



Annual General Meeting 2022 Minutes

October 23, 2022

Call to Order

The Annual General Meeting of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto was a hybrid meeting with the in-person meeting held at the home of Club President Gwen Morgan and others joining through Zoom online. The AGM was held on October 23rd, 2022. The meeting started at 2:11 PM

Attendees

Gail Einarson-McCleery, Peter Norman, Peter Eastman, Richard Eriksson, Katrina Handley-Derry, Gwen Morgan, Rachel Young, Oskar Sigvaldason, Madeline Stapleton, Betty Jane Wylie, Chloe Connors, Junior Chuang, Steve Russel, Mark Handley-Derry

Regrets: Glen Thordarson

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was moved by Gwen and seconded by Peter N. It was passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes of Executive Meeting 2021 AGM

Approval of the minutes of the 2021 AGM was moved by Gail and seconded by Mark. Approved unanimously.

President's Report

Please see the full President's Report.

To highlight here, the meeting discussed Betty Jane Wiley's new edition of Letters to Icelanders Exploring the Northern Soul, which Betty Jane wishes to donate to the Club to serve as a fundraiser. Over several months, Gwen worked with Waterloo publisher Karl Griffiths Fulton, Arkay Designs to create a Word document of the manuscript. Betty Jane wrote a new Foreword to the book and Gwen wrote a new Introduction. Peter contacted a photographer in Iceland (his cousin) for photos for a new cover. Gwen worked with lawyer Warren Shaffer to facilitate copyright transfer and with Wiley Publishers who hold the copyright conversion letter. The new book was launched at our Christmas gathering.

Still a pandemic year, slowly moving out of it. People were happy to get together again for Thorrablot which was a great success. See the President's Report for details.

Gwen pursued her goal of getting the bylaws and governance in order. This involved following the official procedure to retrieve company records, as we had lost access to our Ontario Corporation files. Gwen hired a lawyer and filed the forms and we have access again through an online key to retrieve and update files. At present, Peter's house is the official location of ICCT. The registration with Ontario Corporation was updated. Peter, Richard and Gwen met with the bank to update banking authorizations. With the 'key' for access, the governance legal files can be updated after each AGM, as per regulations.

Nordic Nights, we still showed a number of films, and held Saga Connections (list of films and episodes in the full report). Rachel Young plans the book club's readings and films for the year, list is posted on the website. Snorri Grant went to Elizabeth Handley-Derry who went on the program in June and youth grant to Thor Goodman. Youth who receive grants promise to give back 10 hours of volunteer service to the club. Elizabeth has served on the Board for over five years, as well, last year, created videos and online programming for events.

Online Christmas event, online Icelandic Travel Show, all our online activities are archived on YouTube. Live National Day picnic in Kinmount. Next year (2024) is the 150th anniversary of Kinmount village. Meet the authors event twice, once in December (at Gwen's house), and this year we got the authors who came to the International Festival of Authors - First Lady Eliza Reid and Auður Jónsdóttir to come to a reception. Logan Prong offered his downtown offices and meeting rooms as a location to meet and donated refreshments. Books were signed. Gwen took to see Niagara Falls the author Auður Jónsdóttir (who wrote the book, Quake, and is the granddaughter of Nobel prize winner, Halldor Laxness)

This coming year the goal is to bring club activities back to live events. Also, to continue to update the governance documents.

Vice-President's Report

Gail revised and updated the job descriptions for Board positions.

As well, Gail volunteers with Loberg Heimkringja Icelandic newspaper (the L-H) AGM. The L-H is very interested in articles in English, especially from young people. Gail wondered if ICCT should appoint someone to be the L-H representative? ICCT does send articles and event notices to the L-H for publications.

We encourage everyone to subscribe to the L-H. It is the only Icelandic paper giving news from groups across North America and Iceland. It has all the most up-to-date information on Canada-Iceland relations, as well as information on opportunities for cultural exchange

Secretary's Report

Richard had been maintaining the Instagram account, and has handed the duties off to the capable hands of Chloe Connor and Elizabeth Handley-Derry. Richard received free tickets for the Daði Freyr concert and he ran an online contest for the tickets to send two lucky winners to the show.

