



# FÁLKINN

May 2002

ICCT FÁLKINN, 42nd Year, Number 6

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

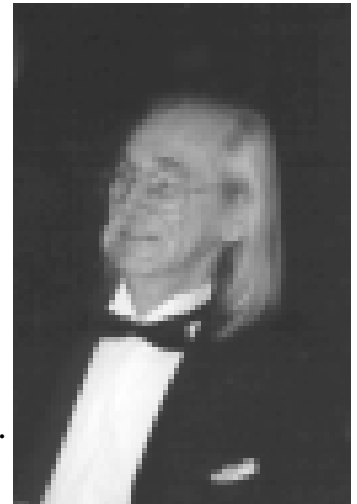
*UNITARIAN HALL, 175 St. Clair Ave West*

**Tuesday, May 14 – 8pm**

Don't forget to come early...it's a great time to visit with friends

We will present and ratify the board of Officers and Directors for next year. And we'll introduce the winner of our 2002 ICCT \$1000.00 Scholarship.

The highlight of the programme will be Tom Bjarnason of Port Hope, Ontario who will discuss his interesting career as an illustrator and artist.



Tom was born in Winnipeg and started his commercial art career in Windsor, after studies at the Winnipeg School of Art and Meinzingers Art School in Detroit. He came to Toronto in the 1950s and continued his career. While traveling in 1958, Tom acquired an agent in London, England and spent most of the 60s in the UK doing magazine illustrations. He also worked for a winter in Stockholm, and in Dusseldorf.

In 1970, Tom returned to Toronto and worked as an assignment illustrator for *Weekend* magazine and *The Canadian* magazine. These were weeklies that were issued with major weekend newspapers throughout Canada.

As a skilled and highly regarded illustrator, he was given many commissions where accurate depictions were paramount. These include the Canadian Dept. of National Defense and Canada Post. Five of Tom's paintings for Defense are now in the collection of the National Museum in Ottawa, and nine are in the War Museum Archives. For Canada Post, Tom has done 21 illustrations, the most memorable being the Ship series stamps.

Tom is a member of The Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, and a former President of the Toronto Chapter, the Canadian Association of Photographers and Illustrators in Communications. He has been a guest lecturer at the Ontario College of Art, various stamp clubs and the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada. In 1989 he was involved in teaching at the Ontario College of Art, and was invited in 1990 to teach a course on Illustration at the Icelandic College of Arts and Crafts in Reykjavik.

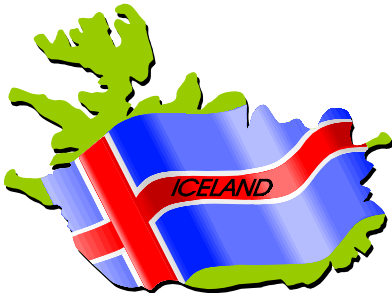
In 1992, Tom was presented with The Lifetime Achievement Award by the Canadian Association of Photographers and Illustrators in Communications.

Tom's latest association has been with NavCanada – a mural in their Ottawa head office and a painting for their office in Toronto.

We look forward to an interesting evening with Tom.

**BOOK NOW for the June 22nd bus trip to Ottawa for the Nordic Midsummer Fest! See page 3 for details.**

## NEWS FROM ICELAND



### OFFICIAL VISIT TO RUSSIA

Russian President Vladimir Putin has invited President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson on an official visit to Russia at the end of April. It is

the first time that an Icelandic president has been invited to Russia. The Foreign Minister, as well as state officials and leading businessmen, will accompany the President.

Grímsson will begin his visit in Moscow, where he will meet with Putin and other ministers. He will then travel to St. Petersburg to take part in a symposium on human societies in the far north. The President will open an exhibition on the life and works of Icelandic writer and Nobel Prize winner Halldor Laxness on April 23. The visit will conclude in Novgorod where the President will visit Viking remains and hold a lecture on the common heritage of Nordic people and the Russians.

