



# FÁLKINN

July/August 2000

ICCT FÁLKINN 41<sup>st</sup> Year, Number 2

## VIKINGS IN CANADA GALA

**NEWS FLASH:** Doors will be opening at **6:00 p.m.** at the Glenn Gould Studio on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The most recent additions to the program include the addition of astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason and a special presentation by the Minister of Foreign Affairs from Iceland.



### A VERY WELCOMED

### GUEST TO PRESENT GIFT OF SAGAS TO CANADIANS AT GALA

The honourable Halldór Ásgrímsson, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Iceland, is a well-known figure in Icelandic as well as international politics. During the time that he served as Minister of Fisheries, he was instrumental in introducing the new system of fishery management in Iceland. Although controversial in the beginning, the basis of this system is now widely acclaimed as the best fishery management system in the world. Halldór Ásgrímsson has served as the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade for five years now, a period regarded in many respects as a very active period in the history of the Icelandic Foreign service. Now the Ministry is preparing to open two new Icelandic Embassies in the world: One in Japan and the second in Ottawa. The Ottawa embassy will be opened next year. This year the Foreign Ministry of Iceland has had its first diplomatic representative in Canada, Consul General Svavar Gestsson, who also serves as the Special Envoy for Millennium Affairs. Through this office of the Foreign Ministry in Winnipeg, approximately 200 events have been organized throughout Canada.

**Date:** *Tuesday, August 1*  
**Time:** *6:00 p.m. doors open*  
**Location:** *Glenn Gould Studio*  
**Tickets:** *(416) 205-5555 Adults \$40, Seniors/Students \$25.*

Halldór Ásgrímsson is an exceptionally welcomed guest to the Millennium celebrations in Ontario. Having just come from welcoming the crew of the Viking ship Íslendingur, Mr. Ásgrímsson is going to unveil a statue on July 31<sup>st</sup> in Kinmount. The day after, on August 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Ásgrímsson will take part in the Viking Gala display of Icelandic talent.

Prior to the Viking Gala event, Mr. Ásgrímsson will bring the Icelandic sagas to the Canadian nation as a gift from the Icelandic nation. (This translation has been many years in the making and has involved translators from all over the world. It is being hailed as the best version available.) The President of the Icelandic National League of North America, Sigrid Johnson, will receive the books from the Minister.

The official handover at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by a reception hosted by the Icelandic Minister of Foreign Affairs, with the Vikings in Canada Gala following at 7:30 p.m.

Travelling with Halldór Ásgrímsson will be his wife Sigurjóna Sigurdardóttir, Ambassador Hjalmar Hannesson, his wife Anna Birgis, Consul General Svavar Gestsson and his wife Guðrún Ágústsdóttir.

### COME AND CELEBRATE IN KINMOUNT!

Join in the historic event commemorating the first large Icelandic settlement to Canada in 1874. The Icelandic National League, the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, and the Ontario

**Date:** *Monday, July 31*  
**Time:** *7:00 p.m. (Bus 3:30 p.m.)*  
**Location:** *Kinmount Railway Station*  
**Bus:** *Bus from Toronto \$25 call Jim Gibson (416) 293-2324*

Heritage Foundation are pleased to invite you to the unveiling of the Provincial Plaque and monument commemorating the Icelandic settlement in Kinmount, Ontario, on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at the railway station in the Kinmount Heritage Park.

*(Cont. on Page 8, See Kinmount)*

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- July 24-Aug. 6** Viking Exhibit, Metro Hall
- July 28** Arrival of Viking Flotilla led by "Íslendingur" at L'Anse aux Meadows
- July 28 - Aug. 7** "Celebrating our Heritage Through the Arts" - Kinmount Arts Festival
- July 31** Kinmount Dedication Ceremony
- August 1** Vikings in Canada Gala - Glenn Gould Studio, CBC Building, Toronto
- Sat. Sept. 16 & Sun. Sept. 17** Icelandic Canadian Art Display
- Sept. 21-23** Viking Film Festival
- Oct. 6 to Dec. 3** London, ON Arni Haraldsson - a solo exhibition of his photo-based work

## NEWS

### ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE...

On the afternoon of June 17<sup>th</sup>, an earthquake registering 6.5 on the Richter scale shook south Iceland. The epicentre was 9 km south of Árnes, near the village of Hella in south Iceland.