Financial Report

Please see the full report attached.

In general, the Fiscal year ends in June. The Report gives 2 other years for perspective. Membership dues have been better than 2021, but still trending lower. \$10,760 in extensions. INL conference is normally a big expense, zero for the last 3 years. Insurance is the single biggest expenditure.

There was no Icelandic camp this year so no donation given there. We didn't contribute to Snorri West fund this year, \$3,135 ready for 2024. Calendar yielded \$270.

\$250 in donations to support the Ukrainian Fund. Falkinn production costs are lower as we emailed out the Falkinn newsletter rather than mailing.

Nordic Nights program is robust especially after going online. The Finns are very generous when donating. Often the movie screening rights are donated by distributors. The movie fund stands at \$2,642, making it an opportunity to do something.

Thorrablot was an online event. Rachel Norman was the Chair of the Thorrablot Committee. Sharon Hanson organized and ran the Silent Auction. Gwen, Glen and Gail worked on fund-raising. Brad Rodo came in with donations for the Live Auction. Donald K Johnson donated \$1000. Other members donated amazing items and the auction was a great success. Julie Cuthbert and Gail Einarson McCleery organized the dessert donations. Julie wrote a very detailed report on lessons learned, what went well, and compiling the names of donors, so future organizers can have a place to start. Rachel N organized for youth volunteers and worked from 11 am to 11 pm in the kitchen on the day, supervising volunteer waiters and kitchen help. The Ambassador spoke, Lindy performed, Linda Lundstrom was auctioneer. Elizabeth HDerry created 'The Pagan Table' of food. Arden Jackson provided the Icelandic speciality foods. Robert Cuthbert was a brilliant MC, entertaining us with fun facts. Robert also organized for a jazz band to come and play during dinner. There is a detailed report in the Board minutes. Records are online as well. Intention is to have a record to guide for future volunteers. On the day, the Board members and their families arrived to decorate, set-up and volunteer throughout the event. A big thank you to all.

The overall revenue was disappointing though. There were member withdrawals on the revenue side which is an accounting issue due to previously cancelled Thorrablot. Costs were high.

Bettyjane moves acceptance of the financial report Peter Eastman seconds. Approved.

Nominations from the Floor and Election of the Slate

Please see the slate of nominations.

There was discussion on the positions open from the floor Elizabeth and Katrine: Both are interested in taking on other positions, Katrine puts her hat in the ring for Technical director, Elizabeth and Katrine would like to be the chairs of the Thorrablot committee. Elizabeth leaves the Youth Director position. Gwen had been talking to Logan about taking the event director/Thorrablot role. Chloe: Would like to be social media manager, also participate in outreach. Glen and Chloe could share the outreach role. Katrine: Found it helpful to have Jack as co-chair of the Nordic Nights. Marissa Steele to join as member at large to start. Elizabeth as event chair. Madeline Stapleton is an at-large member.

Betty Jane moves approval of the slate, Gail seconds. Passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:39.

Secretary

Date of approval

APPENDIX OF REPORTS

President's Report

Gwen Sigrid Morgan

Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto,

Annual General Meeting 2022

October 23, 2022

Another year has passed and during this time the pandemic slipped into endemic status and the ICCT emerged from the virtual world back to real in-person events. The 2022 Thorablót – Together Again! – celebrated the turning point, where over 100 members and friends enjoyed Icelandic Hangikjot, roasted Svid and Harfiskur featured on a decorated Pagan Table, and Smoked salmon on delicious Icelandic Brown Bread, mingling and meeting old friends while listening to the soft jazz of a live band. The silent and live auctions were enjoyed by all and very successful in raising funds to support our key commitments to foster and support the bond with Iceland and our Icelandic heritage.

