



FÁLKINN

January/February 2002

ICCT FÁLKINN, 42nd Year, Number 4

TRAVELS TO ICELAND



Join us on Sunday **February 24th** for this year's renewal of this popular event

Time: **2:30 pm**

Location: **Swansea Town Hall**, 95 Livinia St.

Come and see and hear of travelers' experiences, find out about costs, tours, websites, and pick up the latest brochures. See videos and slides on Iceland. Included will be:

- Saga Tour - Bea Magder of the William Morris Society will tell us about last year's tour of the sites of the Sagas
- Reykjavik Architecture - Eric Einarson McCleery with his favourite architectural sites in the capital
- Skagafjörður - Prof. David Noakes from the University of Guelph and his wife Pat visited the Skagafjörður area, and attended Hólar Days.
- Icelandic film and culture - Film-maker Jon Einarsson Gustafsson will show excerpts from "*101 Reykjavik*" and "*Angels of the Universe*" to illustrate Reykjavik culture
- The Cruise that Didn't Get There - Betty Jane Wylie relates her cruise adventure last year, and
- Other personal experiences of club members.

ICCT 2002 RAFFLE

Enclosed with this newsletter is a book of raffle tickets for our 2002 Raffle. This is your chance to win your very own Icelandic saga set! First prize "The Complete Sagas of Icelanders", first English translation, beautifully bound set by Leifur Eiriksson Publishing, second prize is a work of art by Icelandic Canadian artist Tom Bjarnason, and the third prize is \$200 cash. Please return money, ticket stubs, or unsold tickets to Treasurer Evelyn Trites in the envelope provided. If you require more tickets, and we hope that you will, please e-mail Evelyn at ebtrites@rogers.com or telephone 416-444-7355.

NEWS FROM ICELAND

ICELANDER PAYS FOR A BAD JOKE

An Icelandic man who was traveling from Washington to Reykjavik last week was arrested on suspicion of terrorism at the Washington airport. When asked routinely if he was carrying any dangerous weapons he replied "Well, at least I don't have any explosives in my shoes." He was arrested and questioned by police and the FBI for almost four hours before he was released. Apparently there is a proper place for everything, including frivolous remarks.

ICELANDIC DOCTOR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS PRIZE

Icelandic Doctor Karl Tryggvasson, who currently resides in Sweden, has received the Louis-Jeantet Prize for his research work on kidney disease, and for having mapped out 20 genes, which may be linked to kidney diseases. Tryggvasson said that he is honoured by being named as the recipient of this award, and that the prize money will be used to finance new treatments for kidney diseases.

VIGDÍS RECEIVES HONORARY AWARD

Former Icelandic President, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, received the French Geographical Society honorary award in a recent ceremony, which took place at the French National Assembly. The award was given for her contribution to making Iceland known in France in recent years. The French Geographical Society was founded in 1821 and Finnbogadóttir is one of only few foreigners to receive the award. She was very honoured and said. "I am deeply touched and proud." She said to the daily paper Morgunbladid that the French people consider Icelanders to be a great cultural nation, that they were very interested in the country and the sagas, as well as Laxness and contemporary writer Steinunn Sigurdardottir.

BJÖRK HAS MORE NOMINATIONS AS AWARD SEASON BEGINS

Icelandic pop diva Björk has been nominated in this years Brit Awards for best international female. She previously won this award in 1994, 1996, and 1998. And, according to Mogunbladid, Björk has been nominated for a Grammy for 'Vespertine' The Grammys ceremony will be held in LA on February 27.

CLUB NEWS

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please remember to send us your 2002 Membership Dues. Your money is necessary to sustain the normal operation of your club, including the production and mailing of this newsletter. Last year our paid membership was \$500 down from 1999, and this is money that was badly missed, because costs are fairly static, or increase through inflation. So, don't leave it up to someone else Please support us. Membership dues are \$20 for single, \$25 for family, \$20 for senior couple, or \$15 for senior single. Please send your cheque payable to ICCT to Treasurer Evelyn Trites, 7 Wax Myrtleway, Don Mills. M3B 3K8.

ICCT SCHOLARSHIP

Application forms are included with this issue for our annual \$1,000.00 Scholarship. You are eligible if your family are members in good standing for this year. The deadline for receipt of applications is April 15th. The award will be made at the Annual General Meeting in May.

INL HERITAGE CALENDARS

The 2002 INL Heritage Calendars are still available. The theme is "Poets, Authors & Playwrights" and includes 3 ICCT members: Maja Ardal, Katrina Koven, and Betty Jane Wylie. The response this year has been unusually unenthusiastic, so if you don't have your calendar as yet, please call Garry at (416) 463-1324. We need to sell several more calendars, since we have already paid for them.

