

# SUMAR - SUMMER SOLSTICE 2022



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### Next Issue: September

Send your fall events and club news/updates to [bettyjanewylie@gmail.com](mailto:bettyjanewylie@gmail.com) by August 20th for inclusion in the Fall issue.



# INLNA NEWSLETTER

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The light of oneself is the best that can be though glorious moonlight be glowing, for even when heaven is shrouded in gloom you have your own luster showing.

The continents, too, share the heavenly light, though sometimes it may be denied them. How few in this world light the way for themselves with a glow that is living inside them.

Guttormur J. Guttormsson (1878-1966)

Translated by: Paul A. Sigurdson

Photo: Midnight sun in Hofsós, by Natalie Guttormsson

# President's Message

## Ashley Thorvaldson

To me, becoming president of the INLNA is a twist of fate that reminds me of an old Mad magazine comic where the boy grows from drawing pictures of pigs, to writing reports on his school trip to the farm, to writing essays on pig farms in Manitoba, to ultimately getting a Ph.D. in agricultural economics, always variations on the same theme. I've always explored the "Icelandicness" my surname gave me as an outsized and overly imagined part of my identity.

My interest in my Icelandic heritage has never waned, from my early interest in the Vikings, the Icelandic immigrants, and all the footnotes I could find about Iceland today. In grad school, I wrote my top paper on the Icelandic financial crisis. As an analyst in the federal government, I am always curious about what innovative policies Iceland is advancing whether in fisheries, environmental conservation, or gender equality.

My deep support for the INLNA comes from my fantastic experience as a Snorri in 2005 under the guidance of the remarkable Ásta Sól Kristjánsdóttir. I also have enjoyed volunteering to support three Snorri West tours in Ottawa, with wonderful memories of the hospitality of Lou Howard and Volundur Thorbjornsson, two dedicated members of the Friends of Iceland who both sadly died in recent years.

I live in Ottawa, Ontario with my two children Catherine and Magnus, and my IBM (Icelandic-By-Marriage) husband Rob Coleman, who is proud to have been published in the LH for the Viking longship crib he produced for our children.

To get biblical, my father, Mark Thorvaldson, was born in Gimli, Manitoba, son of Thorbergur (Bobby) Thorvaldson, son of Sveinn Thorvaldson of Ytri-Hofdalir farm outside of Akureyri. My Lang-Afi was part of the Riverton chapter on the INLNA in 1919. I can't think of many organizations I could belong to that would have such resonance across time.

I enjoy the fellowship of the INLNA, meeting other people who take an interest in their Icelandic heritage and work to keep connections alive across generations and geography. As current trials; the pandemic, climate events, and conflict show us—there can be nothing that furthers us more than building a community to support each other. During the isolation of the pandemic, I loved hosting 'INLNA Reads' nights to discuss books with readers from across Canada and the United States, sharing their stories as we discussed various books.

May your membership in the INLNA be one of many communities that sustains you.

*Photo: Eating pylsur at the Icelandic Ambassador's residence in Ottawa, November 2021*

# INLNA AGM News

Another year, another Annual General Meeting, was held virtually in Gimli. Still no face-to-face, not yet. Maybe next year. Will our faces have changed? (Will anyone notice?)

Stefan Jonasson recognized that the past two years have been unpleasant and strange due to the pandemic. We haven't been able to get together and celebrate Bev's contribution as president and past president to the Icelandic National League of North America.

Jon Sigurdsson day this year (June 17) will be a time when we will be able to move forward.

Stefan has maintained contact with the INLNA's international partners however, he was not able to visit Iceland.

Under Bev's leadership, the reorganization committee has developed a solid plan to move forward as a more effective, resilient, and focused organization.

Stefan encouraged all to look ahead to the coming year and the years that follow with a sense of determination, hope, and expectancy that we will indeed meet again and enjoy one another's company and be able to share our rich heritage broadly and vigorously

Below you will find the roster of the new INLNA Board and Committee members for 2022-2023.

You will also note the new arrangements for team members and assistants.

