



Official Newsletter of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto

Fálkinn

You're invited to the *Icelandic Canadian Club* *of Toronto's Annual* **YULETIDE BRUNCH & ***VISIT FROM GRÝLA*****

Date: Saturday, December 8, 2012

Brunch: 11:30 a.m. at the Pear Tree Restaurant, 507 Parliament Street. [Restaurant phone number: (416) 962-8190.]

When you arrive, ask for the room reserved for the Icelandic Canadian Club at the back of the restaurant.

Visit from Grýla: 1:30 p.m. at the Riverdale Farm, 201 Winchester Street, south side of the house. (Closest major intersection to the farm: Carlton and Parliament).

We are looking forward to enjoying a festive brunch with you and other friends and family at the Pear Tree Restaurant. Following brunch, we will go to Riverdale Farm to meet Grýla, in all her disheveled glory, fresh from her mountain cave in Iceland.

Get to know Grýla as she leads us on a walk around the farm, stopping at sheep, pig and cow stalls to tell us stories about her mischievous sons, the Christmas Lads.



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To make a restaurant reservation please contact: Meredith: (416) 653-7878, meredith.macfarquhar@rogers.com or Margrét: (416) 536-5450, maggatoronto@gmail.com.

If you are only coming to the Riverdale Farm, please let Meredith know so that we can be sure to have sufficient Christmas treats for all the children.

Riverdale Farm is an outdoor event. Please wear appropriate outdoor clothing and boots.

Children and adults of all ages are welcome. **Invite your friends and share the Icelandic Yuletide experience. See you there!**

SNORRI PUB NIGHT

FRIDAY NOV. 23rd @ Bier Markt Esplanade 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.



Snorri 2010 group at the President's residence.

The ICCT is hosting a pub night so that Snorris and Snorri Plus alike can re-connect, reminisce and talk about their adventures to Iceland with others who are interested. We are inviting you to bring your friends of all ages to join us for a Skjálfti beer and snacks. Remember only Icelandic Canadians under 29 are eligible for the Snorri Program but anyone, Icelandic decent or not, over the age of 30 can apply for the Snorri Plus Program. Please RSVP to Karen Helena: karenhelena@icct.info or call her at (416) 817-7642 by Wednesday November 21st.

THE SNORRI WEST PROGRAM

Strengthening the ties between Canada, the US and Iceland

After a successful program in 2012, Snorri West returns in summer 2013. Four participants from Iceland ages 18 to 28 will be accepted for the program. This year, they will visit Calgary, Markerville, Edmonton, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Gimli and the Interlake, and take part in August the Deuce in Mountain, North Dakota, as well as Islendingagurinn in Gimli.

A chance to see the settlement areas and also how Icelandic North Americans live now, including the Calgary Stampede, Rocky Mountains, historical forts, the Icelandic Camp in Gimli and much more.

Please tell all your Icelandic friends and relatives about it. Details on www.snorri.is and on www.inlofna.org. The deadline is March 1, 2013.

NORDIC NIGHTS MOVIE SERIES
PRESENTS

GNARR

Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2012 Movie starts at 7 pm,
doors open at 6:30 pm

Location: Eaton Lecture Hall (second floor), Ryerson
University. 80 Gould Street (Corner of Church and
Gould). Please contact Gail for more information (416)
762-8627 or gaileinarsonmccleery@gmail.com.

GNARR is a movie documenting comedian Jon Gnarr's
campaign to become Mayor of Reykjavik! Follow all the
twists and turns of the campaign from start to finish.
Starring Jon Gnarr as himself. Icelandic with English
subtitles. Preceding the documentary there will be a
screening of a short film created by an Image Arts student
from Ryerson University.



- **Dec. 8** Valtari
Film Experiment
- Sigur Rós
- **Dec. 31**
Membership
Renewal
- **April 13**
Thorrablot!

Language Classes (Íslenskukennsla) Winter Session

Adult Icelandic Level 1 – Beginner, and Level 2 –
Intermediate Classes next session January 28, 2012.

**Register Now! We are accepting registrations. Please
see instructions below.**

The next session is Mondays 7:30-9:30pm Jan 28 –
March 25 (not Feb 18).

And tentative spring session is April 15 – June 10 (not
May 20).

Eight Consecutive Monday evenings 7:30pm – 9:30pm
at the Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church, 4
Morningside Ave. near Bloor and Runnymede.

Cost is \$75 for each 8 Week Session for ICCT
(Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto) members, \$85
non ICCT members. *Continued on next page.*



DID YOU KNOW ...

The ICCT supports its young members with scholarships, Snorri and Icelandic Camp grants.

Find your application form online today.

Don't miss your chance!



ICELANDIC MEAT ORDER

Put in your order for Icelandic meats from Manitoba this holiday season. Kindly place your order with Jon Thordarson by **Dec. 8th**.

Email him at:
thorco@aol.com

Orders will be available for pick up the week of Dec. 17th.

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Each class is 2 hours long starting promptly at 7:30pm and includes a 20 min coffee/tea break. Light refreshments such as cookies or fruit are kindly asked to be brought by a different student each week.

