

Autumn-Haust 2019



(Photograph by Kara Schuster, ICCT)

The rain has sparkling clean and clear
turned my pond, the sun made it dawn-pure.

Migrating birds
now rest there in flocks.

They know the path light takes through autumn and fog—
and they are travellers out, like me.

Stephan G. Stephansson (tr. Kristjanna Gunnars)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Beverly Arason-Gaudet

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer! In August I was invited to Islandingadagurinn in Gimli to once again represent the INLNA and I enjoyed the events of the weekend including a dinner hosted by Donald K. Johnson, the Fjallkona luncheon, the parade and the formal program at the Park. The town was alive with many vendors, food stands and honorary Vikings. Thank you to the Icelandic Festival for their invitation.



I was also one of 47 tour participants on the INLNA 100 Year Anniversary tour to Iceland from August 14 to 26, 2019. The first day started with a visit with His Excellency President Guðny Th. Jóhannesson at Bessastaðir! It was an amazing and memorable way to start our tour of Iceland. Along with our tour guide, Kent, we toured the country and visited numerous sites; Gail Einarson-McCleery reports elsewhere in this newsletter on our 12-day adventure. We ended our touring portion by spending 3 days in Reykjavík at Hotel Natura.

Our days in Reykjavík included Menningarnótt on Saturday, August 24th and the INL (Iceland) Conference on Sunday, August 25th. The INL Conference was well attended with both Canada's Ambassador to Iceland, Anne-Tamara Lorre, and the US Ambassador to Iceland, Jeffrey Ross Gunter, addressing the attendees. Minister Lilja Dögg Alfreðsdóttir recounted her visits to Gimli, MB and Mountain, ND this summer.

As well I brought greetings and spoke to our 100 year history of preserving our culture and heritage with a 5 minute overview of the past 100 years. Among the afternoon speakers, two of the 2019 Snorri West participants addressed the group along with the Snorri Foundation's Sandra Björg Ernudóttir.

Happy Thanksgiving to all; I hope everyone will have the opportunity to spend Thanksgiving with family and friends.

SHEEP IN THE LAND OF FIRE AND ICE

Bettyjane Wylie

We recently received an interesting letter from David Hik, a biologist who has been collaborating with colleagues in Iceland for many years. They have released a new online course on sheep grazing in Iceland – Sauðfé í landi elds og ísa . **Sheep in the Land of Fire and Ice** (<https://sheepfireice.org>) is a course that he suggests might be of interest to members of the INLNA. The course is offered for free through the University of Iceland, and no one involved has any financial interests in it. They simply want to be able to take some of their research and teaching and make it more widely accessible. The course is presented in English and takes about 2 hours to complete. Dr. Hik would be very happy to provide additional information or materials. (dhik@sfu.ca)

Isabel C. Barrio is an associate professor at the Agricultural University of Iceland in Reykjavik where she teaches courses in rangeland ecology and management. Her research focuses on the ecological impacts of sheep grazing in Iceland, and factors that influence the diversity of herbivores in the Arctic. Isabel is also an instructor for a MOOC on "A Business Approach to Sustainable Landscape Restoration"

David Hik is a professor at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. He studies grazing systems in northern and mountain environments, and the influence of climate variability on species interactions and changes in tundra landscapes. Sheep in the Land of Fire and Ice is his second MOOC, a follow-up to "Mountains 101" - rated one of the top 100 MOOCs of all time.

(Photo: David Hik)



KIMBER VALLEY FARMS, ONTARIO



Shepherds Lynn Thordarson and partner Catherine Gaudet (Lynn's Amma came from Iceland)
(Photo: Emily Nicole Neill)

What began as a hobby baby-sitting two non-Icelandic sheep led to a business that now includes 60 registered Icelandic sheep (at last count) that has taken over their lives. They still have day jobs: Catherine is a heavy equipment operator and Lynn does finance services.



A few of the 60 Icelandic sheep now resident at Kimber Valley Farms, each with an Icelandic name.

(Photo: Sylvia Fraser)

From start--I'm talking about the gleam in the ram's eye—to finish, before you even begin to get to the yarn, there's a lot to do. Yes, you breed and raise the sheep and shear them twice a year. The average yield of wool is about 7 pounds per sheep per year. (To learn more go to UCFS Emily.docx)



(Photo: Sylvia Fraser)

The colours of these yarns are Kimberly Farms colours: brown, black, grey, white -no dyes. I wish you could touch them. They are so warm and so soft! And expensive. Each skein costs \$26. It takes 2 skeins to make an Icelandic sweater.