*In my case (newsletter) I am very grateful to be granted some assistance. I have been editor, reporter, copy editor, and dogsbody for everything except the formatting. For that I owe a heartfelt thanks to Andrea (Guttormsson) Mowry, our Board secretary, who worked above and beyond her job description and who made our little paper look so professional and beautiful. Now her daughter, Natalie Guttormsson, back from Iceland, returns to the Board with a title of her own and as a valuable assistant—in charge of formatting, praise be! (Like mother, like daughter.)*

**Are you passionate about Icelandic culture? Do you have a creative skill or great ideas? We're looking for enthusiastic individuals like you to join our non-board teams and committees! Send us an email if interested: [inlofna@gmail.com](mailto:inlofna@gmail.com)**

# 2022 INLNA Board of Directors

**President** - Ashley Thorvaldson (Ottawa, ON)

**Vice President** - Gwen Morgan (Toronto, ON)

**Treasurer** - Marlene Linneberg (Red Deer, AB)

**Treasurer Mentee** - Dawn Harris (Gimli, MB)

**Secretary** - Andrea (Guttormsson) Mowry (Lethbridge, AB)

**Past President** - Stefan Jonasson (Winnipeg, MB)

**Snorri West (Canada)** - Blair Lockhart (Vancouver, BC)

**Snorri West (USA)** - Jodi Arman-Jones (Farmington, MN)

**Fundraising** - John Hofteig (Chicago, IL)

**Governance** - Dennis Oleson (Brandon, MB)

**Membership/Recruitment** - Natalie Guttormsson, Camrose (AB)

**Convention** - VACANT

## Non-Board Team Members and Committees

### Newsletter

Lead: Bettyjane Wylie (Toronto, ON)

Support: Natalie Guttormsson (Camrose, AB)

### Social Media

Lead: Signy McInnis (Arborg, MB)

**Support: Looking for team members!**

### INLNA Reads

Lead: Ashley Thorvaldson (Ottawa, ON)

**Rotating chair: VACANT**

### Everything Icelandic Webinars

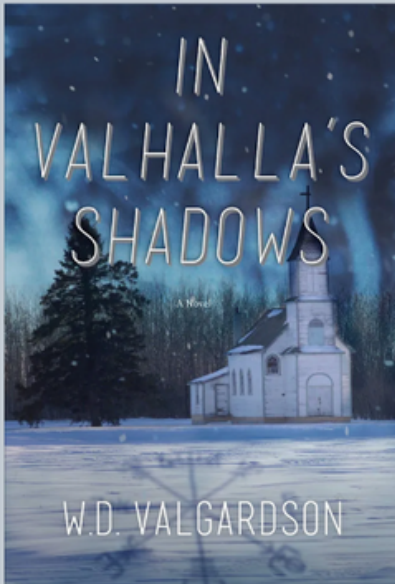
Lead: Stefan Jonasson (Winnipeg, MB)

Support: John Hofteig (Chicago, IL)

### Website

Webmaster: Matt Gaudet (Edmonton, AB)

Support: Natalie Guttormsson (Camrose, AB)



INLNA READS PRESENTS

# IN VALHALLA'S SHADOWS

## BY W.D. VALGARDSON

SUNDAY, MAY 29 AND SUNDAY, JUNE 26  
8:30 PM EASTERN TIME

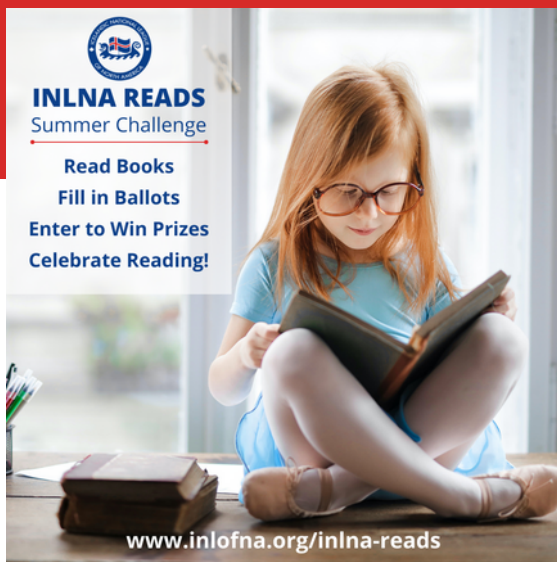
Join us for a discussion with the author, W.D. Valgardson on Sunday, June 26 at 8.30 PM EST

