



# FÁLKINN

Official Newsletter of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto

53rd Year No. 3

November 2013

## RIVERDALE FARM & YULETIDE BRUNCH Sunday, December 1, 2013

**Brunch: 11:00 a.m. PEAR TREE RESTAURANT**  
507 Parliament Street.

You must make your own reservation for brunch, by calling (416) 962-8190 ... deadline is Monday November 25.

On arrival, mention Icelandic Canadian Club reservation.

Enjoy a festive brunch with friends and family. Following brunch, we will go to RIVERDALE FARM for more fun, adventures and stories of the Yuletide lads!



**Riverdale Park & Yuletide Stories: 12:30 p.m.**

RIVERDALE FARM, 201 Winchester Street, south side of the house. (Carlton and Parliament). Riverdale Farm is an outdoor event. Please wear appropriate outdoor clothing and boots.\* The Riverdale Farm is a FREE ICCT event but please RSVP to Gail: (416) 762-8627, gaileinarsonmccleery@gmail.com.

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

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### 2014 Memberships are Due Now!

(unless you paid already)

Submit by mail or Pay Online:

[www.icct.info/paymentmembership](http://www.icct.info/paymentmembership)

### Get Falkinn Online

email: [membership@icct.info](mailto:membership@icct.info)

## Say Já! Vínarterta for the Holidays!

"Vínarterta is a refined and storied cake, practical and beautiful in its execution. It's delicious, decadent, not too sweet and packs a lot of unique flavour into a compact serving composed of simple ingredients. I think of it as embodying the pure love and pioneering spirit of many an Amma" Arden Jackson, Chief Vínarterta Officer.

Lítill - Small .5 kg (serves 4-6)

Mið - Medium 1.25 kg (10-15)

Hálf - Half Cake 2.5 kg (20-30)

Stór - Large 5 kg (40-60)



NEW – Chocolate Lava Shortbread - Made with French Amber Cocoa and Hand Dipped in Pure Belgian Milk Chocolate.

Special Orders: Let us know and we'll customize an order for you! A very special gift tag is included for gifts. Please let us know what you would like the message to say.

Next day delivery to Toronto/GTA. 2-5 Days rest of Canada.

We look forward to making your cake!

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Nov 19th Iceland Airwaves Toronto Showcase @ Horseshoe Tavern 8:30pm
- Dec 3rd Documentary: Blueberry Soup @ Ryerson Theatre 80 Gould St. 6:30pm
- Nov 28- Dec 5th Linda Lundström pop up shop @ The One of a Kind Show
- Jan 21st Nordic Nights Presents: The Deep
- Feb 23rd Iceland Travel Show Details TBA
- April 14th Thorrablot!

# www.vinarterta.ca

## Fálkinn

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 Thorrablot Convenor:  
 Arden Jackson  
 Scholarship/Silent Auction director:  
 Cathy Broughton  
 Kinmount Icefest Co-ordinator:  
 Gudrun Girgis  
 Nordic Nights Film Series:  
 Gail Einarson-McCleery

## In Memory...

Peacefully and suddenly, in Oakville, Ontario at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Born in St. Boniface, Manitoba, Audrey was an avid hiker, badminton/tennis player, horticulturist and extensive traveler. She loved the outdoors and always looked forward to having a good laugh with her many friends. Audrey worked over 25 years in Student Services for the Halton School Board and always had a kind word to say to the many people who crossed her path. She especially enjoyed spending time with her large family and is survived by her hus-

band Barry of 55 years, her 4 daughters and 16 grandchildren: Catherine (Wayne) Bolahood – Jessica (Steve), Leila (Ryan), Paige, Barry. Cheryl (Larry) Rodo – Bradley, Andrew, Daniel, Christopher. Colleen (Masa) Yokoyama – Sean, Brian, Jake, Hunter, Christina, Juliet. Carolyn Stinson – Clarice & Rowen.