### ONE MORE MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB

Icelandic mountaineer Haraldur Orn Olafsson will begin his ascent up Mt. Everest soon in the hopes of completing his quest for the 'Seven Summits'. He has already climbed Denali, Elbrus, Kilmanjaro, Carstenz Pyramid, Mt. Vinson and Aconcagua. If he successfully scales Everest, he will join David Hempleman-Adams as the only people to have ever reached both poles and climbed the highest peaks on each continent.

### ICELANDIC FASHIONS IN PARIS

Icelandic shoe brand X18, The Fashion Group, will be launching themselves on the Parisian market this autumn. A French company, Camp, has set up a 1400 square metre warehouse and offices for the brand and will be opening an X18 store in central Paris this autumn. X18 plans to affirm themselves on the French fashion market through an extensive advertising campaign, fashion shows and by taking part in the 'Who's Next' shoe fair in Paris in the autumn.



## ICELANDIC LANGUAGE & CULTURAL CAMP

The camp is for children 7-12 years of age who are of Icelandic descent. This year, it will be held from July 28th to August 3rd and the location is just outside Gimli. Enclosed with the your newsletter, you will find a grant application for \$500. For more details about the camp, you may contact Kendra Jonasson by telephone (204) 452-5378 or e-mail: [sekjon1@mts.net](mailto:sekjon1@mts.net).



**REMINDER**—If you haven't already sent in your 2002 dues, please send your membership dues to Treasurer Evelyn (Magnuson) Trites, 7 Wax Myrtleway, Don Mills, ON M3B 3K8



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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Membership Information: Single \$20,  
Family \$25, Senior Couple \$20,  
Senior Single \$15

Webpage: <http://icct.info>

## CLUB NEWS

### WAY TO GO, LINDY!

Lindy, friend and supporter of ICCT, was chosen "Best Local Musician – Male" in a recent poll by Toronto's *EYE* magazine. Congratulations!

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

M. Konrad & Augusta Sigurdsson (Waterdown, ON), John Eyolfson (Thunder Bay), Dr. Larry & Kathryn Thorsteinson, Kristjana (Thorsteinson), Dunn, Erik & Stephan Thorsteinson (Sudbury), Ingvar & Lynn Gislason (Auburn, NY), Sara Benediktson (Barrie), Jen Benediktson (Guelph), Thora Cooke (Toronto) and Robert & Lillian Sparkes (Ajax)

### THANKS FOR DONATIONS FROM:

Brian Eyolfson, Michael & Sybil Clapperton, Tom & Adrienne Einarson and Elaine Sigurdson.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Darla McKay, our busy President, and Luke Hollins managed to find the time to squeeze in a rather important event – their wedding. We wish you all the best for a long loving relationship. The Icelandic word for married is 'gift'. We know it will translate well for Darla and Luke.

Jim and Irene Gibson are also celebrating — their 50th Wedding Anniversary is coming up on May 3rd. Congratulations!



### FONTANA SWING

(a.k.a. Katrina Koven)

### 'SWiNG TheoRY'

April 12 – May 27, 2002

**Marvellous Edibles Restaurant**  
120 Laird Dr. (E. of Bayview/S. of  
Eglinton), 416-421-8228

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### NORDIC MIDSUMMER FEST Saturday June 22nd

The ICCT is planning a bus trip so that we may participate in this exciting event.

The bus to Ottawa will leave from Toronto early on the morning of the Saturday,



June 22nd. The return trip will leave Ottawa by noon the next day (Sunday) and return to Toronto. To reserve your seat on the bus, contact Jim or Irene Gibson at 416-293-2324. We are also working on group accommodations — let us know if you need a room or are willing to share a room to save on costs and we will try to find the best deal for you. The cost for the return bus trip, including your admission into the museum will be \$70 (to travel by Greyhound, the bus alone costs over \$117).