This was the largest earthquake in south Iceland since 1912, and it was felt as far away as the West Fjords. Worst hit was the village of Hella, where more than 30 houses were damaged, and a glass factory sustained serious damage.

It was fortunate that most people were gathered in community halls celebrating National Day and this, no doubt, accounts for the fact that there were no injuries.

### NAME THOSE SHEEP!

A Canadian farmer asked Iceland Telecom to send him an Icelandic phone book so that he could give Icelandic names to his Icelandic sheep. According to Iceland Telecom they often receive requests for old phone books. This particular request was submitted by e-mail. The farmer keeps Icelandic sheep and wanted to give them authentic Icelandic names, and therefore asked for a phone book. "There is probably a Jón or a Gunna bleating out there."

The letter from the farmer did not state whether he was of Icelandic origin or not.

### ICCT PICNIC AND SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

While the weather in Toronto was dreary, the sun shone on the ICCT picnic up at Erla Macaulay's Farm.

ICCT President, Ellen Gilmore, presented the ICCT Scholarship to Nicholas Sidlar (pictured at right). Nicholas has chosen to go into biomedical research, with an interest in helping people through medicine. There is a family history in medicine, with one of Nicholas' ancestors being a homeopathic doctor (first in Iceland and then Canada), and



his great grandmother who was a midwife (in Iceland). Proud family members were in attendance: Jean Davidson, Gary & Brenda Sidlar, and Chris Sidlar.



In addition to the fun and games for the kids, there was also the entertainment provided by the children's choir. Everyone enjoyed the songs which were sung in Icelandic. There was also a dog who was quite vocal in his opinions.

Thanks again to Erla Macaulay for the location, and to Óli Kristjansson and Krístrún Ingólfssdóttir for their help in organizing the event.

## 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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Senior Single \$15.

**Webpage:** <http://web.idirect.com/~icct/>

## CLUB NEWS

**Thank you** to the following members for donations: Stella Hansen - *in memory of Rosa Vernon*, Gigi Fridriksson - *in memory of Rosa Vernon*; **Kinmount:** Saeplast Canada (flagpole), Clark Allen, Konrad Egilson - *in memory of the Icelandic pioneers who lost their lives in this venture*, Leslie Paulson - *in memory of Pall Bjarnason*, Grace MacPherson - *in memory of the Train family, who were also early settlers in Kinmount*, Kenneth Johnson - *in memory of Marin & Emily Johnson*, Sylvia Masales - *in memory of Skafti Arnason*, Edward & Kathy McGuirl - *in memory of Kathleen McGuirl Francis (nee Hopkins)*, M. Grace Brown; **Millennium events:** Doris Swick.

### welcome to new members:

Tina Groves (Kanata), Martha Watt & Michael Gareau (Orleans), Kenneth & Jennifer Johnson (Baltimore MD), Alice Magnusson (Langley BC), Tom Steers (Toronto), Lisa Gibson, Rod Walker & Gillian Walker (Toronto), Irene Latam (Red Deer AB), Millie Jonsson (Unionville), M. Grace Brown (Fenelon Falls).

### OBITUARIES:

**Rosa Vernon**, a founding member of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, passed away on June 28. Rosa was in her 102<sup>nd</sup> year. She was an Honorary member of both the ICCT, and the Icelandic National League. She was born in Selkirk on May 23, 1899, the sixth child of Gudrun Snjolaug Eriksson and Hermann G. Hermannsson, and, at the age of two, moved with her family to Winnipeg Beach. She began her working career in Winnipeg in 1915, with Eaton's Mail Order Dept.