To register for the course email: classes@icct.info

To pay for the course, visit our website and click on the 'DONATE' button to the right. Enter the amount: \$75.00 for members, \$85.00 for non-members.

On the last page confirming your payment, click on the link: " Add special instructions to recipient " or send a follow up email to classes@icct.info to ensure the funds are allocated to your class fee.

To pay for an ICCT membership and take advantage of our membership discount on Icelandic classes, please go to <http://www.icct.info/paymembership> and follow the instructions. Membership is only \$25/year and language classes are just one of many benefits to an ICCT membership. Use our website via paypal (accepts credit cards too).

If you would prefer to send us your registration by mail, please include a cheque made payable to the "Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto"

Lynne Thorkelsson, ICCT Treasurer
1680 Scugog St.
Port Perry ON L9L 1E2



Renewal Notice – Membership Changes

The ICCT is making an important change. For as long as anyone can remember, our members have been asked to renew their membership by the end of a regular calendar year (December 31st).

Starting next year, all new ICCT members will be notified of their renewal each year on the anniversary of the month they joined.

For existing members, we will note your anniversary month upon receipt of your 2013 dues.

If you would like to pay your dues online, visit our [membership page](http://www.icct.info) (www.icct.info /paymembership) and follow the instructions.

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please don't hesitate to contact us: membership@icct.info.

Jólastjörnur

Icelandic Christmas CD Compilation



The Icelandic Christmas music is of great quality!

This new CD shares a wide variety of Icelandic musicians, singers and a church choir: Kór Glerákirkja, from Akureyri, Iceland.

Created and produced in Iceland by a Western Icelander, Kyle Guðmundson, this unique Christmas CD can be shared as a quality gift.

Kyle has recently returned from Iceland to Toronto with his Icelandic family. A portion of the price will go to the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto to support our activities.

Copies will be available at events, including at the next NORDIC FILM NIGHT and SNORRI PUB NIGHT, or by mail.

You can order Jólastjörnur CDs by mail while they last. Send a cheque for \$20 each, made out to Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto to our Treasurer: Lynne Thorkelsson 1680 Scugog St. Port Perry, Ontario L9L 1E2. Email: contact@icct.info

Donations for the INL of NA ANNUAL Mæðrastyrksnefnd Christmas Appeal

Icelandic National League of North America is co-coordinating donations this year, as it has done since the beginning of the financial collapse.

Please make your cheque out to INL of NA, specify 'Mother's Fund' and send it to INL of NA, 103 - 94 1st Ave. Gimli, MB, R0C 1B1
Deadline is December 10.

A WINDOW TO YOUR PAST

ICCT - Kinmount Thanksgiving Event

By: Gudrun Girgis

Sculptor Chair, Kinmount Memorial Project

Thanksgiving for Canadians is about giving thanks for a bountiful harvest season and the blessings in one's life. On October 6th., the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto celebrated this occasion by inviting the public to join the Ambassador of Iceland in Canada, Mr. Thordur Aegir Oskarsson and his wife Sigurborg Oddsdottir, the Honourary Consul of Iceland in Toronto, Gail Einarson- McCleery, author, Donald E. Gislason and sculptor, Gudrun Girgis at Kinmount for an ICCT donation to the Kinmount community.

This donation covered the cost of a large window installed in the restored Austin Sawmill at the Kinmount Heritage Park, where stands the first official Icelandic-Canadian memorial in Ontario, „In the Presence of a Soul“.

The funds were gained from Icelandic tourists visiting the site and from sales of Donald E. Gislason's booklet *The Icelanders of Kinmount**.

Our donation towards the fundraising initiative „A window to Your Past“ is a symbol of our gratitude towards the people of Kinmount for welcoming us into their community, for embracing the history of the early Icelandic immigrants and for the on-going care of the site.

We were honoured to have with us, Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton Kawartha

Development, author, Guy Scott who wrote ~ the History of Kinmount - Community on the Fringe, Fran Moscall, ICCT and Councillor Clayton Cameron.

Thordur Aegir Oskarsson, Ambassador of Iceland to Canada shared his thoughts:

*Distinguished Guests, Dear friends,
For me as the new Ambassador of Iceland to Canada and my wife, it is truly an honour to be with you on this occasion.*

The difficulties and the sorrow, that the 352 Icelanders settling in this community endured is hard to imagine. However, Don Gislason's moving account of the first steps of the first large group to move from Iceland to Canada admirably manages to bring us closer to this harrowing experience. The short period, that they actually spent here was only around 12 months, from October 1874 to fall 1875, Still it must never be forgotten. The unveiling of the statue, „In the Presence of a Soul“, created by Gudrun Girgis and dedicated to this brave group on 31st. of July 2000 was an important step in that direction.

The dedication of a window here today is a further manifestation of this determined effort to keep the Icelandic settler's story in this community alive. This and Gudrún's sculpture along with Gislason's account of this important period are critical to give this particular part of the Icelandic settlement history its deserved status.

ICELANDIC AUTHOR ANDRI SNAER MAGNASON FEATURED IN TORONTO AT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS

Story and Photo By: Gail Einarson-McCleery



Harbourfront Centre in Toronto was the venue for two appearances of one of Iceland's best authors ... Andri Snær Magnason read from three books Friday October 26th, two of them being his newly translated titles, LoveStar and The Story of the Blue Planet, a children's story.