Audrey's husband Barry was ICCT's Membership Records Director for many years and daughter Carolyn worked on the ICCT movie screening series in its early days.



Audrey Jane Stinson  
(Wilding)

Feb 6, 1939 – Aug 26th,  
2013

## HALLDORSON, Kenneth – by the Halldorson family

Ken Halldorson passed away on Thursday, October 31, 2013, at the age of 72 after a courageous battle with heart disease. Ken, cherished husband, best friend, and soul mate of Debbie for 13 years, devoted and loving father of Clarence and his wife Barbara, predeceased by his dear wife Ethel, his beloved mother Kristine Thorkelson, father Skapti Halldorson, and brothers Kris, Scotty, Bill, and Jim. Kristine's parents were Guðmundur and Guðný Thorkelson. He was born at Aðalvík in the Westfjords of Iceland and came to Canada at the age of nine. Guðný was born in 1879 at Bjarnarstaðir, Iceland.

Skapti's parents were Skafti S. Halldórsson and Júlíana Böðvarsdóttir, who

respectively left Iceland as teenagers in 1887. They later met, married and homesteaded at Mountain, ND before finally settling at Arnes, Manitoba.

Ken was born in Winnipeg on May 31, 1941 and raised in his hometown of Gimli. He gave his family constant love and devotion; demonstrated the meaning of hard work, strength, courage, service to country (Queen's Own Rifles of Canada), and above all – love of life.

Ken will be eternally missed and loved by his grandchildren, Ethan, Sophia, and Kenna. He was deeply loved by his best friends, his nieces, nephews, and in-laws. He will be forever remembered for

his love of life, and love of his family and his friends. The love, laughter and humour he brought to our lives, and his pride in, and loyalty to his family will be remembered always. His family is filled with pride to be Halldorsons.

He will be in our hearts every day and we are so thankful to have had him as a wonderful husband, dad, Afi, and friend.

A celebration of Ken's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ken's memory to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

## Metalhead Movie Review By Naomi Grosman

The recent Icelandic film, *Metalhead*, explores themes of life and death, community and forgiveness, through heavy metal music. The film, set in rural Iceland in the early 90's, follows Hera and her family who slowly fall apart, after the death of Baldur, Hera's older brother.

In an attempt to try to keep her brother's memory alive, Hera becomes a metal head, just like her brother. She dresses in dark clothes, learns the guitar and sings about pain and loss. We catch a glimpse of a family, once close-knit and happy; know at a painful chapter in their life. We follow Hera through her journey and how she discovers that no matter how hard you try, you cannot run away from grief.

Heavy metal music is the unseen character of the movie, however it does not exclude viewers

who don't care for that type of music. If anything, it tries to introduce the music as sensitive and expressive.

The movie gives the audience a glimpse of an isolated community and one that stands together. As much as this movie is about Hera, her family and how they deal with Baldur's death, it is also very much about the small community in which they live. The strong sense of community and the support they offer to the grieving family is how they find the strength to sort through their pain and move on.

According to main actress, Þorbjörg Helga Þorgilsdóttir (who plays Hera,) community is a strong and important theme in the movie. Throughout the movie, Hera continually acts up and cries for help, through binge drinking, theft and vandalism, but her at-

tempts never push people away entirely.

Hera's biggest supporters are members of the community. Even though she tries her hardest to push them away, they continually answer her cries for help. They are her strongest supporters and in the end, they forgive her. It seems that it's easier to forgive, others and yourself, than it is to hold onto pain and anger, adds Þorbjörg.

In the end, Baldur's memory stays alive, through Hera's music and her family's memories, but the family needed to let go in order to move on, and with the help of the community, they could do just that. As for Hera, her journey through grief had her realize that "you don't need to change to be accepted," Þorbjörg said. "You need to ask for help and allow people to help you as well."

## Iceland Writers Retreat By: Eliza Reid

**April 9-13, 2014**

The Iceland Writers Retreat in Reykjavik invites published and aspiring book writers in the fields of both fiction and non-fiction to participate in a series of workshops and panels led by an esteemed team of international writers.

