



FÁLKINN

March 2002

ICCT FÁLKINN, 42nd Year, Number 5

A LESSON IN FOOD

We're offering a really big feast of both traditional Icelandic food as well as some yummy North American favourites this year at our Thorrablót, but what did our Icelandic ancestors eat at their spring celebration? Well, I'll tell you - and it's not for the faint of heart!

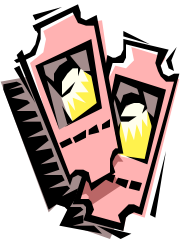
Svió - lambs head charred in the fire to singe off hair, then boiled and served either fresh or pickled. Can also be mashed up and soured in mysa to make a kind of pate.

Hrútsprungur - ram's testicles pickled in mysa and moulded into little cakes

Slátur - black pudding stitched inside a lamb's stomach, rather like Scottish haggis.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Don't forget. The last newsletter we sent included a book of tickets for our exciting 2002 raffle. The winner will be drawn at Thorrablót April 6 - so please get your tickets sold and send the money and stubs to Treasurer Evelyn, using the addressed envelope included here. Please remember to mail by April 1st.



THORRABLÓT CELEBRATION

*Burgundy Room,
North York Memorial Hall - 5110 Yonge Street
Saturday, April 6, 6:00 pm*

Join your friends for "Icelandic Food Night" - Rúllupylsa (spiced lamb), Lax (salmon), Hangikjöt (smoked lamb), Harðfisk (dried salted fish), Vinaterta, Pönnukökur, and other delectable edibles - cash bar

We'll have another great Silent Auction, draw the winning ticket for our 2002 ICCT Raffle, and music will be supplied by DJ Darryl Palmer.

Adults \$30, Youth (7-18) \$15, Children (6 & under) FREE

Use the enclosed form and envelope to order tickets.

NOTE: Do not mail after Monday, April 1 - Contact Evelyn at (416) 444-7355.

Thorri denotes the end of the winter season in Iceland and blót was a sacrificial ceremony held by our ancestors. Thorri is the season of Arctic storms that rage towards the end of winter. Thor was the mythical god of the elements and he was the lad who was making the big rumble during thunder and lightning storms, and his restlessness was to blame for the fierce winter storms. He ram-paged in the heavens lambasting everything with his famous hammer, "Mjöllnir".

To appease this terrifying lord of the elements the Vikings resorted to a sacrificial ceremony that they called Thor's Blót, which through the centuries has been changed to Thorrablót. And with it we celebrate the end of another long winter.

SILENT AUCTION

We are once again holding this fun event. The money raised helps with our annual scholarships. When you come to Thorrablót, take a look at the items available, and place your bids. One item to tell you about in advance is presented by Storyteller Carol McGirr who offers a Saga Recital for the Silent Auction. We're telling you in advance because it is best presented to a group. Perhaps you can think of a group with which you are associated that might enjoy this item. (The opening bid for this will be \$100.) Another great item will be the Grandview Lodge weekend, donated by John & Ellen Gilmore. We are still looking for items to include in the Silent Auction, and hope you can find a new or hardly used item to donate. Please contact Helen Arnason: (416) 444-3348 or email her at fertuck@rogers.com.

NEWS FROM ICELAND



TRAGEDY AS TRAWLER SINKS

One man drowned and one is still missing as a result of trawler *Bjarmi VE* sinking just off the south coast on Saturday, Feb. 23.

Four men were on board when a giant wave filled the boat with seawater, causing the men to be washed overboard. Two men were rescued from the sea by helicopter, and a third was recovered dead. The fourth man is still missing. The rescue teams involved say that it is incredible that the two men survived in the water in such freezing temperatures.

1,277 NEW APARTMENTS IN REYKJAVIK

New apartments in Reykjavik last year numbered 1277, an increase of over 300 from the 967 new apartments last year. Since 1984, an average of 1,185 new apartments have been constructed each year.

WEATHER TRAPS COUPLE IN CAR

The rescue team from Sauðárkrúkur was called out to aid a couple with an infant child that became trapped in their car due to high winds and drifting snow in Skagafjörður, north Iceland, on Feb. 26.