Ever since the accident, ex-cop Tom Parsons's life has been crumbling around him: his marriage and career have fallen apart, his grown children barely speak to him, and he can't escape the dark thoughts plaguing his mind. Leaving the urban misery of Winnipeg, he tries to remake himself in the small lakeside town of Valhalla, with its picturesque winter landscape and promise of a "fisherman's paradise." As the locals make it clear that newcomers, especially ex-RCMP, are less than entirely welcome, he throws himself into repairing his run-down cabin.

But Tom has barely settled in the town when he finds the body of a fifteen-year-old Indigenous girl on the beach, not far from his home. The police write off Angel's death as just another case of teenagers partying too hard. But the death haunts Tom, and he can't leave the case closed—something just doesn't add up. He begins visiting the locals, a mix of Icelandic eccentrics, drug dealers, and other odd sorts you'd expect to find in an isolated town, seeking out Angel's story. With the entitled tourists with their yachts and the mysterious Odin group living up the lake, Valhalla is much more than it originally seemed. And as Tom peels off the layers, he hopes to expose the dark rot underneath.

W.D. Valgardson's expert manipulation of metaphor and imagery brings a mythic scale to the murder mystery at the heart of *In Valhalla's Shadows*. He shapes a portrait of small-town living with frank depictions of post-traumatic stress, RCMP conduct, systemic racism, and the real-life tragedies that are too often left unsolved.

**[Register for the second session here: https://inlofna.org/inlna-reads](https://inlofna.org/inlna-reads)**



# INLNA Reads Summer Challenge

It's no secret that Icelanders and their descendants love to read. You've probably heard of the annual "Christmas Book Flood" or Jólabókaflóð that's just in time for the gift-giving season. But why wait until December to celebrate our writers and our love of books?

This year we're introducing the first annual INLNA Reads Summer Challenge from July 1st until September 4th.

## How the contest works:

1. Print out a contest ballot.
2. Read five books and record them onto your ballot.
3. Fill in your membership details or your family connection to the INLNA.

Send your completed ballot(s) to [inlofna@gmail.com](mailto:inlofna@gmail.com) with the subject line: INLNA Summer Reads by midnight Pacific Time on Sunday, September 4th.

There will be three prize categories based on age:

- 10 and Under
- 11 - 18
- 19 and Older

## How to win:

At the end of the contest, two winners will be drawn for each category to win a book prize. Book prizes will be customized to match the age of the winners and will have an Icelandic theme or connection. The more ballots you submit, the more chances you have to win.

## Rules:

All ballots must be received by midnight pacific time on Sunday, September 4th.

Entrants must either be or have a family member\* that is one of the following:

- A current\*\* member of an INLNA club
- A current\*\* member of an INLNA affiliate or associate organization
- A current\*\* independent member of the INLNA

\*Entrants must include the full name of that family member and state which club or affiliation they belong to.

\*\*Current means has a membership by the end of the contest: September 4th, 2022.

The board will share all the materials directly with the clubs, affiliates, and members in mid-June for distribution amongst your members or inclusion in your summer newsletters. All materials will also be available on the [INLNA Reads page on our website](#) by July 1st.

# Newsletter Contest

By: Bettyjane Wylie



You may or may not know that I have been your newsletter editor for the last four years. I think it's time we had a name for the Letter and I challenge my readers to suggest one. My home club (ICCT) in Toronto has a lovely title for its letter: FALKINN.

Think about it. We have lots to say and plan and learn and remember. Let's have a label for our thoughts. All entries are welcome. If there are a lot, I'll appoint some judges to help choose among them.

How about Voluspa? I'm glad you asked.