This is your chance to see the wonderful exhibit: "**Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga**", enjoy a day of summer fun, culture and celebration, and to catch up on your reading and/or socialize with other ICCT members on the bus ride.

"Vikings" is a \$3 million (USD), 5500 square foot exhibition comprising more than 200 artifacts. Included in the exhibit is Viking Age jewelry, wooden carvings, and grave goods dating from 800 to 1050 AD. Also on view are medieval church carvings dating from 1050 - 1500, Romantic period (19th century) paintings and contemporary pop-culture items. At the INL Convention in Minneapolis, attendees had the opportunity to see a presentation by one of the curators of the exhibit, and we can assure you that you don't want to miss this exhibit!

### About the Nordic Midsummer Fest:

The Canadian Museum of Civilization, in partnership with the Canadian Nordic Society (Ottawa), The Danish Club of Ottawa (Ottawa), the Canadian Friends of Finland (Ottawa) and the Friends of Iceland (Ottawa) are pleased to invite you to celebrate the Summer Solstice with a *smörgåsbord* of music and family fun. People of all backgrounds are

invited to a day of singing, dancing, eating, listening, watching, playing, or just picnicking with family and friends from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. on June 22, at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

**Nordic Midsummer Fest** is an all-day celebration of the traditions, cultures, arts, food, games of the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

The day begins with the discovery of Viking culture and history in the exhibition *Vikings- the North Atlantic Saga*, followed by indoor and outdoor activities and entertainment.

During the afternoon, kids are invited to a special showing of **Icelandic Horses**. The OSKU, Finnish Language School of Ottawa, has also organized fun and games for the children. (To be confirmed)

At 3:00 p.m., the Embassy of Sweden in association with the National Arts Centre, present a concert by the University of Uppsala's choir, the *Allmänna Sången*. After witnessing the exquisite tradition of the **Raising of the Maypole** on the Cascades Court, enjoy the fresh taste of Nordic food and beverages while listening to a *Musical Smörgåsbord* : Ottawa's Finnish Singers perform different traditional songs from their culture. The younger generations will later appreciate discovering three musical groups who enjoy sharing their Nordic heritage and new folk-blues, pop-rock sounds with their fellow Canadians: the *Lingonberries*, *Lindy* and *Frihavn*. Finally everyone is invited to dance to polkas and tangos at the sound of a festive accordion.

There will be a delicious smörgåsbord at the CMC cafeteria by Eurest served from 11:00 a.m. until closing at 6:30 p.m. Beer and beverages and an outdoor grill will also be available outside during the evening.

In the event of rain, most activities will take place in the Grand Hall and in the Cafeteria of the Museum.

For more information about the Exhibit, see the website: <http://www.mnh.si.edu/vikings/>.

**Call Jim or Irene Gibson at 416-293-2324 to reserve.**

## Thorablót was great!

April 6<sup>th</sup> saw about 160 of us gather again for our annual Thorablót. We had a great representation of members, including a very good turnout of our Honorary Members and a lot of visitors (several from Iceland were in attendance). Thanks to Darla for organizing this fun event, and to those that helped her, but an especially big thank you to Ellen Gilmore and Merle Oddson, who were responsible for the food preparation and presentation. Great job, you two! We also appreciate all the help you got from your families, and from everyone who contributed food and baking.



Pictured above are some of our Thorablót revelers enjoying the fun. On the right are some of the helpers supervising the dessert table, while below we have a couple of our viking maidens in costume.



Thank you to John Gilmore and Eric McCleery for the photographs!