As President, I set a goal to bring the clubs records and governance back into order. Unfortunately, Kathleen Muarry, our past president, became very ill during the pandemic, and given the isolation rules, much of our club records were lost, missing or needing to be reassembled. I have applied to Ontario Corporation for recovery of our files, updating information and have established the corporate office at Peter 's home 130 Westmount Avenue Toronto. Peter can now receive the Company (online) Key from Ontario Corporation which has to be mailed (snail mail) out to the registered address. He had done this before but the registered address on file was a large law firm where the contact had long since retired and the letter got lost. Now the ICCT records will be kept up-to-date as required.

Peter created an ICCT Google Docs for sharing information. Peter also works hard keeping the website up-to-date, creating all those wonderful You-Tube videos of events. The ICCT could use help in updating historical records both online and in hard copy. All the Board and Committee minutes for the past couple of years have been placed online. Peter has also been collecting and organizing a lot of information here including historical documents and photographs. If you have materials – old photos, minutes etc. – please let us know. This annual report, with all its details, is a step to creating and maintaining the historical record. The Board position of Historian and Compliance is open, and this is a focused job that is important to the Club so please do consider this position.

Gail updated all the job descriptions for the Board and some new positions reflecting modern times like directors of social media and technical advisor. The job descriptions are open for reviewing online and in print at the AGM and will be on the agenda for members to add their input and to offer to volunteer for. There may be some tasks that appeals to you whether on the Board or as part of a committee. Every bit counts – and it's fun to learn about and celebrate all things Icelandic!

A very exciting project I have been working on all year is the republication of Betty Jane Wylie's Letters to Icelanders: Exploring the Northern Soul. Betty Jane donated the copyright to the ICCT which can then be used as a fundraiser for supporting Snorri grants and Gimli camp grants to meet the ICCT goal of fostering and nurturing our connections with Iceland and our Icelandic heritage. The book will be ready to launch in time for Christmas Jolabokafloð. Thank you, Betty Jane, for the generous donation to the club and the continuing legacy of not only financial support but the knowledge of our Icelandic Canadian heritage. Her book contains a wealth of historical and useful information and inspirational wisdom. Reading it will make you proud of being a Western Icelander.

ONLINE EVENTS:

Most of the ICCT's regular programming continued in its online format. Nordic Nights, Saga Connections and the Book Club continued to be very successful online events. As the pandemic subsides, we have moved to in-person events, although people are still cautious about meeting up live. Below, I have highlighted, for the record, the titles, and themes of what was offered and enjoyed by club members and friends who tuned in online from all across North America or attended one of our live events.

Nordic Nights Films:

This past year saw Katrine Handley Derry and Jack Dodds step in as the ICCT organizers and hosts of Nordic Nights. They continue to work with the Finnish Consulate, Laura McSwiggan and University of Toronto film professor Anu Muhonen to offer this joint program online. Gail Einarson-McCleery stepped down after many many years running the program, and Pierre Tremblay, professor at Ryerson Images retired from Nordic Nights after 10 years. I put together an Icelandic basket of delights from items I brought back from a summer trip to Iceland and delivered the basket and thank you to Pierre on behalf of the ICCT. We thank both Gail and Pierre for their many years of service bringing our members films on Nordic Nights.

Saga Connections, our online seminar series, hosted a series of diverse speakers. Fashion Designer and philanthropist Linda Lundstrom started the year off in September near the date of the first National Truth and Reconciliation Day with a call for us to read the official document and do one practical action to make reconciliation a reality. Linda created a Kiishik fund in 1989 for increasing awareness of Red Lake indigenous culture and a Sewing Circle (sewingcircle.org) to teach skills, create jobs and encourage entrepreneurship. ICCT's former Falkinn editor Natalie Guttormsson came on to talk about Folklore, Stephen Bright and Joe Martin gave a fascinating history of Icelandic -Canadians in both World wars Stephen Bright's original research published last year is linked on our website. Our own Betty Jane Wylie joined Saga Connections to share her humour and wisdom gleaned from her over 40 publications which include practical self-help (cooking and widowhood) to books, poetry and plays. Radio host and classical musician Kathleen Kajioka shared how her Icelandic mother, who was functionally deaf, inspired her love of music. All the sagas shared are beautiful stories you can view again in recordings made for ICCT by Peter and place on our website.

