club of
Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present:
"Cold Light" (Kaldaljós) – English subtitles - A film by Hilmar
Oddsson

Thursday, April 28

6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

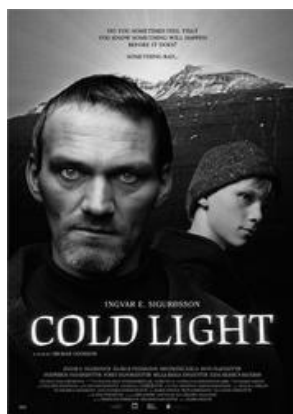
The National Film Board

150 John Street, Toronto

Admission: \$6 for NFB members, seniors, students, \$8 for
others.

Past and Present in Cold Light

Producers: Friðrik Þór Friðriksson, Anna María Karlsdóttir
Script: Hilmar Oddsson, Freyr Þormóðsson. Based on a novel
by Vigdís Grímsdóttir Cast: Ingvar E. Sigurðsson, Áslákur Ing-
varsson, Kristbjörg Kjeld, Ruth Ólafsdóttir, Snæfríður Ingvarsdót-
tir, Þórey Sigþórsdóttir, Helga Braga Jónsdóttir. 92 min. 2004



What could be better than knowing
your future? And what could be
worse? Those are the questions that
haunt Grímur Hermundarson, a 40
year old who is trying to puzzle his
life together, taking up his lifelong
passion of drawing, enrolling in art
school. In flash backs the audience
learns about his pleasant childhood,
which comes to a sudden end, when
catastrophe hits. A catastrophe that
he did foresee, but failed to act
upon. This childhood trauma has
haunted him all his life, and he has
big trouble in facing his reality. When
faced with crises, his answer is to

visit the place of his upbringing.

This excellent film, the most recent work of Icelandic director
Hilmar Oddsson (which Falkinn readers might remember, as his
film, "Tears of Stone" was screened recently), premiered in Ice-
land last year, to great reviews, and good attendance. It re-

ceived 5 "Edda" Awards
(Icelandic film Awards), for the
best film, best director, best
leading actor, best supporting
actor, and best cinematogra-
phy. It has since been doing
the "festival rounds", and re-
ceived good response and vari-
ous awards.

It is worth mentioning the
"acting family" in the movie as
Ingvar E. Sigurðsson (Angels of
the Universe and various other
Icelandic films), acts in the film,

Lead actor Ingvar E. Sigurðsson

along with two of his children, Áslákur and Snæfríður; Áslákur
playing the younger Grímur, and Snæfríður his sister. The act-
ing of the children is professional and without any pretensions in
very important supporting roles.



Film of the Month - MARCH:

National Film Board, Icelandic Canadian Club of
Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present:
"One point O" A film by Marteinn Þórsson and Jeff Renfroe
(introduced by Marteinn Þórsson)

Thursday, March 31

6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

The National Film Board

150 John Street, Toronto

Admission: \$6 for NFB members, seniors, students, \$8 for
others.

One Point O

Cast: Jeremy Sisto - Simon J., Deborah Kara Unger – Trish,
Bruce Payne – Neighbor, Eugene Byrd – Nile, Ana Maria Popa –
Alice, Lance Henriksen – Howard, Udo Kier – Derrick, Richard
Rees - Hiep Pham, Sebastian Knapp – Harris, Emil Hostina –
Landlord, Constantin Cotimanis – Polanski
93 min., 2004 **Rated R** for language, sexual content and
violent images.

The Film of the Month for March, is made by Icelander Marteinn
Þórsson, who lives in Toronto. Marteinn both wrote the script
and directed the movie with his part-
ner Jeff Renfroe.

The film "One Point O", which often is
described as a paranoid thriller tells
the story of computer programmer
Simon J., and his almost Kafka-
esque experiences. Simon starts to
receive empty boxes at his apart-
ment, gets very suspicious of every-
one else, and develops a strange
desire for milk. When one of his
neighbors is found dead, Simon
starts to despair. He starts to get
hallucinations, and tries to figure out
what strange forces have gained con-
trol of his life.

A mixture of the ordinary, the strange, social realism and per-
sonal experience, "One Point O" creates a surreal atmosphere,
and introduces the audience to the mind of the nice but lost per-
son of Simon J. The often nightmarish mood is underlined with
shades of red and green colors.