Between intimate workshops and lectures, you'll have the chance to tour the spectacular Golden Circle, sit in the cosy cafés of Reykjavik, soak in hot geothermal pools, listen to new Icelandic music, and learn about the country's rich literary tradition.

Iceland  
Writers  
Retreat

[www.IcelandWritersRetreat.com](http://www.IcelandWritersRetreat.com)

email: [eliza@elizareid.com](mailto:eliza@elizareid.com)

Please help make Christmas better for those less fortunate in Iceland. The Icelandic National League of North America is once again coordinating the donations.

Make a contribution to the "Mother'sFund" (Mæðrastyrksnefnd). Since 1928, they have been supporting those in need, allocating food and clothing to people. In the memo part of your check, write the name of your home club. Funds must be to the INLNA by 01 Dec 2013.

Make cheque payable to: INL of NA 'Mother's Fund.'

Mail to: INL of NA, 103 – 94 1st Ave. Gimli, MB R0C 1B1

or visit website

*Sólin skín alltaf með söng í hjarta þínu (The sun always shines with a song in your heart)*

Bestu Kveðjur,  
Sunna Furstenau  
[www.icelandicroots.com](http://www.icelandicroots.com)

*Do you know any young Icelanders who have never traveled to North America? Help spread the word about the Snorri West Program. Application deadline is March 3, 2014. For more information visit the website: <http://www.snorri.is/snorri-west1.html> and Page 5.*

Canola fields of Alberta



## Linda's Lore

### MADE IN CANADA EH?

The recent collapse of the garment factory building in Bangladesh has shed light on a situation most Canadians had given little thought. The great price for a Joe Fresh garment they picked up at Lo-blaw's, or the tote bag given out to guests at a fund-raising event to hold all the swag gifts. These inexpensive products are everywhere...we can't escape them.

Now that the Rama Plaza building has collapsed, we understand the cost in human lives paid by the workers and their families. You may have wondered how you can be more conscientious in the ways you spend your money. It's a complex issue...if people stop buying clothing made in Bangladesh...then what happens to the workers who depend upon these factory jobs to support their families? If you decide to wait to hear about the improved safety standards and working conditions before purchasing 'Fast Fashion' from Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Indonesia or other developing

countries...there is something you can do.

It's called 'Slow Fashion' and is made in Canada. You can find these products at the One Of A Kind Show at the Direct Energy Building at the CNE grounds from November 28 to Dec 8. And there are loads of other things too. Soaps, candies, candles, arts, quilts, thousands of items from vendors making everything by hand, by Canadian standards, with quality and care.

I'll be there. For the past several months I have been busy in my studio, making luxurious leather and fur designs, enough to last for the eleven-day duration of the One Of A Kind Show. The main principle that inspires me is one learned from both my Mom and Dad... "Waste not, want not". Each garment or accessory requires me to use every bit of the pelt or hide. It is this concept that has resulted in each piece being unique, each one different from the others. Please come and see the results.



The collection will be available in Booth Q43, near the main stage. You can also purchase other wonderful 'slow' products made by artisans from all parts of Canada.

Bless,  
Linda

The One of a Kind Show  
[www.oneofakindshow.com](http://www.oneofakindshow.com)

Nov 28 to Dec 8, 10 am to 8 pm  
Direct Energy Building, CNE grounds

## Nordic Nights presents: The Deep January 21, 2014

*First public screening in Toronto since the Toronto International Film Festival!*

Tuesday January 21

Doors @ 6:30, Movie @ 7 pm

THIS EVENT IS FREE

Donations to the club are welcome

Rogers Communications Centre

80 Gould Street

(corner of Gould and Church)

RCC-204 (Eaton Lecture Theatre, second floor) wheelchair-accessible external entrance, elevator.

