



# FÁLKINN

Official Newsletter of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto

53rd Year No. 1

February/March 2013

## Þorrablot

Don't miss the most anticipated ICCT event of the year!

THORRABLOT 2013!

Edible Sagas (Nom nom nom)

Saturday April 13, 2013

Estonian Club of Toronto

958 Broadview Ave Toronto

Cash Bar @ 6.00 pm  
Dinner @ 7.00 pm  
Free parking!

The fresh lamb will be roasted, the rullapylsa and hangikjöt will be hanging out in anticipation. Members will be poised with pönnukokur, and the vinarterta will be veritably vertical and while the idea of kleinur is thoughtfully twisting it's way into your heart - Icelanders will be preparing our hardfish, hákarl and flatkaka and ...salmon still swimming will become our grav-lax...! And who doesn't love Icelandic chocolate, liquorice and candy?? The Rams Balls and Heads are—well—pickling and braising for the challenge and children are yearning to play 'Freya's Fling'. Our new 'Sheep Game' is

bleatingly fun! And most importantly the Þorri team is ready and preparing to serve the throngs!

Support our Scholarship Programs and participate! Silent Auction includes two tickets to Iceland! (Uppboð) Back by popular demand! Viking Challenges (Vikingaprekraun)

Our Thorri Buffet Features: Roast Lamb, Hangikjöt (Smoked Lamb), Poached and Smoked Salmon, Smoked Trout, Rullapylsa (Rolled Spiced Lamb), Hardfish (Dried Fish), Turkey, Vegetarian Dishes, Potatoes, Turnip, Red Cabbage, Pasta and Green Salads.

Dessert: Cream filled and rolled Pönnukokur, Vinarterta, Kleinur, Saet-supa, Skyr, Calla Lillies, Jelly Roll, Mysuostur, Cakes and Slices and Fruit. Óg já—Viking Beer!

**VOLUNTEERS!!!** Many hands make light work. Desserts are also greatly appreciated. [thorrablot@icct.info](mailto:thorrablot@icct.info)  
Donations to our silent auction: [silentauktion@icct.info](mailto:silentauktion@icct.info)

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Mar 1, Snorri West deadline
- Mar 5, Nordic Film Night Presents: Nói Albinói
- Mar 15, Last Day for Early Bird Thorrablot Tickets
- Mar 30, Sigur Rós @ ACC
- Apr 13, Thorrablot!
- Apr 8, The Blue Planet
- April 13 Thorrablot!



## ICCT Executive

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

## Grýla's Mythical World

By: Meredith MacFarquhar

There Grýla stood perched at the top of the stairs, wind whipping her hair in all directions, face smudged with dirt, eyes darting from side to side as she surveyed the crowd below.

"I'm so happy to see so many children. I hope some of you are poorly behaved. I love to eat naughty children." Grýla stretched open her oversized bag. "You see this bag? This is where I put children who haven't been good. I carry them back to Iceland, and boil them in my biggest pot over a fire and eat them for Christmas dinner."

The sudden whoosh of cold air into lungs was audible. Tiny fingernails gripped the sleeves of parents' coats. A young voice broke the silence. "I don't like her!" Then the laughter of older children and grins that stretched to the corners of dancing eyes. Grýla had once again come to town from her dark, dank cave high up in the mountains of Iceland to visit the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto's annual Christmas party at Riverdale Farm.

The festivities had begun with a holiday lunch in the cozy Pear Tree Restaurant. Sated, children, their parents and friends had strolled to Riverdale Farm to meet the troll, Grýla and to hear about the antics of her impish sons, the jólasveinar. And meet her they had.

"I have been told there might be some naughty children in Toronto. Do you



know anything about that? I have the naughtiest children in the world - 13 of them. But I don't eat them. I only eat other people's children. When I'm finished you can tell me if you still think you are well behaved or whether you belong in my bag."

Grýla's bag crackled as she waved it at the crowd. Hunched over, she descended the steps to meet the children, bag flapping in the wind. A hopeful cackle escaped from deep within her throat.

Thus Icelandic actor, playwright, Maria Reyndal, our Grýla, began her journey into the ancient Christmas folklore that has awed children for centuries. Horrified at the thought of eating children, but mesmerized by this apparition, the audience had been drawn into Grýla's world and eagerly joined her on her travels.

"Do you want me to tell you about my sons?...Do you want to see the sheep that my son, Sheep Worrier tries

to milk?...Then, go down those stairs over there and into the barn. After we see the sheep, I'll take you on a little trip around the rest of the farm." Pied Piper like, we followed into Grýla's mythical world, half believing that we might meet her 13 sons along the way.

In the sheep barn, Grýla began her tales about the antics of her 13 impish sons.

"My sons, the jólasveinar are hungry and that's why they come down from the mountains at Christmastime. It's hard to feed 13 children these days in the Highlands, especially in the winter. Do you want to know what they look like? I can show you pictures of my sons in this book."