"One Point O" premiered at the
2004 Sundance Film Festival as
part of the dramatic competition.
Marteinn Þórsson began his
career working for the Icelandic
State Broadcasting, in the eight-
ies. When the eighties were
ending, he began his study in
film making in Ryerson College in
Toronto. After finishing his studies
he went back to Iceland and the State Broadcasting and worked
there for several years. 1997 he turned back to Canada and
worked making ads and music videos.

"One Point O" is his first full length film. Marteinn, his co-
director, Jeff Renfroe, Chris Soos, the cinematographer, and
Daniel Sadler, the film editor, all studied at the same time at
Ryerson College.



Co-writers and directors Jeff
Renfroe and Marteinn Þórsson

ICE FEST

In this beautiful country setting, ICE FEST will join **Moonlight Mania** to provide a fun-filled event for the Kinmount community and its visitors from near and far.

Moonlight Mania is a summer festival that started about four years ago to bring local communities together. Activities will start on Kinmount's main street about 6:00 p.m. These include children's games and contests, clowns, a live band, horse-drawn wagon rides, vendors, food, crafts.... Thank you, Kinmount, for allowing ICE FEST to celebrate and share our Icelandic-Canadian heritage on this day.

More events can now be added with those listed in the February edition of the FALKINN. New volunteers have offered to further enrich the program. We thank them. Brenda Bjarnason is directing the play "**Thor's Hammer and the Giant's Bride**" to be presented (Odin willing) by the children's Bifrost Lillefolk Theatre Troupe. Guy Scott, writer, will join Don Gislason to narrate the journey during a free ride on a tractor-pulled flatbed from the railway station along the rail trail to the bridge built by the first Icelandic settlers.

Tom Bjarnason, a well-known and accomplished artist, will present his works.

Iceland travel videos will be shown in the railway station tourist centre. As well the video "A Country Doctor" will be shown telling of Kinmount's successful struggle to find a family doctor who would reside in the community.

Volunteers Needed!

Ethel Bachman Strang is using her talents to design and package a sample of traditional Icelandic recipes as complimentary gifts for our visitors. We thank John Briem for donating his design for the ICCT masthead that will be used in the package. Dr. Grant Bjornson, chiropractor, has offered his help. Would you become a



A Celebration at
Moonlight Mania
Kinmount ON on
Burnt River
Austin Sawmill
Heritage Park
Saturday July 16,
2005
2:00 ~ 6:00 P.M.

volunteer along with Ethel and Grant? We need people

- for the ponnukokur demonstration
- for preparation & supervision of complimentary coffee, tea, lemonade
- as our marketplace vendors
- as hosts for booths e.g., photo gallery display
- to plan and host some children's activities
- to help with set-up & clean-up

Accommodation Information ~ Some sites to consider:

EJ Motel & Tent & Trailer Camp, Minden ON tel. 705/286-2152

Breakfast available in private dining room, two units set aside for pets, smoking & non-smoking rooms available. Self-catering cottages ~ suitable for 8 adults. Some motel units include cooking facilities. Situated on 130 acres, stocked pond and walking trails.

Saucy Willow Inn (Balsam Lake Bed & Breakfast) tel. 1-888-454-1218, saucywillow@sympatico.ca
Ranch Motel, A Rustic Motel on Hwy 35 in Kawartha Lakes country, tel. 705/454-1296 or 416/760-8502, fax 416/760-8643

Motel Minden on Hwy 35, Minden ON tel. 705/286-6900 info@motelminden.ca

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Diane Austin, Chairperson, Kinmount Committee for Planning

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The Path to Gimli (by Declan O'Driscoll)

The path to Gimli is an event conceived of by Karl Ágúst Andrésson of Iceland and Declan O'Driscoll of Canada. It is a celebration of the Canadian/Icelandic connection and honors the 130th anniversary of official Icelandic settlement in Canada. A group of Icelandic horsemen will trace the voyage of their ancestors to Gimli, Manitoba, Canada.

Currently the organizers are looking to acquire about 6-8 horses in Iceland which will be brought to Ontario in March 2005. These horses will be ambassadors of the breed and together with a number of Icelandic Horses already residing in Manitoba and Ontario will go on the trek from Kinmount, Ontario to Gimli, Manitoba. The horses from Iceland will later be sold and the proceeds will go towards the Snorri Program, which enables young Canadians with Icelandic descent to study their culture and heritage in Iceland.