BE PART OF NEXT YEAR'S CALENDAR!

The theme for the INL Calendar 2003 is "Heritage Treasures" - unusual and interesting objects from our heritage, along with the story of the one(s) who originally owned them. No you don't have to part with these treasures -- Nelson Gerrard just wants the artifacts and a vintage photo of the original owner, if possible, photographed up close, artistically displayed (black and white professional style photographs preferred). Contact Gail McCleery at 416-762-8627 if you have an artifact that could be included.



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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CLUB NEWS

BOOK REVIEW

The Culinary Saga of New Iceland

By: Kristin Olafson-Jenkyns

Although I am an avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction, I would never have considered myself as one who could be an authoritative critic of a cookery book. However, this particular book impresses me for its other merits. The recipes are all provided by North American Icelanders, are all certain to be tried and true, and I'll put my faith in them for that reason. Anyway, they look interesting, and many are complete with notes and stories from the various donors. But, my interest was aroused by the fact that this book is obviously more than a recipe collection. It is apparent that while the author was researching the history of the recipes, or the history of the families they represent, this work has become a celebration of our heritage.

Olafson-Jenkyns has included much by way of factual history of the Icelanders in North America. Brief histories are given for the settlements, not only New Iceland, but settlements from Nova Scotia to Utah, and in between. Excerpts are included from the people that were, at the time influential in the evolution of our community. I own a few cookery books, and several books about our Icelandic heritage. For me, this book goes on the Heritage shelf.

-Garry Oddleifson

THANKS FOR DONATIONS FROM:

Garry Oddleifson, Helga Stephenson, Lynne & Jean Thorkelesson, William & Laufey Hart, Ragnheidur McNamee, Kay Sigurjonsson, Lou & Marjorie Howard, Eileen Martin, Signy Stephenson, Carol & Sigfus Swanbergson, Robert & Runa Wheelans, Blair Laxdal, Jean Davis, Barbara & Robert Gubbins, Alex Borsuk, Torfi Bildfell, Bob & Merle Oddson, Harold & Elizabeth Olafson, Leslie & Eva Snelling, Edward & Margaret Eggertson, Dolores & William Lawler, Eric & Evelyn Sigvaldason, and Sylvia Sanders.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Bonnie & Christine Bancroft (Toronto),
Juli & Dave Cuthbert & John, Robert & Jem (Toronto),
Lorna & Charlotte Day (Toronto), Brian & Carole Johanneson (Kitchener), and Stephen & Natasha Taylor, (Toronto).

CONGRATULATIONS

ICCT members Gunnar and Lynda Helgason became an Afi and step-Amma for the second time. Gunnar's son, Gunnar Bryon and his wife, Kimmi welcomed their second son in Phuket, Thailand on December 18, 2001. The new baby's name is Leifur Hannes. Older brother, Soggi Jon, is 4½ years of age.

NEWS FROM FRIENDS

WINNIPEG FALCONS SLIGHTED BY HOCKEY CANADA

(From Logberg-Heimskringla)



Why were the Winnipeg Falcons ignored by the Canadian Hockey Association when a decision was made to honour Canada's first Olympic hockey team at the 2002 Winter Games will soon take place in Salt Lake City? Historians and sports officials agree that the Falcons won Canada's first Olympic hockey gold in 1920, but it's the Toronto Granites who won 4 years later in 1924, who will be honoured by a patch worn on Team Canada jerseys. The Falcons, who overcame discrimination even in Manitoba at the time of their success, and had to create their own league because established authorities didn't want a bunch of immigrant Icelanders, are now again suffering another insult. The CHA has contended that hockey was a demonstration sport in 1920. Authoritative sources such as *Readers Digest 1980 Yearbook and Almanac* and David Wallenchinsky's *The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics* rightfully credit the Falcons as the first gold medal hockey team.

Don Johnson of the United Icelandic Appeal is leading a drive to see that the Falcons receive permanent recognition, and has started the Forever Falcons Campaign. If you can donate any Falcons memorabilia, or would like to make a donation, send it to: Forever Falcons, c/o United Icelandic Appeal, PO Box 102, 94 1st Avenue, Gimli, MB, R0C 1B1, phone: (204)642-9868, fax: (204)642-9382, e-mail uia@mts.net.

FALCONS JERSEY IN HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

ICCT member Brian Johannesson, has donated his father Konnie's Falcons team jersey and other items to the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. To see pictures of the Olympic Gold Medal, the Falcons team jersey and the Olympic armband, as well as more information about Konnie Johannesson, visit Brian's website at <http://www.kw.igs.net/~brianj/>

OTTAWA INAUGURATES ICELANDIC CLUB

Gerry Einarson reports that a very enthusiastic group has inaugurated the Friends of Iceland, a new group to be formed in Ottawa. We wish them every success in this venture, and look forward to some shared experiences. We hope to have more information on this new club in a future issue. Congratulations!