Based on an astonishing true incident, *The Deep* fashions a modern-day everyman myth about the sole survivor of a shipwreck, whose superhuman will to survive made him both an inexplicable scientific phenomenon and a national hero

From his debut in 2000 with *101 Reykjavík* through *Jar City* and this year's *Contraband*, Kormákur has been drawn to characters who struggle to establish an uneasy peace with their circumstances and the people around

them. In some ways, *The Deep* is a film he's been working towards since the beginning of his career.

Director: Baltasar Kormákur

Writers: Jón Atli Jónasson, Baltasar Kormákur

Stars: Ólafur Darri Ólafsson, Stefán Hallur Stefánsson, Jóhann G. Jóhannsson  
Icelandic with English subtitles.

**Congratulations** to our newest Lifetime Honourary Members: Don Gislason and Gail Einarson-McCleery. The announcement was made at the AGM in September.



# Young Woman of Icelandic descent, Maddie Pekary, from Ottawa, wins award. By: Allan Miller

A young woman of Icelandic descent from Ottawa, Maddie Pekary, has just been given the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award at a ceremony in Toronto.

Maddie writes, "The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award requires Community Service, a Skill, Physical Activity, and Adventurous Journey, and a Residential Project. Over the course of 2 and a half years, I completed over 100 volunteer hours with the Ottawa Medical Venturer Unit; took piano lessons; participated in numerous sports such as rugby, cross country skiing, and curling; planned and went on a week-long canoe trip through Algonquin Park; and my residential project took place in July 2012 when I volunteered at



Maddie with her mother and grandmother just before the awards ceremony. Photo credit unknown.

the Scouting Jamboree in Iceland."

The award was presented by HRH Prince Edward.

Maddy is also a past participant in the Snorri

program, a current member of the ICCT and is attending University in Toronto.

Congratulations, Maddie!



### NEW MEMBERS

Gillian Stone  
Laura Tate  
Rachel Yonge

### DONATIONS

Tom Einarson  
Dr. W. Goodman

## Iceland Airwaves Showcase is coming to Toronto!

TUESDAY November 19th  
at the Horseshoe Tavern in TORONTO

Did you miss Iceland Airwaves in October? Don't worry! Some of our favourite Icelandic bands are coming to Toronto for a free concert with Prins Póló, Hermigervill, Hjaltalín. Want to see the show?

If you are a current member of the ICCT you have a chance to be placed on a guaranteed entry list. Space is limited so enter

your name now! All you have to do is email us at [socialmedia@icct.info](mailto:socialmedia@icct.info)! Subject line Iceland Airwaves Showcase. Please provide your name and phone number

No access to email? Please call ICCT president Karen Helena at 416-817-7642 and leave a voice message. She will return your call and confirm your



membership status.

\*Guaranteed entry is open to ICCT members with active memberships only. Non-paying subscribers and expired memberships

## It's time for our annual Iceland Travel Showcase

Date: Sunday Feb 23rd  
Location: Morningside High Park Pres.Church,  
4 Morningside Ave  
Time: 2:30pm

## SNORRI West 2013 and Upcoming 2104 Program

“Can we come again next year?” “It was the best adventure of my life”, “I learned so much about the Icelanders who moved to North America in the late 1800’s”.

These are just a few of the comments from the four young women who took part in Snorri West 2013, traveling about 3000 km within N.A., while visiting Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North Dakota July 10 to August 7.

It was very rewarding for me to get feedback from the co-ordinators shortly after the participants arrived, saying what wonderful girls they were and how interested they were in learning about N.A., looking at every picture and reading every word in the museums. So much so, that it was hard to keep to the schedule, especially because they also took about 6000 pictures en route! We couldn't have chosen better candidates than Svandís Einarsdóttir, Gerður Gautsdóttir, Hulda Lilja Hannesdóttir, and Þorbjörg Ída Ívarsson... everyone

appreciated their enthusiasm and the talents which they shared along the way.