Another big vote of thanks goes to Helen Arnason, who put together the biggest Silent Auction we ever held. It was smashing! Helen has asked me to express our gratitude to some of the major donors to the Silent Auction:

- ◆ John & Ellen Gilmore—2 nights at Grandview condo
- ◆ Diana Bristow—3 tickets to Raptors game
- ◆ Linday Lundstrom—blanket, Eau de Toilette
- ◆ Carol McGirr—Storytelling
- ◆ Betty Jane Wylie—Reading/assessment of manuscript
- ◆ Len Fertuck—one day search for an Icelandic ancestor (and the popular beaver pull toy)
- ◆ Gudrun Gunnarsdottir—translation of Icelandic text
- ◆ Merredith MacFarquhar—one hour massage by registered massage therapist
- ◆ Erla Macaulay—Icelandic items including poncho, “Beginning Icelandic”
- ◆ Ruth Laban—wool for Icelandic sweater
- ◆ Evelyn Trites/Cynthia Ferguson—Weekenders Outfit
- ◆ Kristin Olayson-Jenkyns—Culinary Saga of New Iceland book

Other contributors included: Brenda Bjarnason, Merle & Bob Oddson, Eric & Gail McCleery, Garry Oddleifson, Darla McKay, Raina Stebelsky, Thorsteinn Helf, and of course, Helen Arnason who contributed many items and also sought out so many others! Our treasurer Evelyn Trites was also kept busy with all the purchases — big thank you to Evelyn & Mike Trites!!!

Don Gislason spoke to us about the meaning of Thorrablót and about some of the Icelandic and Icelandic-

Canadian foods. Jon Einarsson Gustafsson then told us about some of the strange foods that are eaten by other cultures, making the Icelandic foods seem tame in comparison.



We were entertained by our children’s choir, directed by Brenda Bjarnason and accompanied by Judith McBurney on guitar. There were fun activities for the children too, coordinated by Jill Mitchell.

Presentations were made — Kara Schuster was the winner of this year’s Snorri grant, and a saga set was presented to Carol McGirr of Fireside Epic.

The winners of our 2002 ICCT Raffle were drawn, and they were: The Saga Set was won by Bill Hart; the Harlequin Cover painting (by artist Tom Bjarnason) was won by Kathleen McDermott; the \$200 cash was won by Elaine Sigurdson. Thanks to Tom for donating the painting.





# FIRST OLYMPIC HOCKEY GOLD MEDAL AND SWEATER FIND A HOME IN THE HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

*(from the Hockey Hall of Fame)*

Canada regained Olympic hockey glory at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Games by winning double gold in both ice hockey events. The tradition of winning ice hockey gold for Canada began with the Winnipeg Falcons in 1920.

The hockey Hall of Fame recently received a significant donation from the son of Konrad Johannesson, who was a member of the powerhouse Winnipeg Falcons championship team. Mr. Brian Johannesson donated his father's gold medal, Winnipeg Falcons Canadian Olympic sweater, VIIth Olympic arm band, Canadian passport and other documents. The 1920 Team Canada Gold medal sweater is currently on display in *Royal Canadian Mint World of Hockey Zone*.



A large red Maple Leaf crest is front and centre on the honey yellow and black trimmed sweater make it one of the most striking artifacts in the Olympic showcase. Phil Pritchard, Director, Hockey Operations and Curator states, "It is arguably one of the most important donations ever received by the Hockey Hall of Fame. Mr. Johannesson's donation finally allows the Hockey Hall of Fame the opportunity to showcase the Winnipeg Falcons and what they achieved over 80 years ago." Added Craig Campbell Manager, Resource Centre and Archives for the Hockey Hall of Fame, "no doubt, the 1920 Olympic gold medal and Team Canada Olympic sweater are among some of the most unique artifacts the Hockey Hall of Fame has collected over the years. It will certainly be a focal point within the ever expanding Olympic display in the Hockey Hall of Fame."



Konnie Johannesson's 1920 Gold Medal

The Winnipeg Falcons participated in a tournament played April 23 - 29, 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium as part of the Seventh Olympic Games. It is officially recognized as the first Olympic ice hockey championship (International Olympic Committee) and the first World Championship (International Ice

Hockey Federation). The Winnipeg Falcons were selected to represent Canada on the basis of winning the 1920 Allan Cup, symbolic of Canadian amateur senior championship. The roster was primarily made up of players who shared Icelandic descent and who made their home in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Brian attended this year's Thorrablót and spoke to ICCT members about the Falcons and his donation to the HHOFF. Brian pointed out that about 350,000 people per year visit the Hall, and that is this over half the population of Winnipeg and more than the population of Iceland. He feels that his family's contribution will educate a lot more people about the Falcons than ever before.