The Icelandic riders will set out from Eyrarbakki on the south coast of Iceland. The riders will meet their horses in Kinmount during 'Ice Fest' (July 16th), celebrating the history of the first Icelandic settlement in Canada. From Kinmount they will ride 300km to Clear Lake Farm in Magnetawan, Ontario, passing

through Rosseau, Hekla and Gravenhurst – all significant sights in the story of Icelanders migrating to Gimli. From Magnetawan the horses will be shipped to Manitoba, the riders will meet their horses again and ride another 200km into Gimli. They will arrive in Gimli during the annual Icelandic Festival, "Íslendingadagurinn", July 28th to a welcoming reception. In Gimli they will take part in the celebration of the 130th anniversary of official settlement in Canada with the descendants of their mutual ancestors.

Along the way the Icelandic riders will meet storytellers. Around the campfire the storytellers will tell the Icelanders the stories of the ancestors, and explain how the places they are riding through played a part in the original journey. The Icelanders will learn the history and discover the incredible effort their ancestors made to establish themselves in the new land.

The Path to Gimli will strengthen ties between Iceland and Canada. By taking this trip we will illustrate the significance of the horse in Icelandic history outlining his place in Icelandic culture. We will also have an Icelandic "post horse" accompanying us that will carry mail from Icelanders to their relatives in Gimli in the old fashion.

Please refer to: www.thepathtogimli.com for more information.

ICCT Lending Library in Toronto

(by Jon Thordarson)

February 20, 2005 marked the re-opening of the ICCT lending library in Toronto, at the time of an exciting presentation by Gimli author, Kathleen Arnason, speaking about her books, *Falcons Gold* and *The Story of the Gimli Huldufolk*.

The library is located in the Scandinavian Canadian Club building at 91 Stormont Ave. (near Bathurst and Lawrence). Volunteer librarians, Margaret Van Hamme



Author Kathleen Arnason

(Ph: 416-690-0528 and Margret Bjorgvinsdottir (Ph: 416-536-5450) are administering the library and have concluded an excellent job of organizing the approximately 500 volumes into 14 categories, including Icelandic Genealogy, Iceland History, Western Icelandic History, Iceland Culture, Literature, The Sagas, etc.

The concept of this library is not to attempt to duplicate what is readily available in your neighborhood library, but rather to provide a "specialty library" focused on Icelandic heritage and cul-

ture, including books that are not readily available from other library sources. For example, "The Book of Settlements", available from the ICCT library, translated by Hermann Palsson and Paul Edwards, edited by Haraldur Bessason and Robert J. Glendinning and published by the University of Manitoba Press in 1972 is a unique document in world literature. First compiled early in the twelfth century and later expanded, it describes the birth of the Viking Age, two centuries earlier. This book includes thirteen coloured maps showing the settlement location for most of our early ancestors, at the time of settlement of Iceland in the early ages. Another interesting book available from the library, on genealogy in Iceland, "Vesturfarastra" 1870-1914 lists all Icelanders that left Iceland for North America during this time period.

Since the library is operated by volunteers, it is only open at the time of ICCT events in the building, but complete information concerning books available can be reviewed through the ICCT Webpage at <http://icct.info>. If you prefer, you can arrange to have a hard copy of the library list, sorted by category, mailed to you by phoning one of the phone numbers listed above. As an added convenience, books can be picked up and dropped off in west Toronto at Margaret Bjorgvinsdottir's at 330 Rusholme Road (south of Bloor), or in east Toronto at Margaret Van Hamme's at 50 Wheeler Avenue (in the Beaches area), by making telephone arrangements directly with the librarians.



Listening to stories

At present, the library consists primarily of books, however, it is our desire to expand the scope by including videos, "talking books" and DVDs on Icelandic and Western Icelandic topics. We will welcome donations of such materials, both new and used, and these can be brought directly to the library at the time of ICCT events, or arrangements can be made for pick up by phoning Margaret Van Hamme, or Margret Bjorgvinsdottir at the phone numbers mentioned above.

This is an exciting new source of Icelandic books available to us, and it is hoped that it will become an important resource for the future.

LIBRARY OPENING DATES:

Sundays, March 13, April 17, May 15 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Book Club

The ICCT Book Club has started with *Dropped Threads* chosen as our first title, largely owing to the involvement of our own club members, plus the enduring popularity of the book. We are delighted to announce that Katrina Koven, the cover illustrator has agreed to discuss her illustrations in the online discussion board. The book can be ordered from the ICCT website: <http://icct.info>. This is a quick and easy way to order. It arrived at my door within two days and each order benefits the ICCT.

The book club can meet in Toronto at a mutually convenient time and place, or you can join the online discussion board.