Now, we are looking ahead to 2014, and are planning an eastern corridor, starting with the June 17th going on to the Kinmount and Hekkla settlement areas, Toronto, and then to Ottawa for Canada Day July 1. After this Parks Canada has invited the participants to visit L' Anse Aux Meadows in Newfoundland, the site where Snorri Þórfinnsson (for whom the program is named) was believed to be born. The final stop will be Halifax in Nova Scotia.

We look forward to filling in details of the plan and encourage anyone in our club areas (especially the young people) who is interested in helping to organize, become a tour guide or a host family, or to contribute financially, to get in touch with me. And we also appreciate everyone spreading the word about the program amongst their friends and relatives in Iceland.

And I must put in a word about how thankful we are for the tremendous help and organizational details which all the INL of NA clubs, coordinators for Snorri West 2013, host families, our overall coordinator celebrations in Washington, DC, Sarah Isliefson, Ásta Sól Kristjansdóttir of the Snorri Foundation, my committee Sunna Pam Furstenau and Serena Goebel and others put into the program to result in such a success.

I also want to thank Icelandair, Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, Lögberg-Heimskringla, clubs and individuals in Calgary, Markerville, Edmonton, Vattnabygg, Winnipeg, Mountain, Gimli, Brandon and Toronto, as well as individual donors, whose financial contributions made this program possible.

Gail Einarson-McCleery, Culture and Youth Director, INL of NA  
[www.snorri.is](http://www.snorri.is)  
[www.inlofna.org](http://www.inlofna.org)





## The Kindness of Strangers

by Emily Payne from Vancouver (stayed at Egilsstaðir).

During my three week stay in Egilsstaðir (on the Snorri Program) an aspect of Icelandic life that stood out for me was the kindness of strangers. To begin with an Icelandic couple welcomed me into their home for three weeks, simply because I was distantly related to them. To be exact, my host mother was my great-great grandfather's sister's descendent. For Sigridur, that was enough to call me a frænka.

Despite the kindness shown to me by Sigridur and her husband, living in Egilsstaðir was a bigger adjustment for me than I thought it would be. I am lucky enough to have travelled a fair bit in my life and thought that I had a good handle on being immersed in another culture. I was wrong. My host family speaks as much English as I do Icelandic. This was the first hurdle I had to jump over. While I knew that their English was limited before I arrived in Egilsstaðir I don't think there is anything that would have prepared me for the first night when I realized that I had absolutely no idea how to communicate with my family. Hello culture shock!

As time passed, and I learned a bit more Icelandic, we found a way to understand each other. Sometimes. However, sometimes a look or a gesture was enough to say the words that neither one of us could communicate. For example, I had mentioned to Sigridur's sister in-law, who spoke English, that I was interested in buying an Icelandic sweater and asked if she knew if they were less expensive in the more rural towns. She didn't know but mentioned that her mother in law did knit. Fast forward to a couple nights later when I was pulled into a room and handed a stack of sweater pattern books. Without words the meaning was clear.



My hosts were not the only Icelanders to show me such unconditional kindness. I worked at the museum my first week of volunteering. My boss, Unnur, took it upon herself to show me parts of Iceland I would not have been able to see otherwise. Her fiancé worked for the fire department and had to drive to two areas of Iceland for work related reasons. One night after a long day of work, and one workday afternoon, Unnur and her fiancé played tour guide for me in Neskaupstaður and Borgarfjörður Eystri. They not only drove me through the towns stopping at certain points but also imparted their knowledge about the region on the drive along the way.

Freyja's host family (a fellow Snorri) was also so incredibly kind to me. Working at the museum didn't allow me to meet any Icelandic youth. During the second weekend of the program I was invited to spend the night at their place in Eskifjörður after a dune buggy competition in Egilsstaðir. The next weekend they invited me to join them on their

trip to Akureyri. Ragna had contacted Asta Sol to see where we were going on our tour and made sure that we were seeing parts of Iceland that we wouldn't otherwise experience. For example, Freyja, Soley, and I had the opportunity to swim in a cave and went to Dettifoss.