Grýla carefully opened the ancient text. Her bony finger inched across the page first to Sheep Worrier, then Gully Gawk who

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## NORDIC NIGHTS MOVIE SERIES PRESENTS:

### Nói Albinói

NEW Location!: Ryerson RCC [Wheelchair-accessible external entrance] [Elevator] Rogers Communications Centre, 80 Gould Street (corner of Gould and Church).

Preceded by a short on Iceland by a Ryerson student in the Image Arts program, filmed in Iceland during their workshop there in June.

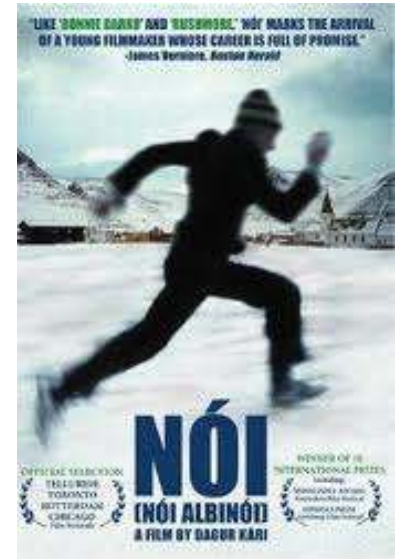
For more info, contact Gail 416 762-8627 gaileinarsonmccleery@gmail.com. Is he the village idiot or a genius in disguise? 17 year

old Noi drifts through life on a remote fjord in the north of Iceland. In winter, the fjord is cut off from the outside world, surrounded by ominous mountains and buried under a shroud of snow. Noi dreams of escaping from this white-walled prison with Iris, a city girl who works in a local gas station. But his clumsy attempts at escape spiral out of control and end in complete failure. Only a natural disaster will shatter Noi's universe and offer him a window into a better

world. Icelandic with English subtitles.

Release date: January 24, 2003 (initial release)  
 Director: Dagur Kári  
 Running time: 93 minutes  
 Screenplay: Dagur Kári  
 Budget: 1.1 million EUR  
 Cast: Tómas Lemarquis, Elín Hansdóttir, Kjartan Bjargmundsson

Watch the trailer:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nznx9Xk9zJA>



**Date: Tuesday, March 5,  
 Doors open @ 6:30, Movie  
 @ 7 pm.**

## Tribute to Library Donors

Our club librarians Margrét Björgvinsdóttir and Jón Thordarson wish to send their gratitude to all of the people who have donated Icelandic books to the ICCT over the years. For several years our books have been kept at the Scandinavian

Club building on Stormont avenue (one block south of Lawrence, east off Bathurst). The disadvantage to having the books there was the poor accessibility. We have good news! In the coming weeks, we will be moving our collection over to our past presi-

dent's, Kara Schuster's home, where you can contact her directly if you are interested in borrowing a book.

Email [library@icct.info](mailto:library@icct.info) for more information.



## Seattle INL of NA Convention Happening Soon!

### 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](http://www.inlofna.org) on the 2013 Convention Page or through your local Icelandic Club.

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.

For questions about the convention, contact David Johnson in Seattle via e-mail at [Dj4Seattle@comcast.net](mailto:Dj4Seattle@comcast.net) or call him at (206) 235-9596.



**INL of NA in Seattle  
 April 4—7, 2013**



50  
Years

### Lifetime Honourary ICCT Member Stella Hansen's Book of ICCT Presidents

"Stella Hansen produced the Book of Presidents of ICCT covering the last 50 years. I assisted her by putting the book together. We have had a request for a copy and as a result of this we thought it would be a good idea to make copies and have them available for sale. Of course we would not make a bunch of copies but only by order." -Jim Gibson.

If you are interested in ordering a copy of this book, please email Jim Gibson directly for more information. [gibso20@gmail.com](mailto:gibso20@gmail.com)

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steals milk or cream, then to Skyr Glutton who steals thick yoghurt. A sheepish grin crept across Grýla's face as her finger hesitated on Stubby, her favourite son who is short and who scrounges leftovers.

From the sheep stable we travelled to the duck pond, past the horses, cows and donkey, deep down into the valley and then back up to the 150 year old farm house where we peered in the windows to see the Christmas goodies that Window Peeper would be looking for. Along the way, Grýla showed us more pictures of her lads: of long-nosed Door Sniffer who can smell baking from far away; of Spoon Licker, Pot Licker and Bowl Licker, who have a fetish for licking any bits of food; of Sausage Stealer

and Meat Hook who snatched longed for meat for Christmas dinner; of Door Slammer who bangs doors and wakes people in the night and Candle Beggar who is so hungry that he eats the tallow candles on the way home to the Iceland.

And then, to our surprise, as if Grýla were like any mother who loves her children, she told us that her 13 sons were not 'all bad.'

"My boys. You might even like them because if you leave your shoe in the window each night for the 13 days before Christmas, one of my lads might leave you a little present, especially if you leave some tasty morsel for him in your shoe."

Sighs of relief soothed the air. Grýla had worked her magic. If even deprived, hungry trolls could overcome their naughtiness, what was there to worry about? Captivated by these ancient ta-

les, the children had entered into Grýla's world, so much so, that when she asked for a 'group hug' at the end of the tour, they flocked to her, nudging one another, nuzzling into her skirts. She had become their adopted mother and they her children.