Brian Johannesson and his wife Margaret, at Thorrablót 2002

**"It is arguably one of the most important donations ever received by the Hockey Hall of Fame."**

Now the HHOFF Canadian Olympic hockey collection is complete — they have memorabilia from 1920 to 2002. Club members are encouraged to go see the exhibit at the Hockey Hall of Fame — It's a great place to take their family who may be visiting Toronto.

### FALCONS FOREVER

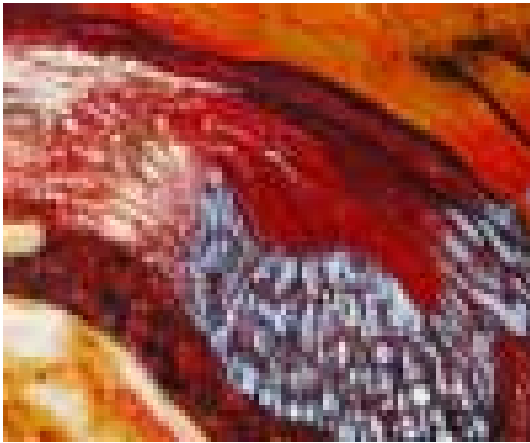
The snub that was given to the memory of the Winnipeg Falcons 1920 hockey gold medallists is proving to have some positive results. It has given rise to greater 'national' pride; and generated donations that will eventually help to finance a museum display of the great event. A painting which commemorates the Falcons was unveiled at the Manitoba Legislative Building by Premier Gary Doer. It will be on display there for a month.

## NEWS FROM FRIENDS

### ICELAND IS A GEOLOGIST'S - AND AN ARTIST'S - PARADISE

(by Gail Einarson-McCleery with quotes from "The Echo")

"Blindhæð" is the name of an art show running June 1st to 15th at Gallery 1313, 1313A Queen St. W., and also at Zza Zza Gallery at 962 Queen St. W., which features impressions of Iceland by two Canadians, Victoria Ward and Gary Blundell.



"Gary sees (the rock) as something that's alive. He has an authentic, genuine passion about rock," says his wife Victoria, who, for the first time, was able to understand just what he meant when they spent a month on an artists' sabbatical in Iceland, a geologist's paradise where new landforms are created before your eyes. Gary's geological background has obviously influenced the way he sees the world and their month at the Straumar Art Community near Reykjavik made him feel he was "where land is being created, a near-religious experience. The land is bubbling like this mud pot and the land is stained by all the minerals. You've got hillsides that are golden yellow from sulfur".

To reproduce what he saw in Iceland, Gary starts by gouging a sheet of plywood with a router to give his "canvas" depth and texture, and then he uses colour to convey his interpretation of nature's miracles - sometimes strong and bold, sometimes nuanced shades of grey and blue. Geysers and lava come to life in his studio in northern Ontario.

Victoria's background was in theatre, but now she goes to the dump to find her materials to produce

art - abandoned lumber - "Once you start blow-torching a surface," she says, "a landscape appears". Of their time in Iceland, Victoria says, "It's like being in a fictional world. It was so beautiful in a gothic, chilling way."



Since their return, both painters have been busy transforming their memories into beautiful works of art, which you can see June 1st to 15th at Gallery 1313 at 1313A Queen St. W. and at Zza Zza Gallery at 962 Queen St. W. Gary is exhibiting at Gallery 1313 from June 1st to 15th, Wed. to Sun., 1 to 6pm. His opening is on Thurs. June 6th, 7 to 10 pm. Vic is exhibiting at Zsa Zsa, from June 1st to 15th, Wed. to Sun., 1 to 6pm. Her opening is on Sat. June 1st, 7 to 10 pm.