Rosa was a gifted vocalist, and in 1929 obtained a transfer from Eaton's to Toronto, so she could further her vocal studies at the Royal Conservatory. She made many professional appearances on radio and early television programmes. In the mid 1930's she was married to Roy Clinton Vernon, and they raised two daughters. Due to her husband's failing health, Rosa returned to the work force, and managed the office of Redi-Set Business Forms. She eventually mastered the comptometer and hired herself out once again to Eaton's - work she did not give up until the age of 72.

Rosa's many friends have fond memories, and those of us in the Icelandic Canadian Community appreciate the major effort she made on our behalf. She is survived by daughters Dorothy (Joe Nash) of London, Etty (Ken Green) of Toronto, grandchildren Kelly, Tracy, Terry and Stacey, as well as six great grandchildren.

Our condolences to George Salvorson and his family on the passing of his wife **Olive**, better known in the early days of CBC Radio as **Sandra Scott**. Sandra was a leading lady in the famous CBC Stage series for several years, working with all the greats of the golden years of Canadian radio.



## **VIKINGS IN CANADA GALA - TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2000 A CELEBRATION OF ICELANDIC- CANADIAN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

Our celebration of Viking-themed Icelandic contributions to the Canadian mosaic combining music, art, film, science and literary readings is being held Tuesday, August 1, 2000 at the Glenn Gould Studio in the CBC Broadcast Centre in Toronto. This is the first time a large group of world renowned Icelandic-Canadian artists will all be on the same stage at the same time, a real "star-studded" event! This is our way of celebrating the millennium of the first European settlement in North America - that of Leif Eriksson at L'Anse Aux Meadows in Newfoundland.

On arrival, guests will be greeted by a symbolic Viking ship and women in traditional Icelandic dress, along with Vikings in costume. Hosts for the evening will be Lorna Jackson, known for her performances on CBC, and former broadcaster, Winnipeg area MP John Harvard; the event will begin at 6:30 p.m., with a reception hosted by the Foreign Minister of Iceland, and will include Icelandic appetizers.

Honoured guests will include the Foreign Minister of Iceland, Halldór Ásgrímsson, Consul-General for Iceland in Canada Svavar Gestsson and his wife Guðrún Ágústsdóttir and Ontario Honorary Consul Jon Johnson; also invited are Canadian dignitaries and honorary Icelandic consuls from across the country, including Heather Alda Ireland from Vancouver, who will lead us in the anthems, accompanied by Paul Thorlakson from California. Highlights of the Gala include:

- Astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason with accounts of his travels in space.
- Readings by writers W.D. Valgardson (head of Creative Writing Dept., University of Victoria) and David Arnason (head of Icelandic & English Departments, University of Manitoba), Betty Jane Wylie (author of 39 non-fiction works) and Maja Ardal reading from her new play "Midnight Sun"(set in northern Iceland in 1942)
- Film clips from distinguished film-makers, including Sturla Gunnarsson ("Such a Long Journey"), Leif Bristow ("Handel's Last Chance") Guy Maddin ("Tales from Gimli Hospital"), Andy Blicq ("Tied by Blood") and Jon Einars Gustafsson ("The Importance of Being Icelandic") plus a panel discussion on Icelanders and film.

- Folk-rock singer-songwriter Lindy, plus our children's choir who will sing in Icelandic
- Clothing from Linda Lundström, fashion entrepreneur.
- Storytelling of the ancient Icelandic Sagas by Carol McGirr, along with film clips of the discovery of the Viking ruins and the landing of the new Viking ship Íslendingur on July 28th.
- On display in the lobby will be a specially-commissioned Norse triptych by artist Leslie Cochrane, painter, teacher and illustrator whose works are in private collections in Canada, USA and Europe.
- Tom Bjarnason, whose oeuvre ranges from stamp design, airplane paintings, illustrations for Readers Digest and other publications, to his most recent works, assemblages incorporating painting and "salvaged" pieces, has produced a special Norse work for us.
- Gudrun Sigursteinsdottir Girgis, commissioned by the ICCT to produce our monument to the Kinmount pioneers; her previous works will be on display, along with photos of her latest work, and footage of the dedication of her memorial the previous night.