Voluspa, or more accurately Völuspá, is the first set of Viking Age poetry in the Poetic Edda, a Norse Mythology Book, some might say THE Norse Mythology book! The Völuspá translates to mean the "Prophecy of the Volva" or "Prophecy of the Seer." A Volva was a wise-woman in old Norse culture. (Online dictionary)

Here are some suggestions to start us off:

INL Quarterly  
INL Roundup / Réttur  
The Raven / Hrafninn  
Vesturbréf (Western letters or news)  
The Community Connection

Think about it and write me:

Subject line: CONTEST

Email: [bettyjanewylie@gmail.com](mailto:bettyjanewylie@gmail.com)

I repeat all entries are welcome. We might even come up with a prize.

**Find Us On Social Media**

[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

# Newsy Items

Dispatches from local chapters, clubs, associations and individuals.



## Icelandic Canadian Club of BC

After 25 years as Editor of the Icelandic Canadian Club of BC newsletter, I am now pleased to pass on this responsibility to my successor, Mia McKay. It has been a great pleasure for me to share information of interest about our Icelandic culture with readers across British Columbia and beyond.

Members of our Club will agree that the benefits of our club include reading and learning about our Icelandic history and culture, and socializing with friends from so many different walks of life. In my case, reporting on these matters of interest in the newsletter has been rewarding and enjoyable; a pleasure to do on behalf of our Icelandic community.

- Margaret Bjarnason Amirault



Maria ("Mia" - pronounced "Mæja") McKay is a retired English teacher who loves language and writing. Her parents, Oskar and Helga Howardson, volunteered with ICCBC, Höfn, and Sólskin for over 50 years. From her earliest memories, being part of the Icelandic Canadian community was central to family life through friendships, activities, and beloved Icelandic things, from food and language to songs and stories. Maria, once a Club Princess, continues her interest in her heritage – what better way to get immersed in all things Icelandic than to find new ways to be involved in the Club?

- Mia McKay

## Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto Thorrablót 2022 "Together Again"

On a cool day in late March, the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto gathered for an age-old ritual, breaking bread at the midwinter feast of Thorrablót. Thorrablót 2022 was a very special occasion, as we celebrated "Together Again". Our first in-person Thorrablót in three years was cause to let our hair down. Long periods in isolation, endless virtual meetings, virtual event fatigue, and general pandemic stress led many members to really look forward to this opportunity to connect again, raise a glass, and sup on some Icelandic lamb specialties.

This year's Thorrablót was once again held at the lovely Latvian Centre on Eglinton Ave. E., and the familiar location, faces, and routine set in really fast, and I think most would agree with me that it seemed like 2019 all over again, only better, somehow. Everyone was so pleased to be together. We were honored to have our new ambassador Hlynur Guðjónsson and his wife, Lulu Yee, join us for the evening, and we thoroughly enjoyed his charming and humorous remarks. Gail Einarson-McCleery also brought greetings to Thorrablót from the Lögberg-Heimskringla

- Peter Norman



# THE ICELANDIC OPEN

GOLF TOURNAMENT

2022

In Support of  
Lögberg-Heimskringla

REGISTER TODAY!

Individual fee \$160

Cocktails & Dinner at  
the Johnson Hall  
Additional dinner tickets  
\$60 each (limited)

## News From the Lögberg- Heimskringla

Your source for news  
coverage of Iceland and our  
Icelandic communities since  
1886.

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2022

Links at the Lake Golf Course Gimli, MB

For sponsorship or registration contact:

LH@LH-INC.CA | 204 284 5686 | WWW.LH-INC.CA

## Join the L-H advertising committee

The Lögberg-Heimskringla is the oldest continually published cultural newspaper in North America, serving the Icelandic community in both Canada and the United States. Our revenue comes from subscriptions as well as advertising revenue.

### Do you have expertise in advertising?

Consider joining our Advertising Committee!

We meet virtually once a month and would love to have your input!



Please contact: LH@LH-INC.CA



# Summer Events Calendar

## British Columbia

### **June 17, 2022 - Burnaby, BC - Iceland National Day Picnic**

6pm @ the Scandinavian Community Centre

Come, join the Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia under the canopy to celebrate Iceland's Independence Day. Some games will be laid out on the field for children and we will have the sing-a-long.

Registration is required for advanced food planning.

The event is free, but donations are welcome at the door.