If you've never owned an Icelandic wool sweater, you don't know what you've been missing. I'm sure if you're reading this INLNA newsletter you have an Icelandic connection and probably own several, perhaps one for every year you've gone to Iceland and brought one back. You never throw them away; they last forever. You have comforted yourself with that thought because they are expensive. From start to finish Icelandic wool products are artisanal, expensive-and worth it.



Isaac, the watch-llama, herder and guard (Photo: Sylvia Fraser)

INLNA CELEBRATES THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY WITH 12 DAY TOUR AROUND ICELAND!

Gail Einarson-McCleery



The travellers plus guide Kent Bjornsson, on the INLNA 100 Year tour of Iceland.

We were 47 people in all, from all across Canada and the USA, with ages varying from early twenties to 80. Icelandic Roots provided information about the participants' family farms, and Sunna Furstenau organized group pictures of tour members in the areas from which they had sprung. Most accommodation was in boarding schools, some still active such as Hólar and Bifröst, and some of which have now been converted into hotels.

Leaving Bessastaðir we headed to Skalhólt, then east to the Ring Road, hitting all the hot spots, including Seljalandsfoss (where many enjoyed going behind the falls), then on to Jökulsarlón, the glacier lagoon, to taste the 10,000 year old ice. In Stöðvarfjörður we visited Petra's Rocks, and on to Egilsstaðir, over the mountain to my favourite fjord, Seyðisfjörður (site of the series TRAPPED). At Vopnafjörður, we visited Cathy Josephson's Emigration Centre, and saw the first of three turf home museums (amazing to see how people without trees built these homes), Mývatn (new Nature Baths), Akureyri, Siglufjörður, Hofsós, Hólar, Skagafjörður, Laugar, Þingvellir, Eric the Red's farm, Blue Lagoon, and a visit to a petting farm, which even has a raven who talks Icelandic! The trip was timed to be back in Reykjavik for Menningarnótt (Culture Night) followed by the INL Annual Convention.

MANITOBA ARTISTS HONOURED IN REYKJAVIK

by JoAnne Johannson Gullachsen

Mabel Tinguely and I arrived in Iceland on the 19th of August, met at the airport by Gunnvor Asmundson who took us to her sister's home in Reykjavik until we checked into our rented rooms.

The show was held at the Borgarbokasafn on the Saturday, August 24. This library serves as a library and art gallery. The librarian, Sigríður Steinunn Stephensen, provided materials and assistance for the hanging of our work and the Ambassador's office in Reykjavik provided refreshments for the show.

The Ambassador, Anne-Tamara Lorre, spoke at the opening of the show, taking the time to talk with each of us about our art. I was fortunate to sell one of my paintings at the opening. They asked if they could keep my work for a longer period of time. They have been expecting a group to come through on September 12 to see it.

I want to thank the INLNA for their assistance with the travel expenses.



From the left: JoAnne Johannson Gullachsen, Inga Torfadottir, Ambassador Anne-Tamara Lorre and Mabel Tinguely.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Signy McInnis

The 101st convention of the INLNA will be held in Gimli, Manitoba, April 23-26, 2020 hosted by the Interlake clubs.

Petta Reddast is the theme. It has a meaning, “it will work out”: have faith that a better life will be realized. You will learn more about that when you attend the convention.

The Lakeview Hotel in Gimli has been reserved. There are other options in the area, such as motels, residents who would be willing to host, Bed-and-Breakfasts, and AirBnB’s. Work on the program and registration has begun.

Stay Connected with the INLNA

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NOTICE:

This Newsletter is published four times a year. Please send stories or inquiries to bettyjanewylie@gmail.com.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

The 20th of the month prior to April, July, September and December. The next edition will be December 1, 2019. Deadline for submission is November 20, 2019.

On a personal note, my new book, being published beginning of October is called ENDINGS: A BOOK FOR ALMOST EVERYONE. It’s a memoir and it will be available in hardcover, paperback and as an e-book.

BettyJane Wylie



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