By the way, "Blindhæð" is a sign often seen in Iceland's mountains ... it means "elevated blindness"!..... For more information on their art, take a look at their website ... [www.hotspurstudio.com](http://www.hotspurstudio.com)

### DAVID ARNASON NOMINATED FOR A LEACOCK

David Arnason, well-known humorist has been nominated for a Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour, for his recently published novel King Jerry. Besides being a well-known writer, David is a professor in English, and also is Chair of the Icelandic Department at the University of Manitoba. He joined us for the Kinmount Memorial unveiling, and the Vikings in Canada Gala two years ago. We wish him good luck in the Leacock competition.

### MARKLAND CD

The story of the Markland settlement in Nova Scotia is now available on a CD. Written by Ken Burrows, the CD tells the story of the seventeen families who came to Markland and their seven years there (1875-82) Bill Stephenson produced and narrates the CD. He also composed the music, which is played by him and sung by Betty Belmore. If you would like to purchase a copy of the CD, contact: Eleanor Belmore, RR#2, Upper Musquodoboit, NS, B0N 2M0 e-mail:

[Eleanor.belmore@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:Eleanor.belmore@ns.sympatico.ca)

## ICELANDIC MUSICIANS TOUR NORTH AMERICA IN OCTOBER

Iceland, that sparkling gem in the North Atlantic, is once again sending its music across the ocean to us. This time, instead of the pop appeal of Björk or Sigur Rós, we have the other side of Icelandic music – world-class mezzo-soprano Ingveldur Ýr Jónsdóttir and accomplished pianist Guðríður St. Sigurðardóttir. They will be starting their tour in Minneapolis, and then sharing their music with Canadians from Ottawa to Vancouver, with stops along the way in Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, and in the rural communities of Gimli, Manitoba and Vatnabyggð, Saskatchewan.

**The date of the concert in Toronto is Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Trinity, near Eaton Centre downtown. Tickets are \$20 adults- \$15 seniors/ students- \$5 for children... call Ellen (905) 889-9937 or Merle (905) 731-4799**



Selections will include European composers such as Weill, Ravel and Sibelius, along with Canadian works. And of course, Icelandic composers will be included, in a mixture of classical, theatre and folk songs.

As a singing actress, Inga has made a name for herself with an exceptional stage presence in opera and musical theatre. Her training took place at the Conservatory of Vienna and the Manhattan School of Music. She has made recital work her specialty and has sung in Iceland, U.S., France, Austria and Germany. In the field of opera, she has sung many roles,

such as Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* with Opéra de Lyon in France, and Lucretia in the world premiere of *The Cenci* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London. She runs her own vocal studio both in Reykjavík, Iceland and Loveland, Colorado. CD's include one on which she performs Icelandic composer Jón Leifs' songs with the Icelandic Symphony.

Pianist Gurry began her studies in Hamburg, Germany at the age of 8, graduating from the Reykjavík College of Music and then studying at the University of Michigan, winning first prize for her playing in the Ann Arbor Society for Musical Arts piano competition. Since then, she has been active as soloist, chamber

musician, and accompanist, both in Iceland and abroad, appearing as a soloist with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra and performing widely in the U.S., Germany, Switzerland and Scandinavia. She has made recordings for radio and TV as well as participating in CD's. Since 1983, she has been orchestral pianist with the Iceland

Symphony Orchestra and currently teaches at the Reykjavík College and Sigursveinn D. Kristinsson School of Music.

Their tour is being organized by the International Visits Program of the Icelandic National League of North America and of Iceland and sponsored by their member clubs, with co-sponsorship by the Cultural Exchange Fund, Canada Iceland Foundation Inc., Icelandair, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Science, Education and Culture of Iceland. Also sponsoring is the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$20.8 million in music throughout Canada.