I switched jobs part way through my time in Iceland and my new coworkers were wonderful. One in particular wanted to make sure that I experienced as much of the local region and nature as I could. She would later drive me an hour out of the way to a hotel in the highlands that had hot tubs overlooking the mountains. According to her, I simply couldn't leave Iceland without going there.

Despite my initial panic in living in a town that I could see all sides of, and was approximately the size of my high school population, as well as not speaking the language. The kindness of the Icelandic people is the reason my trip is as amazing as it is. The people I have met have been so excited to show me the area, and the best that Iceland has to

## The Kindness of Strangers continued from previous page

offer. I am so happy to have been a part of the Snorri Program because I know that I would not have had the same experiences meeting and talking to the locals and getting to know an area if I had been travelling by myself in Iceland.

Yesterday I went to my ancestral farm. Someone in my family has owned and worked on the property since the 1700s. I stood on the land where my great-great grandfather once lived. And while he did leave for Canada, Iceland is

my history and where my roots are. After this experience of living in Iceland I feel a sense of pride in being a quarter Icelandic that I don't think I had before.

### DEADLINES FOR SNORRI ARE COMING UP IN JANUARY...

The Snorri Program - 6 week  
Ages 18-28 Deadline January 14, 2014  
Snorri Plus - 2 weeks in August  
Ages 30+ Deadline January 28, 2014  
[www.snorri.is](http://www.snorri.is)  
[info@snorri.is](mailto:info@snorri.is)

The ICCT and the INL offer different scholarships and grants for educational and cultural programs such as the Snorri Program and University Scholarships.

- ◇ Snorri West Program application due March 3rd 2014
  - ◇ Icelandic Government Scholarship for University of Iceland application due January 15th 2014
  - ◇ ICCT University Scholarship application due February 28th, 2014
- For more information visit our website [www.icct.info](http://www.icct.info) and search the menu "programs/scholarships" or email [contact@icct.info](mailto:contact@icct.info).

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## Icelandic National League of North America October 2013 Meeting Highlights

By: Rob Olason

**The 2014 INL of NA Winnipeg Convention May 15-18, 2014:** Registration will be through the Lögberg-Heimskringla website, or by mailing in the registration. Convention details are being developed. Visit [www.inlofna.org](http://www.inlofna.org) for more information.

**Honourary Lifetime Awards and Laurence Johnson Award:** Nomination deadline is January 31, 2014. Awardees will be announced at the convention.

**Snorri West Update:** The 2014 program goes to Washington, D.C., Toronto, Kinmount, Hekkla, Ottawa, L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland and Halifax. A presentation on the program was made at the INL of Iceland and used a small fraction of the 6,000 photos snapped by the 2013 Snorri West members. See [www.snorri.is](http://www.snorri.is) and [www.inlofna.org](http://www.inlofna.org)

**Icelandic Charity Christmas Donations:** The INL of NA will again gather donations from local clubs and individuals willing to donate to the "Mother's Charity" in Iceland. Deadline is Dec. 1, so the funds can reach Iceland before Christmas.

**Developing a non-profit U.S. based organization to help financially support the INL of NA:** An investigation into creating a non-profit organization was announced. Several legal issues need to be resolved but if the status could be created, this could be a means to raise funds for INL of NA operations.

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**Jolastjornur is a delightful collection of Christmas Carols in Icelandic.** The CD features a wide variety of Icelandic musicians, singers and a church choir: Kór Glerákkirkja, from Akureyri, Iceland. Created and produced in Iceland by Western Icelander, Kyle Guðmundson, this unique Christmas music CD can be shared as a quality gift.

The CD is \$20 with part of the proceeds going to the ICCT.

### CONTACT:

Lynne Thorkelsson, 1680 Scugog St. Port Perry ON L9L 1E2 or online at <http://www.icct.info/shop/jolastjornur-christmas-cd>

It is quick and easy to order it with your membership renewal.