Saga Connections 2021-2022 was produced and hosted by Gwen Morgan, tech support by Peter Norman, and Peter prepared YouTube recordings. Saga Connections titles were:

- A Fashionable Evening with Linda Lundström September 22, 2021

- Building Bridges with Folklore: From Iceland to Beyond. An Evening with Natalie Guttormsson, October 20, 2022
- Northern Bridge: Icelandic Canadian Links in the Two World Wars with Joe Marin and Steven Bright. November 10, 2021
- Exploring a Northern Soul: An Evening with Betty Jane Wylie March 16, 2022
- The Heart of Music: A Conversation with Kathleen Kajioaka April 13, 2022

BOOK CLUB: Thank you Rachel Norman for continuing to organize and host the online Book Club. Rachel posts online the books and films for the year. Last year, the books read were: The Young Icelander: The Story of an Immigrant in Nova Scotia and Manitoba by Johan Magnus Bjarnason; Snare (Reykjavik Noir trilogy) by Lilja Sigurðardóttir, How Iceland Changed the World by Egill Bjarnason; The Greenhouse by Auður Ava Olafsdóttir, The Window of Brimnes: An American in Iceland by Bill Holm; On Time and Water by Andri Snaer Magnason.

This coming year, the Book Club will read: The Secrets of the Sprakkar by Eliza Reid; The Sealwoman's Gift by Sally Magnusson; Quake by Auður Jónsdóttir; Gudrun (an audio drama) and The Darkness: A Thriller by Ragnar Jonasson. There are also films. See the ICCT website for details.

YOUTH & SNORRI GRANTS

ICCT was pleased to receive multiple applications for both the 2022 scholarship and Snorri Youth grant, which Madeline Pekary took the lead in reviewing and organizing. The ICCT presented the 2022 scholarship to Thor Goodman, and the 2022 Snorri Youth grant to Elizabeth Handley-Derry. Both recipients have since each written an article for the Falkinn. The Icelandic Language Camp grant was not awarded as the camp did not operate this year.

The application deadline for the 2023 scholarship and grants is March 1, 2023, and the recipients will be announced at Thorrablót 2023. An additional expectation has been added to the scholarship application: Award recipients are expected to remain engaged with ICCT activities and to provide about 10 hours of volunteer time toward Club initiatives or events before the application deadline. An additional expectation has also been added to the Snorri Youth grant application: A letter of application to the ICCT from the applicant should indicate an interest in sharing the Snorri experience with the club and becoming involved with the club in the future. Specifically, ways to participate in the club are to be a presenter at an event promoting Snorri programs, write an article for the Fálkinn, help with Thorrablót, Travel show, Kinmount clean-up, and engage social media and outreach. Snorri West alumni could help in hosting the Snorri guests who come on the exchange from Iceland to visit North America

LIVE EVENTS:

The ICCT main events are Thorrablot, Jolavidburdir (Christmas celebration) Travel Show and Icelandic National Day picnic. We do not have the position of Events Director on the Board filled, but people on the Board stepped up to make these events happen. This past year, we also initiated a new and exciting event, the Author's Social.

Meet the Authors: ICCT added a new event last year – the Author's Social where we had the opportunity to meet Iceland's top authors in an intimate environment. Toronto hosts an International Author's Festival and each year invites authors from all around the world. Meet the Author's twice last year, hosting authors who came for the Toronto International Author's Festival. On December 5th, 2021, ICCT members bundled up to host an outdoors social gathering with three visiting Icelandic authors: Andri Snær Magnason, Einar Kárason and Thora Hjörleifsdóttir. Andri Snær was also here for the premier of his film. When the Author's International Festival returned in September 2022, ICCT members were treated to an up-close coffee klatch with First Lady Eliza Reid and author Auður Jónsdóttir (who is the grand-daughter of Nobel Prizewinner Halldor Laxness). At these events, the authors spoke of their books and poetry and members had a chance to have books signed. There was a door prize and delicious food served. Arden Jackson provided the vinarterta and Logan Prong organized catering and offered his business offices as a space to meet in. It was so successful we will be sure to organize the Author's Social again next year during the International Author's Festival.