MAJORITY WANTS BEER IN SUPERMARKETS

According to a new survey by Price Waterhouse Coopers, 67 percent of Icelanders want beer to be sold in supermarkets. Currently, all alcoholic beverages are sold only at state alcohol shops. The inhabitants of Reykjavik are more eager for the sale of beer in supermarkets than the rest of the country.



Recipes for Icelandic Hákarl

Here's the correct way to prepare good old-fashioned Icelandic *hákarl*. Warning. Not for the sensitive stomach!

1. Catch and kill a medium-sized Greenlandic shark.
2. Take that shark and bury it in the ground to rot for several months, to the point where not even seagulls want to touch it.
3. Dig it up, cut into cubes, serve cold as hors d'oeuvres.

2003 HERITAGE CALENDAR

Nelson Gerrard has chosen "Heritage Treasures" as the theme for the INL Calendar 2003 – unusual and interesting objects from our heritage – along with the story of the one(s) who originally owned them will be featured. So, if you have such an heirloom in your possession, Nelson is requesting that a professional style, close-up photograph of the item, alongside a vintage photograph of the original owner, if possible. Merle Oddson has taken over this project, so if you have items or ideas for the calendar, please contact her by e-mail at rw.oddson@sympatico.ca or by telephone 905-731-4799.

DONT FORGET YOUR 2002 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Send your membership dues to:

Treasurer Evelyn (Magnusson) Trites,
7 Wax Myrtleway,
Don Mills, ON M3B 3K8.



FÁLKINN—THE FALCON
Fálkinn is the newsletter of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto and is published approximately 6 times a year.

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Membership Information: Single \$20,
Family \$25, Senior Couple \$20,
Senior Single \$15

Webpage: <http://icct.info>

CLUB NEWS

“PICNIC IN PARADISE” – GIMLI FARM



Lynda and Gunnar Helgason will start a tour programme on June 27th. “Picnic in Paradise” will include those elements which have been popular at our club picnics at the farm – tour on the hayrack, Icelandic horse demonstrations, “up close and personal” with the horses, box lunch and coffee on

the verandah. Lynda requests VINATERTA for their “Amma’s Café”. If you are interested in a pleasant outing, or can help Lynda with vinaterta, please contact her by telephone (905) 355-1041 or e-mail: gimli@eagle.ca.

LINDY – OUR TRAVELLING TROUBADOUR

Lindy has been busy doing shows in Toronto, Waterloo, Montreal, and New York City. His next Toronto gig will be at C’est What – 67 Front St East – 10 pm on April 5th. Good luck, Lindy. We look forward to seeing you again.

“HOW THOR GOT HIS HAMMER”

Brenda Bjarnason is developing a version of “How Thor Got His Hammer” to delight us at some future occasion. She needs children and parents who would like to get involved with making masks, costumes and props, and developing the play. Call Brenda at (416) 769-0707.

NEW STURLA GUNNARSSON FILM

“Rare Birds”, starring William Hurt, Molly Parker, and Andy Jones is showing at several Cineplex Odeon theatres in town. Set in Newfoundland, it is a very funny film, and the Newfoundland scenery is stunning. Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times says “Rare Birds is a sweetheart of a film.”

A NOTE FROM SIG MARTIN

“Most of you know me but if you don’t, I am a violinist with Orchestra London doing my little bit to get the word out that there is an excellent professional Orchestra in London.” For information on future Orchestra London concerts, including outreach concerts in regional high schools, you can e-mail Sig at sigmartin@skynet.ca.

THANKS FOR DONATIONS FROM:

Diana Bristow; Carol Spencer; Dr. Dawson Einarson; and Julie Olafson (from Lisle, IL, USA – re: Kinmount memorial).