Following the stage show, there will be a chance to meet the artists and to partake of traditional Icelandic delicacies. Travel information on Iceland will be available.

This Gala is open to the public. TICKETS - Glenn Gould Box Office (416) 205-5555 Adults \$40 Seniors/Students \$25 All major credit cards accepted.

This program has been made possible by grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Toronto Arts Council and the Millennium Office of Iceland, as well as donations from Joe Martin, Donald Johnson, Honorary Consul Jon Johnson, contributions from Linda Lundström Inc., Diana G. Bristow, Vice President Nesbitt BMO Burns, Cameron McCleery Productions, "The Nature of Things", and many individual donors.

For more information, contact: Gail Einarson-McCleery (416) 762-8627 E-mail: icegem@compuserve.com

Since so much interest has been expressed in the Gala program, additional information about the participants follows...

## HOSTS:

**LORNA JACKSON** has been heard on many CBC programs over the years, including Gilmour's Albums. Most recently she has been guiding listeners through weekend listening by providing them with informative and entertaining program information, as well as delivering The World This Weekend. She began her CBC career as a freelance producer and editor for CBC TV in Edmonton. She then moved to radio, where she hosted many shows. For the past three years, she has been working on the

award-winning CBC Radio website for children, CBC4KIDS.ca. She was born in Winnipeg and brought up in Edmonton.

**JOHN HARVARD** is currently serving his third term as a Member of Parliament. He was first elected in November 1988 and currently represents Charleswood St. James-Assiniboia. He has been Chairman of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food since September 1998 and has also served in many other capacities during his time in Parliament. Prior to entering politics, Mr. Harvard was an award winning broadcaster and journalist. His thirty year career was in both Radio and Television; the last eighteen years with the CBC.

## WRITERS:

**MAJA ARDAL** spent seven seasons as Artistic Director of Young People's Theatre in Toronto and has now returned to her acting career while developing her other interest, writing. Born in Iceland and raised in Scotland before moving to Canada, Maja has taught at the National Theatre School and directed plays at the Shaw Festival and the Grand Theatre among others. Her years at YPT were very successful, overseeing many successful ground-breaking productions and gaining much critical acclaim. Her latest project is a play set in northern Iceland in 1942 which is in development for presentation in 2001.

**DAVID ARNASON** is a Winnipeg writer, editor and teacher. His works include two collections of poetry, four collections of short stories and two non-fiction works, as well as five stage plays and numerous film scripts and radio plays. In addition, he has edited several books on Canadian writing and performed in reading tours throughout the U.S. and Europe. He is presently head of the Icelandic and English Departments at the University of Manitoba and has recently completed a documentary film Tied by Blood, a Canada-Iceland co-production about his search for his roots in both Manitoba and Iceland.

**W.D. VALGARDSON** received his education at the University of Manitoba and the University of Iowa. He is currently the Chairman of the Department of Creative Writing at the University of Victoria. He has written many articles for refereed journals and periodicals; books of poetry, short stories and novels before turning his hand to children's literature. His many awards include the Mr. Christie Award for Thor, the Books in Canada Award for Gentle Sinners as best first novel of the year, and the 1999 Governor General's Award nomination for The Divorced Kids Club and Other Short Stories.

**BETTY JANE WYLIE** started her creative life as a poet, before turning to playwriting, journalism & non-fiction. She has published 35 books ranging over a wide area of interest and including biography, self-help,

inspiration, cookbooks, plays, children's plays and puppet plays, belles lettres, poetry and financial planning. She was a founding member of the Periodical Writers' Association and the Playwrights' Union as well as Chair of the Writers' Union 1988-89. Her latest book, Letters to Icelanders, explores the theme of the relationship between present day Icelandic-Canadians and Iceland.

### **STORYTELLER:**

**CAROL MCGIRR** has a long history as a story-teller and has appeared at festivals across Canada including the Lunenburg Harbour Folk Festival and at the Toronto Festival for the last 21 years. She founded Fireside Epic which produces five concerts a year which deal with saga, myth and epic. She is particularly renowned for her telling of the Icelandic sagas.