Thorrablót: Many thanks to the Thorrablót Committee for organizing and fund-raising, and being there early and late on the day to make this pivotal event a great success. Thank you to Rachel Norman for chairing the Thorrablót committee and supervising volunteers in the kitchen; to Sharon Hansen for organizing the Silent Auction; Glen Thordason for helping to organize fund-raising and others for making one of the best Live Auctions, to Donald K Johnson for his donation of \$1000; to Julianne Cuthbert for organizing the desserts; Arden Jackson for supplying the Icelandic speciality food and donating a vinarterta for auction and dozens of Kleinur; Robert Cuthbert for MC hosting and organizing the music; Peter for doing all the finances and the Executive and Board members who gave hours to make this *out of the pandemic* Thorrablót a night to remember. A special thanks to The Honourable Ambassador Hlynur Gudjónsson who gave an entertaining speech and gifted the guests with shots of Brennivin for raising a toast to 75 years of Iceland and Canadian diplomatic relations.

Jolavidburdir: Thank you Katrine Handley-Derry and Elizabeth Handley-Derry for organizing and hosting the online Jolavidburdir Christmas event. Elizabeth featured an interview with Icelandic weaving specialist Margrét Katrín Guttormsdóttir who works for the Icelandic Textile Centre and the children enjoyed the trivia games, videos, Gryla and Santa Claus.

Icelandic Travel Show: (online event) was organized by me, supported by Peter and featured four guests. I had done a wonderful tour in Iceland of The Cave People of Iceland. A guide from Iceland came on the call to tell us the stories and legends of the Cave People. Laurielle Penny from Worldwide Quest that offers unique cultural and women's only travel groups tantalized us with literary tours. Glen Thordason shared his family travel experience and offered tips for travelling with kids and Alex Ciappara shared his epic during-the-pandemic- trip around Iceland. Lots of great tips, unique suggestions and useful information for those planning a trip to Iceland.

Our National Day Picnic was held as a live event in Kinmount Ontario. I had reached out to the Kinmount community last summer about having our picnic in the historical site where the Kinmount Memorial is located. As Saga Connections has presented the story of the Kinmount settlers and the millennial celebrations in 2000 to commemorate the people who died and were buried in unmarked graves along the riverbank, I thought it was fitting that we went to celebrate along the river bank. I was surprised and deeply honoured when I arrived a few days before the picnic to find town volunteers busily cleaning, painting and gardening the historic site in preparation for "the Icelanders who were coming." I spent two days weeding the site along with my husband and the Kinmount volunteers. The memorial was really looking good for the picnic day. Janice Stange of the Kinmount Historical Society created a special display to view and Guy Scott gave a tour of the historic cinema. I spoke to the history and meaning of Gudrun Sigursteinsdóttir Girgis' monument, In the Presence of a Soul. We had a delicious pot-luck picnic by the river and enjoyed the sunny weather.

OTHER CLUB ACTIVITIES:

Falkinn Newsletter: A special thank you to Betty Jane Wylie who continues to write lively articles for the newsletter and edits and supports me as I produce our bimonthly Falkinn. Rachel Norman resigned as editor on March 21 as she got busy with her new job, so Peter and I have taken on the main roles of researching, writing, formatting, and delivery. The ICCT is looking for a new Falkinn editor. Are you someone who is interested in writing? Get in touch. Also, if you have an article or hear of something interesting, pass the information along to us so we can include it in the Falkinn for the community to learn about or enjoy.

Library: The library housed by Kara Schuster for the past several years has been moved to my house. Thanks to Kara, my daughter Siobhan and husband Mark for hauling thirty boxes of books up and down flights of stairs. I created a gift basket of Ontario farm harvest goodies on behalf of ICCT to deliver to Kara and thank her for housing the library. ICCT is still looking to catalogue our books and provide a permanent home and better access. Cataloguing is a volunteer job potential applicants for the ICCT grants could consider to fulfill the required 10 hours of ICCT volunteering.