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

THORRABLÓT

Don't forget to make your plans for this year's Thorrablót. Our popular dinner dance event will be on April 6, 2002 at the North York Memorial Hall (North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St.). Icelandic food, including those great desserts, entertainment, and really great fellowship. Let's make this one the best ever. We intend to have another great silent auction. You can book your tickets now – e-mail Evelyn at ebtrites@rogers.com or telephone 416-444-7355. If you have anything to donate, or if you can offer to help organize, please call Darla – (416) 423-0493.

OPENING NIGHT

On Thursday, March 28th, the CBC series 'Opening Night' will be featuring a film by Winnipeg film-maker Guy Maddin titled *Dracula: Pages From a Virgin's Diary* – The Royal Winnipeg Ballet's spectacular production will be seen through the eyes of Maddin. There will be a panel discussing the Dracula myth, which will also include Guy Maddin.

ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE

This year the INL Conference will be held in Minneapolis-St. Paul on April 18-21. They are discussing a side trip to Minnesota, the major Icelandic settlement in Minnesota. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir will be the keynote speaker, and many other interesting Icelanders will also be there. A charter bus from Winnipeg will be organized, by Great Canadian Travel Co., which will include hotel accommodation. If you think you might be interested in being an ICCT delegate, contact President Darla McKay.

VIKING EXHIBIT IN OTTAWA

"Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga" was first presented in Washington in the summer of 2000 and will be at the Canadian Museum of Civilization from May 8 to October 14, 2002. This is the only Canadian stop on its six-city North American tour, which includes New York, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Hull, and Minneapolis/St. Paul. King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway will be opening the exhibition in May as part of their State visit to Canada.

Examining the arts, culture, technology and mythology of a highly complex people, "Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga" will shed new light on a people who have been stereotyped as violent invaders. The exhibition reveals a rich legacy, demonstrating that the Vikings were not only intrepid explorers but also skilled farmers, fine artisans and enterprising traders.

A Nordic picnic is being planned for June 22nd, with entertainment from the Nordic communities. Look for more information in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

ICELANDIC DUO COMING IN OCTOBER

Two world-class musicians from Iceland will be here to entertain us this fall – Mezzo soprano Ingveldur Ýr Jónsdóttir and pianist Guðriður St. Sigurðardóttir will be touring North America under the International Visits Program of the Icelandic National League. Their Toronto concert will be in October. You'll be hearing more about this in upcoming issues.

AMBASSADOR HANNESSON SIGHTINGS

AMBASSADOR HOSTS A GATHERING



Ambassador Hjalmar W. Hannesson and his wife Anna Birgis observed the 83rd anniversary of December 1st 1918, when Iceland regained its sovereignty, with a gathering at the official residence on November 30th. There were over 90 people in attendance, including the Icelandic Minister of the Environment, Siv Friðleifsdóttir and Magnus Johannesson, the Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment. Atli Ásmundsson of the Foreign Office and his wife Thrudur were present as well.

Senator Janis Johnson, Montreal's Honorary Consul David Franklin participated. The Icelandic National League was represented by ICCT member Gail Einarson McCleery. Other guests included members of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Quebec, and founding members of the soon to be Ottawa club, Friends of Iceland.

Ambassador Hannesson began the evening with introduction of his guests from Iceland, and explained the significance of December 1st. A period of convivial fellowship followed, and an excellent buffet was enjoyed. Thank you to Hjalmar and Anna for their hospitality and for their encouragement in observing our Icelandic Heritage.

-Gerry Einarson

AND THE AMBASSADOR STAYS BUSY

This past January 25th, Hjalmar presided at a ceremony in Peterborough, at which time he presented copies of the National Gift, translation sets of the Sagas, to Trent University and the Peterborough Library. After this, he and his wife Anna continued on to Toronto and spent the evening with a few members of your executive board at Adego, an excellent Portuguese restaurant, where he had arranged that they would prepare an Icelandic specialty, salted fish. Hjalmar assured us that the fish had been brought from Iceland. It was a rare treat, and a fun evening. Hjalmar and Anna are truly very pleasant company with which to spend an evening.



In the photo at left, club member Holly Garrett is presenting a saga set to McMaster's library on behalf of the Ambassador. Garry Oddleifson has been coordinating the saga set distribution in our area. We thank Ambassador Hjalmar Hannesson, Garry, Holly and all of the other club members

who have assisted in this project for all their hard work. So many people will now have the chance to enjoy the Icelandic sagas at their local libraries.

THANK YOU!