- If you are in the Toronto area and want to attend book club meetings, please contact Leah at 905-277-5298 or cpkexpress@rogers.com.
- If you live outside Toronto, or can't attend the meetings, you can still join us online -- there are discussion boards and live chats. Please contact Holly, hgarrett@cogeco.ca to be added to the discussion boards and for more information about these online resources.

And Now Our Library Has Even More Books

Thanks to Gudrun Girgis for donating the following books:

In Icelandic:

Kaldaljós - Vigdís Grímsdóttir (Movie, made after the book is screened in April).

Tímarit Máls og Menningar - 1999

Híbyli vindanna - Böðvar Guðmundsson

Lífsins tré - Böðvar Guðmundsson

Skuggabox - Þórarinn Eldjárn

Baróninn - Þórarinn Eldjárn

And in English.

The Sagas of Icelanders

Eyrbyggja Saga

Orkneyinga Saga

Hrafnkel's Saga and Other Stories

Egils Saga

King Harald's Saga

Havamal - The Sayings of the Vikings

News from Iceland

Based on and edited from mbl.is, visir.is, ruv.is and icelandreview.com

Who Owns The Rights To Iceland?

The British retail chain IceLand applied recently for a patent on the name Iceland in every country in the European Union.

After a fierce protest from the Icelandic government, the company agreed to withdraw the application.

The president and founder of the chain, Malcolm Walker, said: "When I founded IceLand in the year 1970, it was only a small store in northern England, selling frozen goods. My wife had the idea of naming it Ice-Land. It never occurred to us that it would turn into the big company that it is today, or that our use of the name could bring problems for the state of Iceland." To add to the twist of the story, the Icelandic company Baugur Group, has bought the company, as part of their taking over the Big Food Group. So now the IceLand retail chain is Icelandic owned.

Icelander Awarded The Literary Prize of The Nordic Council

The Icelandic writer Sjón (an artist name, his real name is Sigurjón Birgir Sigurðsson), was recently awarded The Literary Prize of The Nordic Council. Sjón gets the award for the novel "Skugga-Baldur" (Shadow Baldur). The prize is about CAD 75.000.

The prize committee commented that the novel travels a narrow trail between prose and



Sjón

poem, incorporating echos of Icelandic folktales, romantic story traditions and a fascinating story which awakens questions of modern ethics. Skugga-Baldur is Sjón's fifth novel, the others are: "Stálnótt" (Steel Night), 1987, "Engill, pípuhatur og jarðarber" (Angel, High Hat and Strawberries), 1989, "Augu þín sáu mig" (Your Eyes Saw Me), 1994 and "Með titrandi tár" (With Trembling Tears), 2001.

The Literary Prize has been going strong for over 40 years, and enjoys great respect in the Nordic Countries, and is considered a great honor. Five

times they have been awarded to Icelandic writers, last time 10 years ago, when Einar Már Guðmundsson won the award for his novel "Englar alheimsins" (Angels of The Universe).

Icelandic National Museum Buys a Drinking Horn

The Icelandic National Museum recently bought a drinking horn from the 15th century, from a private collector in Norway.

The horn which is called "Mariuhornið" (The Horn of Maria), is



one of the oldest preserved drinking horns and is believed to have great historic as well as artistic value. About 40 carved drinking horns from the middle ages are known today, and only 8 of them are preserved in Iceland, all in The National Museum. This horn, which is richly decorated and with the writing "AUE MARIA", is therefore a very valuable catch for the museum. The National Museum reopened last September after a extensive rebuilding. Further information at: <http://www.natmus.is>

A BAFTA Awarded To an Icelander

Valdís Óskarsdóttir was recently awarded the British BAFTA Award, for the editing of the film "The Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind", directed by Michael Gondry. It is The British Film Academy who awards The BAFTA, and in recent years the award has often been considered as a prelude to the Oscar.



Film editor Valdís Óskarsdóttir

Unfortunately, Valdís was not

nominated for an Oscar this time, but we congratulate her nevertheless with this fantastic achievement.

Happy Talking – On The Mobile

Just over 95% of Icelanders between the age of 16 to 75, own or have access to a mobile phone (called GSM or Gamsi in Iceland), according to announcement from the Icelandic telephone company Síminn. This is believed to be among the highest in the world, but still



Icelanders like to own the newest mobile phones

13% of Icelanders over 55 are without a mobile phone. The age of mobile users keep getting lower and lower, according to a study from last October, 33% of children aged 9 to 10 had a mobile phone, and a stunning 65% of 11 to 12 years old.