### **SCIENCE:**

**BJARNI TRYGGVASON** born in Reykjavik in 1945, educated in Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Ontario, Bjarni participated in his first space flight on August 18, 1997 aboard Space Shuttle Discovery. His major role on this flight was focussed on further tests of the Microgravity Vibration Isolation Mount (MIM). He serves as a Canadian Space Agency representative on the NASA Microgravity Measurement Working Team. In August 1998, he was invited by NASA to take part in their 1998 Mission Special at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, which consists of intense training for future missions.

### **MUSICIANS:**

**LINDY** started his singing career in his hometown of Winnipeg at a very young age - he toured Canada in a yellow school bus with a folk singing group consisting of himself, his parents and brother. A move to Victoria followed; he and his brother then formed a folk rock group called Northern Junk. In 1995 he recorded his first solo CD Keeping Me Awake. Since then he has toured the country several times playing cafes, clubs, and festivals and now makes his home in Toronto.

**HEATHER ALDA IRELAND** is the Honorary Consul for Iceland in Vancouver. A mezzo soprano, she received the Gold Medal in Music upon graduating from the University of Manitoba. She is also an Associate of the Toronto Royal Conservatory of Music. She has sung on Canadian and Icelandic radio and TV and appeared as soloist with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and several choirs in Vancouver. She edited and published "Aurora", poems by her grandfather, Guttormur J.Guttormsson in Icelandic and English..

**PAUL THORLAKSON** is a pianist who was born in Toronto and now lives in Redding, California, where he is Chair of the Music Department and teaches piano and theory at Simpson College. He received his Bachelor of Music and Performance at the University of Toronto and his ARCT at the

Royal Conservatory. Following this, he did his Masters and Doctorate of Musical Arts at Louisville, Kentucky. He also serves on the College of Examiners for the Royal Conservatory. Paul is married with three daughters.

### **NON-PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS:**

To add more of an Icelandic-Canadian flavour, our newly formed choir of young children will sing Icelandic songs, conducted by Brenda Bjarnason who has been involved with many musical and theatrical experiences and sung with the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir.

### **FILM-MAKERS:**

**ANDY BLICQ** has been a CBC-TV Current Affairs field producer since 1986. At present, he works on Country Canada, CBC Television's long-running network program on rural life. His involvement with the Icelandic community includes directing Tied by Blood, an international co-production between Icelandic TV and Canada's History Channel as well as documentaries such as Gimli Waltz, Requiem for the Suzanne E, and Hecla Island. He has won more than 20 local, national and international awards.

**LEIF BRISTOW** formed Knightscope Entertainment Corporation for the purpose of financing, producing and/or distributing feature length commercial films for the family entertainment market and is the company's President, CEO and Director. Bristow was Senior VP and Director of Business Affairs for Devine Entertainment. He acted as an associate producer and co-ordinator of financing for the production of three HBO series entitled The Composers' Specials, The Inventors' Specials and The Artists' Specials, which won numerous awards. In the last year, Bristow has produced, directed and assisted in the creation of an independent series for teens and pre-teen audiences, entitled Wexford for TV Ontario. His background includes spending childhood times in Gimli, Manitoba, and he later performed professionally as an actor and a singer and is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Pasadena, California.

**STURLA GUNNARSSON** moved to Vancouver from Iceland as a young boy. After studying English literature at UBC, he turned to film-making with the National Film Board. His highly dramatic documentaries, such as Final Offer and After the Axe won many awards and earned an Oscar nomination. In his first feature film, Diplomatic Immunity, he established himself as a director who told personal stories of ordinary people caught in the whirlpool of historic events. Many television films followed and then his second feature, Such a Long Journey, which garnered many awards, along with critical acclaim. He and his wife and family make their home in Toronto.

**JON EINARS GUSTAFSSON** is a film and theatre director. He was born and raised in Iceland, and immigrated to Canada three years ago. He has directed eleven documentaries for television, including "The Importance of Being Icelandic"

for the CBC. Other work includes nine theatre productions, five short films, television commercials and music videos. Jon studied film making in Manchester, England, and at the California Institute of the Arts. He recently completed his first feature film, entitled Kanadiana.