On Saturday, he was part of a panel of writers entitled 'The Roads Taken' This panel proved most interesting, exploring ideas such as what effect one's country of origin and lifetime travels had on their writing... in Andri Snær's case, he lived in the U.S.A. until he was 9.

On his return to Iceland, he saw things such as the arrival of the first MacDonalds and movies he had seen a year earlier, from a different angle than his friends. On another issue, that of how a story, character or idea can take control of you and be stronger even than amphetamines was illustrated by Andri by tale of his fascination with the image of 'old ladies singing lullabies' ... he said he was not interested in anything else for a whole year! The writers were asked if they allowed anyone else to read their unfinished work. He said, 'Beware of the praise of friends...in the case of Blue Planet, my friend said it was very good, when I took it to my best critic, whom I call 'Evil Woman', she tore it apart, then I went back to my friend, who said, 'I didn't want to hurt you...' He reduced the story from 300 pages to 200 pages and the result was very successful...it has been published or performed in 26 countries and received the Icelandic Literary Prize, Janusz Korczak Honorary Award and West Nordic Children's Book Prize.

Each of his books has been very different from the others ... he has written poetry, the book 'Dreamland' about the effect of aluminum smelters on the economy and environment, which he also co-directed as a documentary film, and these latest two. His award-winning novel LoveStar is a surrealistic account of post-technological human experience, while The Story of the Blue Planet follows a Utopian children's society visited by a mysterious adult. The latest news on Blue Planet is that it is going to be mounted for the second time at Young People's Theatre in Toronto in April. I look forward to seeing it again!



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of those who passed: ICCT members Torfi Bildfell and Carol Joyce Bergsagel. Irene Chanin (sister of Ellen Gilmore) and the tragic loss of ICCT member Rita Hiorth's son.

"Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, May looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow."

ICCT Executive

President: Karen Helena Wallington

Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer: Lynne Thorkelsson

Secretary: Vacant

Membership: Guðrun Girgis

Librarians: Margret Björgvinsdóttir, Jon Thordarson

Senior Outreach: Don Gislason

Youth Outreach: Teal Johannson-Knox

Falkinn Newsletter Editors: Teal Johannson-Knox, Karen Helena Wallington

Mailing Director: Ellen Gilmore

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INL Representative: Gail Einarson-McCleery

Regional Director, INLof NA: Frida Kalbfleisch

Honorary Consul General, Toronto: Jon Johnson

Honorary Consul, Toronto & INL of NA President: Gail Einarson-McCleery

Seattle to Host the 2013 INL of NA Convention!

April 4th thru 7th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

Join old friends and meet new ones at the 94th Annual Icelandic National League of North America Convention in Seattle. Hear engaging speakers, participate in fun activities, mingle with fellow lovers of our Icelandic heritage, and enjoy the springtime beauty of The Emerald City – Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

Registration forms are available at www.inlofna.org on the 2013 Convention Page or through your local Icelandic Club. Early registration discounts end January 31, 2013, so don't delay.

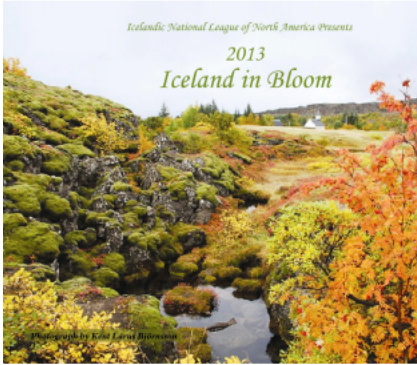
Favorable hotel room rates have been secured starting at \$139/night. Reservations can be made on-line:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/IcelandicClub> or by calling 1-888-233-9527 and asking for the special Icelandic Convention rate.

If you have any questions about the convention, contact David Johnson in Seattle via e-mail at Dj4Seattle@comcast.net or call him at (206) 235-9596.



Order a 2013 Calendar or Christmas CD Jólástjörnur



First calendar plus shipping costs is \$12.00 x _____ = _____

Additional calendars are \$1.00 shipping per
calendar \$11.00 x _____ = _____

Jólástjörnur CD \$20.00 x _____ = _____

Total cheque amount enclosed \$ _____

Please mail to:

Lynne Thorkelsson, ICCT Treasurer, 1680 Scugog St.
Port Perry ON L9L 1E2

2013 Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto Membership Form

Please check the appropriate box:

Single \$25 Family \$30 Sr.Single \$20 Sr.Couple \$25

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Children included in Family Membership and ages: _____

Phones: (H) _____ (Bus) _____ (Fax) _____

(Cell) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ This is a renewal New Membership

Donation Enclosed \$ _____ Use for: _____

(Suggestions: movie screening, scholarship, Snorri Program, Icelandic Kids Camp, books)

Pay by PayPal at the website: <http://icct.info> OR

Cheque to Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto or ICCT

Mail to: Lynne Thorkelsson, Treasurer ICCT

1680 Scugog St. Port Perry ON L9L 1E2