Icelander is America's Most Gorgeous Model

The attention of Falkinn was drawn to the fact, that an Icelander, was recently crowned "America's Most Gorgeous Male Model."

A reality TV program named "Manhunt", was responsible for the search, which ended with the victory of Jón Jónsson (original name, Jón Grímkel Helgason), who was born in Reykjavík, but lives now with his family in California. First prize in the contest was US\$100.000. For those who want to find out more, check out: www.bravotv.com/Manhunt/The_Models/Jon/

Food is Fun; Trout and Skyr To Washington

12 of the finest restaurants in Washington, will offer their guests food made by Icelandic chefs, from Icelandic ingredients, next October. The purpose is of course to promote Iceland, Icelandic food and especially the "Food and Fun" festival, which is held in Reykjavík each year.

This year's festival is just over, and was a great success, with numerous guest chefs, from restaurants all over the world, and attracted record number of both journalists and diners.

Those who want to know more check out: www.foodandfun.is and some recipes can be found at www.icelandnaturally.com

DAYS TO REMEMBER: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, March 4 at 8 PM

THE TRUE NORTH

Exultate Chamber Singers - John Tuttle, conductor
St. Thomas's Anglican Church: 383 Huron Street
Tickets: Regular \$20, Senior \$17, Student \$12.
Tickets may be ordered by calling 416-971-9229 or purchased at the door on the night of the concert.

Sun. March 13

Toronto, ON: Annual Travel Show ... ICCT members Margaret and Doug Van Hamme, along with Kathy Hannesson, share their trips to Iceland last year. Plus latest brochures, tours, info. on prices. 2:30 p.m. Scandinavian-Canadian Centre 91 Stormont (Bathurst/Lawrence)

Until Sun. March 20

Icelandic Play Blue Planet runs until March 20th. Saturdays at 12:30 and 4:00 and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Ticket prices \$19 to \$29; ICCT Members get 20% off; call 416 862-2222 and quote Code ICE102

Thurs. March 31

Toronto, ON: Movie ONE POINT 0 ... A thriller in English by Icelandic Marteinn Þórsson
National Film Board, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.
\$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

Sat. April 2

Toronto, ON: THORRABLOT 6:00 Appetizers and drinks 7:00 Dinner \$35 adults, \$20 youths 7 to 18; children under 6 free. Live entertainment.
Scholarships from ICCT and the Marion and Ragnar Johnson Memorial Scholarship will be presented. Silent auction. Call Leah Salt to contribute items 905-277-5298.

Sun. April 17

Toronto, ON: WHAT ARE THE SAGAS ALL ABOUT? He will talk about the development of saga writing in the 12th and the 13th Centuries. (See back Page).
Members \$5, Non-members \$6
Coffee and goodies to follow
2:30 p.m. Scandinavian-Canadian Centre 91 Stormont (Bathurst/Lawrence)

Thurs. April 28

Toronto, ON: Movie "Cold Light (Kaldaljós) ... Icelandic movie by Hilmar Oddson. English subtitles
National Film Board, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.
\$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

Sat., July 16th ICE FEST in Kinmount 2 to 6 p.m

A Celebration at Moonlight Mania
Austin Sawmill Heritage Park, Kinmount Ontario.

NEWS FROM THE ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE:

WHITE ROCK, BC - Ströndin Internet Radio (S.I.R.) is pleased to announce its fifth 30 minute internet radio program and it is once again available "on demand" via the internet.

CNN, in a recent news report, identified this type of internet programming as a new and growing phenomena called a "Podcast". For those with mp3 mini-players, ipod devices, etc., you can download the show's audio file to your unit and go jogging, ride the bus, lie in the sun or shovel snow while listening to the program. You can stop, start, rewind, fast forward and select the portions of the show you want to hear. This type of broadcasting is quite unlike conventional radio and T.V. now available over the internet. Many commercial broadcasters use the program "Real Audio" to relay and control the availability of their program content. It does not allow the flexibility afforded to mp3 audio listeners.

The latest S.I.R. program #5 is now available along with the three previous ones as well. This new show is running in the old Icelandic winter season known as "Þorri" and features the field of the Arts. It's a time when artists, writers and publishers alike, hunker down in their work places to create. The new show examines the creative side of two well-known writers and a talented new Icelandic Canadian artist. Thrown in for good measure is a little homespun philosophy by Dempsey Valgardson.