**GUY MADDIN** is a rather unusual film-maker. His body of work has been described "as beautiful as it is confounding and delirious. He combines the language of pat cinema, with which he is most intimately familiar from his countless hours of film viewing, with a pre-cinematic sensibility learned from the books he voraciously devours." His films include Tales from the Gimli Hospital, Archangel, Twilight of the Ice Nymphs and Careful. A new film is planned for this summer.

## ARTISTS:

**TOM BJARNASON** was born in the Icelandic community in Winnipeg and studied at the Winnipeg School of Art and Meinzingers Art School in Detroit before starting an illustrious career in advertising and publishing in England and Toronto. He was commissioned by the Dept. of National Defence to produce paintings of the RCAF, five of which are in the National War Museum. The ship series of stamps was produced by Tom, as well as 21 other stamps. More recently, he has started experimenting with three dimensional art using mixed media; all on a very large scale in contrast with his stamps. He is producing a special piece for this Gala with a Norse theme.

**LESLIE COCHRANE** is an artist and teacher of art. Her art has been influenced by her close association with the landscape of Canada as seen from her father's bush plane, as well as the overpowering presence of the landscape of Iceland. For this Gala, she is producing a Norse tryptich in oil in which the images contain an ancient historical reference in addition to a reflection of her own Icelandic roots and early upbringing in Manitoba. In recent years, her work has been shown in solo exhibitions at the North York Centre and at Nancy Poole's Studio; group exhibitions include the Oakville Centennial Gallery and the Art Gallery of Ontario; collections include Canada Packers and the Royal Bank.

**GUDRUN SIGURSTEINSDOTTIR GIRGIS** was born in Iceland and moved to Canada as a young woman, thereby fulfilling a childhood wish to live in this country. Having pursued studies in Iceland and Sweden, she continued her art education in Canada; most recently with George Pratt, an accomplished sculptor formerly from Haliburton and now living in Vancouver. Her works in stone tend to the abstract and she was commissioned to produce a sculpture representing the Icelandic pioneers who emigrated to Kinmount, Ontario, which is to be dedicated July 31<sup>st</sup> this year.

## FASHION:

**LINDA LUNDSTRÖM** is an Icelandic-Swedish fashion designer who came from Red Lake, Ontario to build a multi-million dollar business. She is most well known for LA PARKA, an all-Canadian design which pays tribute to native culture. A much sought-after motivational speaker, Linda has received many awards for business and design excellence, including an appointment to the Order of Ontario in 1996. In addition, she has been recognized for her outstanding contribution to the community, due in part to her corporate outreach program committed to assisting women's shelters, native groups and environmental causes.

## BEHIND THE SCENES:

**GAIL EINARSON-McCLEERY** is the Chair of the Gala Committee and producer of the event. She has a long history in the arts, having worked for the CBC in Winnipeg, Vancouver and Toronto for 30 years. During this time she worked on CBC Radio programs including Metro Morning and in CBC Television as a Unit Manager on arts shows, made-for-TV movies and documentaries. During her last few years at CBC she was a Manager in the TV Arts and Entertainment area. Since becoming active in the Icelandic community, she has been Newsletter Editor and President of the ICCT and is now International Visits Director for the Icelandic National League. In this capacity she has organized four exchange Visits with Iceland.

**ARDEN JACKSON-SNOW** is an interior designer and teacher. She has recently left her teaching assignments at Ryerson Polytechnic University to concentrate on her own interior design business. With 20 years experience, she has participated in the completion of over 300 design projects as either a designer, creative director, team leader or project manager for urban and rural projects ranging in size from 100 s.f. to 500,000 s.f. with varying complexity of work including residential, corporate, institutions, retail and hospitality projects. Arden will be responsible for the overall "look" of the Gala, from designing the Viking boat replica to putting together the stage elements and decorating the lobby.

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## INL RAFFLE FOR 2000

The Icelandic National League, as a fund-raiser, is raffling off money prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100. Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. There are 2000 tickets printed. If you would like tickets, please call Ellen Gilmore at (905) 889-9937.