Language Classes: Junior Chang has been in Vancouver for most of the pandemic, taking advantage of working online to be close to family as he expanded his young family. He has been very busy with his

expanding young family and could not teach the classes, so ICCT has not offered language classes for a while. I was able to find a teacher from Reykjavik who agreed to teach online, and we held the first class last week. We have people from Chicago and all across Ontario, and a few new members as a result. The teacher, Járngerðer Guttormsdóttir, who is a Grade 4 teacher in Reykjavik, is excellent. She has us doing exaggerated mouth exercises to get our sounds coming out in the Icelandic pronunciations. Lots of fun. She is teaching one beginning class for now. I hope to be able to organize an Intermediate class in the future. Meanwhile, Junior needs to step down as Board Language Class Director so we are looking for someone to take over this position.

Special Iceletters Project: ICCT is producing an updated copy of Betty Jane Wylie’s Letters to Icelanders: Exploring the Northern Soul and it will be out in time for the Jolabokafloð, Christmas book giving. I have been working since last AGM with Karl Griffiths-Fulton to scan the original document into a printable format, a job that has proven harder than imagined as the computer makes mistakes on both the Icelandic and English words. I have edited three times, slowly comparing the scanned versions to the original book and think we have a clean copy now. Peter contacted a cousin in Iceland for a beautiful cover photo. You can find more by the photographer, Soggi Anton at [instagram.com/siggianton](https://www.instagram.com/siggianton). ICCT will be planning a launch to coincide with Christmas celebrations this year.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL

I wish to thank all the club members and Board who have volunteered and contributed ideas, time and energy to keep the Club alive and vibrant during these difficult times. Thank you for your support and commitment.

Gwen Sigrid Morgan
ICCT President 2021/22

TREASURER’S REPORT

- PLEASE SEE DETAILED REPORT

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR ELECTION



At the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto held on October the 23rd of 2022 the new slate of officers and directors of the Club was duly elected. Nominations were taken from the floor.

Officers and Directors, 2022-2023

President	Gwen Sigrid Morgan
Past President	vacant
Vice President	Open
Treasurer	Peter Norman
Secretary	Richard Eriksson
Technical Director	Katrine Handley-Derry
Social Media & Website	Peter, Richard, Katrine
Youth & Snorri Grants	Madeline Ashley (Pekary)
INLNA & Snorri Rep	Berry Jane Wylie
Book Club	Rachel Young
Nordic Nights	Katrine Handley-Derry
Saga Connections	Gwen Sigrid Morgan, Don Gislason
Thorrablót Committee Chair	Elizabeth Handley-Derry
Fund-raising	Glen Thordason
Membership and Outreach	Glen Thordason
Falkinn Newsletter Editor	Open
Events Director	Open
Children & Club Family Director	Open
Language Classes Director	Open
Historian/Compliance	Open

General Board Members – Peter Eastman, Don Gislason, Brad Rodo, Robert Cuthbert, Logan Prong, Junior Chang who take on various responsibilities in activities and committees.

Committee and/or Responsibilities (could be but not necessarily Board Members)

Nordic Nights	Katrine Handley -Derry, Jack Dodds
Saga Connections	Gwen, Don Gislason, Gail Einarson-McCleery, Peter Norman
Thorrablót Committee	Sharon Hansen, Logan Prong, Glen Thordason, Julianne Cuthbert, Arden Jackson, Robert Cuthbert, Gwen Morgan, Peter Norman, Richard Eriksson, Katrine Handley-Derry, Siobhan H-Derry, Elizabeth Handley-Derry (Chair)
Event MC	Robert Cuthbert
Falkinn Newsletter	Bettyjane Wylie, Gwen Morgan,
Website	Peter Norman, Richard Eriksson, Katrine Handley-Derry
Library	Open (Gwen Morgan has library books currently).
Kinmount Upkeep Committee	Gudrun Girgis, Fran Moscall, Gwen Morgan, Kinmount community
Fund-raising	Open to more committee members
Advertising	Open