Show Line up:

- Item # 1 - Steinþór Guðbjartsson - Editor L-H -Winnipeg
- Item # 2 - Heidi Maddess - Impressionistic Icelandic Land-

Former President Vigdís Turning 75

H.E. Mme Vigdis Finnbogadottir, who, as you know, was first woman to be elected Head of State in a national election worldwide, will celebrate her 75th birthday on 15. April 2005.
The Vigdis Finnbogadottir Institute of Foreign Languages at the University of Iceland, together with other organisations and governmental offices, will hold an international conference in Reykjavik to honour Mme Vigdis Finnbogadottir. The conference, which is called Dialogue of Cultures, will take place 13-15 April 2005. Among keynote speakers are Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and United Nation High Commissioner. Information on the conference can be found on the website www.vigdis.hi.is/doc

scapes -Vancouver

Item # 3 - W.D. (Bill) Valgardson, Author, Poet, Professor - Victoria

Item # 4 - Dempsey Valgardson, Fisher, Barber -Gimli

The production team hopes that you enjoy their latest initiative, and if you do, they ask you to please pass on the show's link to your friends and relatives. As the show is an "all volunteer" effort, the show's producer, Robert Asgeirsson, hopes that spreading the word about the shows will happen at the grass roots level as there is no funding available for advertising. The team asks that you do your part in helping to promote these "commercial free" Icelandic-North American community broadcasts.

Robert Asgeirsson
INL of NA webmaster
<http://www.inlofna.org>

ANNUAL ICCT TRAVEL PROGRAM



River runs through lava in Iceland

Beautiful pictures of Iceland – Doug and Margaret Van Hamme share their trip last year; Kathy Hannesson tells us about her journey to the home of her Icelandic horse

Sunday, March 13 – 2:30 p.m.
Scandinavian-Canadian Club
91 Stormont Avenue
(1 Block south of Lawrence, runs east off Bathurst)

Videos, Brochures, current prices, information about group trips, escorted tours, hotels, websites
Iceland is always so interesting ... this is always a great event.
Don't miss it!

Coffee and goodies to follow
Members \$5/Guests \$6

WHAT ARE THE SAGAS ALL ABOUT?

(A presentation by Haraldur Bessason)

Sunday April 17, 2005 2:30 p.m.
Scandinavian- Canadian Club
91 Stormont Ave.

Haraldur was Professor and Chair of the Department of Icelandic at the University of Manitoba from 1956 to 1987 and then returned to Iceland and became Rector of the new University of Akureyri. He will talk about the development of saga writing in the 12th and the 13th Centuries.

Members \$5, Non-members \$6 Coffee and goodies to follow .

COMING THIS SPRING - NORTHERN VOICES CHORAL FESTIVAL

Choirs from all the Nordic countries and Canada will be featured at this festival in early June. We are lucky that Hamrahlid Choir from Reykjavik will be coming again ... many of you will remember their beautiful singing from when they were here in 1997. And there is a chance you may get a chance to host some of these young people again ... if you are interested, please call Gail at 416 762-8627.

And the other good news is that Adrienne Clarkson is the Honorary Patron for this event, which is produced by Soundstreams Canada.

NEWS FROM ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE: Applications for the 2005-2006 Government of Iceland Scholarship are now available from the INL office.

"The Government of Iceland Scholarship" is offered to North American students of Icelandic descent who are studying language and literature. The Scholarship is approximately \$10,800.00 CAD and covers tuition, room and board. The successful applicant will study Icelandic language and literature at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik for the 2005 - 2006 term. **Applications for the 2005-2006 Government of Iceland Scholarship are now available from the INL office.** Deadline for submissions of all application material is Monday, March 21, 2005. A special committee in Iceland will decide on the outcome of the applications and its evaluation will be announced to the candidates in May/June 2005.

Rosa Johnston
Executive Secretary
Icelandic National League
#103 - 94 1st Ave, Gimli, MB, Canada R0C 1B1
Phone: 204-642-5897 Fax: 204-642-9382

ICELANDIC LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL CAMP GRANT

The main goal of this camp near Gimli, Manitoba, is to teach Icelandic language and heritage in a fun atmosphere. This year it is in the last week of July, exact date TBA. Once again, the ICCT is offering a grant of \$500 to help a child of Icelandic descent attend. Children must be between 8 and 12, and those under 10 would need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. The application form will be posted on our website at <http://icct.info> The deadline is April 30th,