NEWS FROM FRIENDS

WINNIPEG FALCONS AT SALT LAKE CITY

(From Lögberg-Heimskringla)



Thanks to many generous contributors, an exhibit to commemorate Canada’s first Olympic gold medal hockey team raised some eyebrows at the 2002 games in Utah. A display

featuring a hand painted mural of the eight member Winnipeg Falcons, along with a rich assortment of memorabilia was officially unveiled on February 21, at Iceland House in the Tomax Corporation building in Salt Lake City. Eric Olafson, CEO of the Tomax Corporation, along with his wife Jaye then hosted a reception to honour the athletes from Iceland who were in Salt Lake to compete in the 2002 games. Dan Johnson, president of the UIA, is accepting tax-receiptable donations on behalf of the *Falcons Forever* campaign, and says he is still accepting donations. “We raised enough money to take the exhibit to Salt Lake City, but this is an ongoing project. We want the exhibit to have a permanent home in Manitoba, yet to be sufficiently mobile so that schools, clubs and other organizations can utilize it as a historical educational tool. To accomplish this, we require continued commitment from the Icelandic community.” Send your contribution to *Falcons Forever* c/o United Icelandic Appeal, PO Box 102, 94 1st Avenue, Gimli, MB, R0C 1B1 – (204)642-9868 phone, (204) 642-9382 fax. E-mail uia@mts.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

INL CONFERENCE

The Icelandic National League of North America holds its 83rd annual conference in Minneapolis MN April 19-21. The programme is the fullest seen for some time. Our club's official delegation is set, but the convention is open to any member of all affiliated clubs. If you are interested in attending, contact Helga Malis, INL Secretary inl@ecn.mb.ca. If you'd like to see the programme, e-mail Garry eoddleifson@rogers.com and I will forward it. It is also available online at: <http://www.frostbit.com/icelandmn/>.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM, with introduction of and ratification of Executive Board and Scholarship presentation will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at the Unitarian Hall.

DANISH HERITAGE SEMINAR

The Federation of Danish Associations in Canada will hold its 2002 seminar in Canmore Alberta, in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, from May 27 to June 1. Contact Mr. Rolf Christensen, 679 Eastvale Court, Gloucester ON, K1J 6Z7 (613) 747-9764.

ICELANDIC CONCERT - OCTOBER 20th

Mezzo soprano Ingveldur Ýr Jónsdóttir and pianist Guðríður St. Sigurðardóttir will be touring North America under the International Visits Programme of the Icelandic National League, and will appear here on Sunday, October 20th, at Holy Trinity Church. This will be a Sunday afternoon concert, followed by a brief reception. A great way to spend a Sunday afternoon. For ticket information, call Gail Einarson McCleery at (416) 762-8627.

NORDIC MIDSUMMER FEST

The Friends of Iceland in Ottawa are organizing a large picnic and festival for June 22. Our club is considering a bus charter for the occasion. The suggested programme as presented to us includes a great looking line up. It is likely that the trip will involve an overnight stay. Please contact Darla well in advance, so that we can make a decision about the bus charter, e-mail demckay@axxent.ca or phone (416) 423-0493.

VIKINGS - THE NORTH ATLANTIC SAGA

This magnificent exhibition will be at the Canadian Museum of Civilization from May 8, until October 14. Follow this extraordinary people who set out from their homelands for unknown lands beyond the horizon, over 1,000 years ago. For the first time, Vikings: The North American Saga brings together over 300 precious artifacts from Viking homelands and settlements, some from as far back as 800A.D. Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St., Hull, QU. <http://www.civilization.ca>.

MORE NEWS FROM FRIENDS

WIN A FALCONS SWEATSHIRT

The Icelandic Canadian weekly *Lögberg-Heimskringla* announces that a draw will be held in April, awarding a Falcons sweatshirt to two donors who contribute \$25 or more to their hard pressed coffers. Send your tax receiptable donation to:

Lögberg-Heimskringla
105-94 First Av.
Gimli, MB R0C 1B1

"WEAKERTHANS" CELEBRATE 5th ANNIVERSARY

The folk-pop-punk group "Weakerthans", headed up by Icelandic-Canadian Tim Samson, celebrated their fifth anniversary in February with two concerts in Toronto and four in Winnipeg.

Two of the group live in Toronto, and two in Winnipeg. Find out more about them at website http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/icelandic/icecan/john_k_samson.htm. This website, by Kristín M. Jóhannsdóttir of the University of Manitoba, contains a wealth of information about our Icelandic Canadian artists.