And at bedtime on December 12th, and every night until December 24th, little people, whose journey with Grýla was still fresh in their minds, placed a shoe high on a window ledge. In the morning, they raced towards the window, confident that the jólasveinar would not disappoint those who had been good and who had believed.

As for Grýla's infamous bag, I have it on good authority, that a cold north wind swept it high into the clouds somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean, just west of Iceland. It has not been seen since.



### Snorri Pub Crawl Good Eats & Good Stories

The ICCT hosted a pub night so that Snorris and Snorri Plus alike could re-connect, reminisce and talk about their adventures to Iceland with others who were interested. Friends of all ages to joined us for a Skjálfti beer and snacks.

## Blue Planet



Written by Andri Snær Magnason  
 APR. 8 - MAY 2, 2013 TICKETS: \$10-\$20  
 165 Front Street East

On a planet far out in space there are no adults, only children. These wild children – whose well of youthfulness has never run dry – play all day without anyone telling them what to do. When a mysterious salesman lands on their planet and grants them their most fervent wish – the ability to fly – an adventure ensues. The children don't realize the price they have to pay to have everything they want until they discover

their ability to fly is putting children on the other side of the planet in peril. Bravery and youthful ingenuity are needed to reverse the consequences of their actions. And in the end, everyone gets what they need and a little of what they wish for.

TRANSLATED BY JULIAN D'ARCY & ANDRI SNAER MAGNASON IN PRESENTATION WITH NORDISKA APS., COPENHAGEN



Did you know? A portion of all sales of vinarterta goes to the ICCT and IRHS! Support Icelandic heritage!

## Shopping Online at ICCT

The Icelanders of Kinmount booklet, by Donald E. Gíslason, is now available for download on our website for only \$6.00! Our online shop will soon feature more products exclusively produced by our very

own club members. Do you have a suggestion for our online shop? Email contact@icct.info or call our president Karen Helena @ 416-817-7642. We'd love to hear from you!

Donald E. Gíslason



Kinmount town park (1995) along the Rural Route. The route commemorates the local apparel industry.  
 Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto

<http://www.icct.info/shop>

## Don't Ask Icelanders How to Make their Traditional Icelandic Cake... Ask a Canadian!

Macleans.ca wrote a fantastic online article featuring our very own ICCT member and Thorrablot convenor, Arden Jackson and her wonderful vinarterta! To read

the article go to: <http://www2.macleans.ca/2012/12/24/dont-ask-icelanders-how-to-make-their-traditional-christmas-cake/>



- Lori Abe & family, Toronto
- Vivian Lynch, Toronto
- Anne Brydon, Kitchener
- Colleen Helgason, Toronto
- Stephanie Hung
- Jodi Amy
- Matt Hughes
- Erika Skafel, Toronto
- Michael & Janice Skafel, Burlington
- Madeline Pekary, Manotick

## Kolaport

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SELL YOUR PRODUCTS & SHOWCASE YOUR WORK Saturday April 13, 2013 at 6 pm (set up from 3 pm) at the Estonian Club of Toronto – More than 200 participants in attendance!

This year at Thorrablot, we are going to have our very own Kolaport inspired by the famous weekend flea market in downtown Reykjavík.

Email merchandise@icct.info, subject: Kolaport Vendor and please include all the following information:

Your Name/Vendor/  
Company Name, Phone,  
Description of products or services, Table/Display Requirements: (2 x 3 feet, 3 x 3 feet, 3 x 6 feet, 3 x 8 feet, other – please specify)

Cost of space and table: A

donation to the ICCT of 10% to 20% of sales to be arranged.

Alternatively you may download, print and submit the form to:

Thora Smaller  
212 Indian Rd  
Toronto, Ontario M6R 2W6  
416 763-0868

**Deadline for vendors is March 31st 2013.**



## SIGUR RÓS at the A.C.C

SAT. MARCH 30

TICKETS ON SALE NOW The Air Canada Centre Box Office or call 1-855-985-5000 to charge by phone Tickets \$36.50, \$51.00 & \$66.50 (incl. HST & service charges) Reserved Seating



### Buy your Þorablot tickets online!

#### PRICES

Early Bird Special – Before March 13, 2013

ICCT Member, Adults: \$45, Youth under 13 \$20, Child under 6 \$5

Non Member, Adults: \$50, Youth under 13 \$25, Child under 6 \$10

After March 13, 2013

ICCT Member, Adult \$50, Youth under 13 \$25, Child under 6 \$10

Non Member, Adults: \$55, Youth under 13 \$27, Child under 6 \$12

or send payment to Lynne Thorkelsson, ICCT Treasurer, 1680 Scugog St. Port Perry, ON L9L 1E2 treasurer@icct.info

## Renewal Notice

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 this 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 and follow the instructions.

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please don't hesitate to contact us

www.icct.info/paymembership  
or email  
membership@icct.info