Register with this link: <https://1.shortstack.com/Czgn9t>

### **June 25 & 26 - Burnaby, BC - ICCBC - Scandinavian Midsummer Festival 2022**

The Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia and local Vikings will be out in full force! There is something for everyone, young and old, including:

- Cultural displays
- Kid's activities
- Games
- Viking Raid
- Raising of the Midsummer Pole
- Vintage Volvo car show
- +50 Vendors
- Live music performances
- Singing
- Dancing
- and food!

Contact the ICCBC for more details on how to get involved:

<https://www.icelandicclubbc.ca/contact-us.html>



# Summer Events Calendar

## Alberta

### **June 18 - Markerville, AB - Icelandic National Day Celebration Potluck Supper**

1pm @ Markerville Creamery Courtyard and Markerville Campground Park

Hosted by the three Alberta clubs: Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton Norðurljós, Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary, and the Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society in Markerville. Main meal is provided by the clubs. Please bring a salad or dessert with you, per each family attending. Come watch the official crowning of the Alberta Fjallkona, Donna Crozier (ICCE) and speeches given by dignitaries. There will also be activities for the whole family, including:

- Sons of Fenrir Viking re-enactment group
- Family races
- Ice cream
- Historical tour of Markerville
- Visit the Stephan G. Stephansson House

## Manitoba

### **July 29 - Aug 1, Gimli, MB - Íslendingadagurinn - Icelandic Festival**

The 2022 Íslendingadagurinn looks forward to celebrating Icelandic culture and heritage in-person and through a series of virtual, hybrid events.

Activities include:

- Virtual sandcastle contest
- Craft and vendors
- Family scavenger hunt
- Live music
- Viking village
- Strong man competition
- Family games and races
- Monday - Traditional Icelandic Program
- food and more!

See the website for all announcements, ways to get involved, and full itinerary.

<https://www.icelandicfestival.com/>



# Summer Events Calendar

## North Dakota

### **July 29 - 31, Mountain, ND**

August the Deuce - Icelandic Festival

Plans for the festival are still being finalized. Please check the website for a tentative schedule of events and the latest announcements!

<http://thedeuce.org/>

## Ontario

### **June 18 - Kinmount, ON - Iceland National Day Picnic**

Our Club President Gwen Sigrid Morgan is hosting this year's Icelandic National Day Picnic in Kinmount, Ontario. Club members know the story of how through the research of our own Don Gislason and local historian Guy Scott the ICCT uncovered the story of the failed Icelandic settlement in Kinmount during a tragic and deadly winter in 1873. The Club then built a memorial to those early Icelandic Canadians with a beautiful stone sculpture designed and sculpted by sculptor Gudrun Sigursteinsdóttir Girgis and known as In the Presence of a Soul.

So mark your calendars and plan on reconnecting with Club members and this important history for our community on June 18th starting at about noon. More details to come about potential carpooling to get there. <https://www.icct.info/>


## Virtual

### **June 11 - Aug 6 - Virtual Icelandic Roots Fitness Challenge**

The 3rd Annual Icelandic Roots Fitness Challenge is open to everyone! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors. We are again using the "My Virtual Mission" platform, and the cost will be \$25 USD per person. There will be two different routes available for participants: The Snæfellsness route is 83 mi/138 km, perfect for an individual participant, while the Westfjords (Vestfirðir) route will be much longer, approximately 600 mi/965 km, for which you may want to form a team.

Sign-up information, as well as more details, will be in our newsletters. Subscribe for FREE to our public newsletters and other online opportunities here:

<https://www.icelandicroots.com/online-options>



This Newsletter is published  
four times a year.

Please send stories or inquiries  
to [bettyjanewylie@gmail.com](mailto:bettyjanewylie@gmail.com)

**SUBMISSION DEADLINES:**

August 20th - Fall Issue

November 20th - Winter Issue

February 20th - Spring Issue

May 20th - Summer Issue



# Stay Connected to the INLNA

Write to us:

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+1-204-642-5897

Email us:

[inlofna@gmail.com](mailto:inlofna@gmail.com)

or

[inl@mymts.net](mailto:inl@mymts.net)

Visit our website:

[www.inlofna.org](http://www.inlofna.org)

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Twitter: [@inlna1](https://twitter.com/inlna1)