



VOR- SPRING - 2020

Message from INLNA President:

Sadly the 101st Annual INLNA Convention will not be going forward in Gimli, MB, this year due to COVID-19 and the world wide pandemic. The decision to cancel was not taken lightly by the INLNA Board or the Convention Planning Committee but it was the best decision in light of our priority to keep our members, friends, and communities safe. After the decision was made and communicated federal, provincial and state regulations and advisories were tightened and would have required cancellation; we obviously came to the correct, albeit painful, decision.

Many activities, events, and festivals around the world are being cancelled and people are being advised to stay at home. The best course of action for those of us who are not essential workers is to do just that, stay home. Stop the spread, flatten the curve and soon, hopefully, normal life will resume. And remember to thank an essential worker for all they do for all of us. On behalf of the Board of the INLNA, I wish you all good health during this unprecedented time.

Best regards,

Bev Arason-Gaudet



The empty streets of Gimli. Photo by Lorna Tergesen

Icelandic 101: Conversation Starter Kit - Audio Files

The INLNA 2020 Calendar was created with the intention of providing members with a very basic introduction to the Icelandic language with conversation starters and basic vocabulary. The best way to achieve this is to also provide the audio, so you can hear how the pronunciation of how the words sound. Each month the INLNA will post audio files to the website (www.inlna.org) that cover the monthly dialogues and corresponding vocabulary, as well as the word of the day for each month. The monthly word of the day lists will also be available to download or print with the corrections and updates mentioned in the audio. Files are available for the months of January through the end of May; new files will be added soon.

The audio recordings are provided by:

Pórdís Edda Guðjónsdóttir (Thordis Edda Gudjonsdottir).
Icelandic Language Consultant



Edda was born and raised on a farm in Iceland. She is a teacher, a folklorist and has a masters degree in Library and Information Science. Her thesis was on Western-Icelandic Cultural Heritage. She is also a yoga teacher. In her free time Edda likes hiking the hills and heaths of Iceland, and if there are sheep around, she'll be even happier, as sheep are her favourite animals. Edda currently lives in Reykjavík, Iceland.

Natalie Fame Guttormsson
Design Committee Lead



Natalie is a Western Icelander/Vestur Íslendingur through her maternal grandfather's family. Natalie is a web developer and designer and also has a Bachelor's degree in International Development Studies and Hispanic Studies. She is also a mother and a writer and her favourite animal is the raven. Natalie currently lives in Reykjavík, Iceland.



20 YEARS OF SNORRI

The Snorri Programs. 1999-2019

Betty Jane Wylie

First, my mistake. Here I am, a board member of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto (ICCT), a board member of the INLNA (Icelandic National League of North America) and its newsletter editor, and author of a book, Letters to Icelanders, about Western Icelanders--the name given to people living outside of Iceland who have Icelandic roots - about 250,000 now. So I should know who Snorri is, was, shouldn't I do, did, but it was the wrong one.

Snorri, as any educated aficionado of Icelandic lore knows, was Snorri Sturluson, (born 1179, Hvammur, Iceland—died Sept. 22, 1241, Reykjaholt), Icelandic poet, historian, and chieftain, author of the Prose Edda and the Heimskringla(a history of Norse kings). The Prose Edda, ”also known as the Younger Edda, Snorri's Edda or, historically, simply as Edda, is an Old Norse work of literature written in Iceland during the early 13th century. The work is often assumed to have been written, or at least compiled, by the Icelandic scholar, law-speaker, and historian Snorri Sturluson c. 1220. “ (Wikipedia) There is also the Younger or Prose Edda (a handbook to Icelandic poetry by Snorri Sturluson). “The Eddas are the chief source of knowledge of Scandinavian mythology.” (Online Dictionary) Got that? I did, too, and I have read a lot of both Eddas, but that didn't help me to understand The Snorri Pro:grams.

THE SNORRI PROJECT: CONNECTING ICELANDERS AND NORTH AMERICANS SINCE 1999: Yes, It began in 1999 when 19 young people of Icelandic descent from North America (Manitoba, actually) spent a few weeks in Iceland meeting, staying with relatives in Iceland and learning about the country of their ancestors. Since then more than 300 have followed suit—not so none so similar as a suit. For each it was a unique experience, for all it was life-changing. For many it has defined their careers; a few have even settled in Iceland. Also, since then, as the Snorri Program expanded to include other than Manitobans, North Americans of Icelandic descent—all of us called Vestur-Íslendingur by Iceland—followed by Snorri Plus, people past the age of the young'uns but who wanted to re-establish their roots and equal their discoveries. Even before that, Snorri West began bringing Icelandic young people to meet the New World that their emigrant families had adopted. Al this was not without tremendous effort by volunteers and generous grants from countless donors.

Now you know what “20 Years of Snorri ” is, but you still don't know who Snorri was. The program was named after the first European born in North America, Snorri Þorfinnsson. I read the wonderful 94-page account of the Snorri Years, of these people “separated by an ocean in space and a century in time” but who are joined at the heart.

*****Twenty Years of Snorri** is a commemorative magazine celebrating the first twenty years of the Snorri Program as well as all of the related programs that have since been established: Snorri West, Snorri Plus, and the Snorri Alumni Internship. Learn about the history of the programs, read stories from former participants, hear from staff, board members, and supporters, and much more. As the first two decades of Snorri draw to a close, we celebrate the past and the impact these programs have had on people's lives, while also looking forward to more growth, excitement, and success in the future. You can find the magazine on the Snorri Foundation website www.snorri.is ***



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NOTICE:

This Newsletter is published four times a year - April, July, October, December

Please send stories or inquiries to bettyjanewylie@gmail.com

SUBMISSION DEADLINES: The 20th of the month prior.

April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
Winter kept us warm, covering
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding
A little life with dried tubers.

T.S. Eliot, The Wasteland