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## VIKING SHIP, ÍSLENDINGUR

You may wish to follow the progress of the Icelandic Viking ship, the "Ísleendingur", as it makes its way across the North Atlantic to Greenland. The Ísleendingur, with Captain Gunnar Marel Eggertsson and a crew of eight, left Reykjavík harbour on June 17, and sailed north to Eiríksstaðir to visit the reconstructed home of Erik the Red. From there they sailed to Ólafsvík, near the western tip of Snæfellsnes, where they laid up for ten days waiting for ice around Greenland to clear. They are on the open sea now, and the diary of Ellen Ingvadóttir will make for interesting reading as the days go by. This will truly give us all an insight into life aboard a Viking ship. Notice the tasty morsels of Viking age food the crew enjoys!

You can find their home page here:

<http://www.viking-2000.com/>

## "NAME THAT CHILDREN'S CHOIR"

### CONTEST

Here's your chance to win two tickets to the Vikings in Canada Gala in Toronto Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>!

Choir Director Brenda Bjarnason has put together a choir of young people which has been entertaining us at our Thorablót and our National Day picnic ... and they have learned two songs to sing in Icelandic at the Gala.

But they don't have a name ... here's your chance to be Leif the Lucky and win tickets to see them and all the other performers at the Gala ... just come up with a catchy name ... it must have something to do with being Icelandic!

Send your entries by July 24th to: Gail Einarson-McCleery (416) 762-8627 fax (416) 762-7107 email: [icegem@compuserve.com](mailto:icegem@compuserve.com)

## ICELANDIC CANADIAN ART DISPLAY

Sat. Sept. 16 & Sun. Sept. 17 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Northumberland Artisans Studio Tour will include Tom Bjarnason's Studio at 25 Walton St. in Port Hope. On display will be Tom's own work and that of other Icelandic Canadian artists including Joan Albert, Katrina Koven, Darla McKay, Guðrun Girgis and Leslie Cochrane.

Contact: Tom Bjarnason (905) 885-1573

## ICELAND-CANADA CONFERENCE

Dr. Szatmary, President of the University of Manitoba, and Dr. Páll Skúlason, rector of the University of Iceland, signed an agreement to formalize the existing cooperative arrangements and exchanges between the two Universities. One of the things agreed on was a conference every 18 months with the location alternating between Iceland and Winnipeg.

According to Kristín M. Jóhannsdóttir, this fall's conference "is a multi-disciplinary conference and there will be talks about The Law of New Iceland, about Stephan G., about Iceland and Canada business relations, philosophy, engineering, agriculture, Canada diaries and more. Icelandic writers will participate and an Icelandic movie will be shown (Angels of the Universe). The keynote speaker will be Kari Stefansson of DeCode, THE man in genealogy today."

More information about the conference can be found on the website at:

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/icelandic/conference2000>

## VIKING MILLENNIUM INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Club member and former scholarship winner, Kristján Ahronson, is currently working on a Ph.D. at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. Kristján will be returning to Iceland for a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> time this summer to join other archeologists in related work in his field.

Kristján will be speaking at the Viking Millennium International Symposium in Newfoundland in September about "Further Evidence for a Columban Iceland: Preliminary Results of Recent Work". Over 10 years ago, a study was completed which established a link between a tradition of simple incised crosses (with expanded terminals) and the important Early Christian monastic familia of St Columba, based in and around the small Scottish island of Iona. Intriguingly, this Columban expanded terminal cross-form bears a remarkable resemblance to a poorly understood body of cross-carvings in Southern Iceland. A connection between the two traditions would be especially interesting because the Scottish cross-form was short-lived, disappearing before the Viking Age. In other words, before the generally accepted dating of the Norse settlement of Iceland.

You can get more information about the symposium at their website: <http://www.vikingsymposium.nf.ca/>

## NEW ICELAND VILLAGE IN THE PARK

...Held in concert with the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, will be a "community" consisting of a number of tents. Each tent will be assigned to a town/village/area that has an Icelandic Connection, i.e. that was founded by Icelandic settlers and/or having an active Icelandic presence.

Each community tent will be staffed by volunteers from that community and they will display historical artifacts and cultural exhibits unique to their area.

Each community tent will also act as a "Homecoming Headquarters" for people who have roots in that area and who will be attending the Icelandic Festival. It will be an area where these people can connect with family and friends who will be in Gimli for the millennium celebration of Íslendingadagurinn.

The community tents will encircle a central common area which will serve as a gathering spot for people to meet and greet, renew friendships and to celebrate our heritage and achievements.

The ICCT will be located in one of these tents. If you are at the Íslendingadagurinn on August 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>, come and visit. If you would like to be a volunteer, call Ellen Gilmore at (905) 889-9937.

## COME AND CELEBRATE IN KINMOUNT!

*(continued)*

Transportation is available from the Don Mills Shopping Centre in Toronto at \$25.00 return. Departure time is at 3:30 p.m. at the Sports Arena at the south-west corner of the plaza. To book, call Jim Gibson at 416-293-2324.

A snack will be provided as well as entertainment by Mr. W.D. Valgardson and Mr. Don Gislason. Prior to the ceremony, transportation to the Icelandic site in Kinmount will be provided. The award-winning Haliburton Highlands Silver Flute Band open the ceremony by marching through Kinmount and entering the Heritage Park. Soprano, Heather Alda Ireland who is also the Honorary Consul of British Columbia, will lead the guests in song of both national anthems as the Canadian and the Icelandic flags are being raised. Voices will speak of the past, the present and the future. In attendance will be the Iceland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Halldór Ásgrímsson and his wife Sigurjóna Sigurdardóttir; the Consul General, Mr. Svavar Gestsson and his wife Guðrún Ágústsdóttir; Ontario M.P.P. Mr. Chris Hodgson and representatives of the district municipal governments. The ICCT and the INL invite you to the reception that follows at the Kinmount Community Hall.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

## ICELANDIC MEMORIAL BUSH

This spring, the Kinmount Committee For Planning & Economic Development initiated a project to mark the formal dedication of the Kinmount Icelandic Community Cairn which honours the first large Icelandic settlement in Canada: THE PLANTING OF ICELANDIC MEMORIAL BUSHES.

Accordingly, the purchase and planting of a "Memorial Icelandic Bush" will be a visible mark of recognition of the Icelandic settlers who helped develop this community in 1874/75. It is the goal of the committee to have all citizens of the area extend a warm welcome to members of Icelandic community by purchasing a Blue leaf Arctic Willow (*Salix purpurea* "Nana") for their yard which will also be known as - "the Icelandic Memorial Bush". The bushes will serve, not only as a welcome sign to guests from the Icelandic community, but as well, the bushes will serve as a long-term reminder of the contribution made by these pioneers to the early development of the area. The Blue Arctic Willow is hardy to zones 2b-9. It is an attractive low growing shrub with slender gray-green foliage and is suitable as either a specimen plant or for hedging. This shrub was chosen to mark this special occasion as it is a native bush in Iceland of the *Salix* variety.

Should you wish to purchase a shrub, please contact Diane Austin at 705-488-2635 or Joyce Brown at 705 488-2687.

## VIKING EXHIBIT IN TORONTO –

*The Vikings: Master Mariners, Traders, Colonists and Artisans*

This exhibition, on loan from the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, attempts to counteract the Hollywood image of Vikings as rampaging, bloodthirsty barbarians. *The Vikings*..presents a more balanced view of Vikings by providing available evidence about Viking activities in North America and Europe. The exhibition has text, illustrations, and artifact replicas from many main Viking sites in northern Europe, the temporary settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland, and the Inuit camps in the Canadian Arctic islands. The artifacts depict the Vikings as settlers, traders, shipbuilders, sailors, craftspeople and farmsteaders.

**Location: Rotunda, Metro Hall, 55 John St., Toronto**  
**Hours: Jul 24-Aug 6 Daily, 6:00am-11:00pm**