



FÁLKINN

June 2003

ICCT FÁLKINN, 44th Year, Number 1

Iceland's National Day Picnic SATURDAY, JUNE 14th, YEOMAN FARM in PARHAM, ONTARIO



This year, we will be celebrating Iceland's National Day at Yeoman Farm, home to one of the largest flocks of Icelandic Sheep in North America. Stefania Sveinbjarnardottir and Ray Dignum also breed Icelandic sheep dogs (a very rare breed in North America, with less than 100 such dogs in Canada and the U.S.A. combined). The farm is in a very beautiful area of the Canadian Shield -- near Sharbot Lake, which is about half an hour north of Kingston.

Highlights:

- Iceland's National Day Celebrations with representation from the Government of Iceland
- Guided walks and demonstrations on the grounds, including a wool spinning demonstration
- Icelandic sheep, Icelandic sheep dogs, Icelandic horses -- Some of the sheep are very friendly, "bottle babies" whose mothers are unable to feed them, so they are bottle-fed
- Pot luck picnic
- Fun activities for all! Bring your singing voice!

And, that's not all! Thorsteinn Helf has built up his reputation for reading runestones by doing so in Iceland and Canada. He gave us a sample of his reading abilities at the Christmas Fair, and the line-up was longer than could be accommodated in one day! If you've been waiting for another opportunity for a reading from Thorsteinn, here's your chance!

The bus will leave from **Yonge & York Mills Station at 8:00 am** Saturday morning and return to York Mills Station Saturday evening (est. 8:00 pm).

If you are planning to attend, contact Leah Salt and let her know -- **telephone 905-277-5298 or e-mail: oceanroses@yahoo.com.**

Cheques for the bus fare should be made out to the ICCT and sent to Treasurer, Evelyn Trites, 7 Wax Myrtleway, Toronto, ON M3B 3K6. Make sure you call Leah even if you aren't taking the bus -- it is pot luck and we don't want to end up with 30 potato salads!

Participation on the bus is encouraged as our hosts advise there is not a lot of parking space. We have rented the bus so that people will not have to worry about driving or parking on-site. Pricing is economical as well -- this is much cheaper than if one were to take the Greyhound bus (return fares to Kingston are \$172 adult, \$86 child).

ICCT Bus Fare: Adult \$35, Child \$20 (under 16)

(cont. on Page 4)



News from Icel and and outside Ontario

REFORESTING ICELAND

When Iceland was settled, over 1100 years ago, it boasted extensive forests of birch trees, covering about 30% of the area. The settlers were agriculturalists, so they cleared the land for grazing land for sheep, cattle, and horses. They used the lumber for building. At one point, the forests had virtually disappeared. Now the amount of forest in Iceland has crept up to 1.4% of its land area. The Iceland Forest Service has a program of reforestation, and hopes to double the size of the forest over the next forty years.

The only tree that managed naturally to reach Iceland was the Downey Birch, a variety that also grows in Ireland, Scotland, and Northern Europe. But this tree grows very slowly, and reaches a height of not more than 15 metres. Icelanders have scoured the world to locate faster growing trees that might thrive in their unusual climate of short, cool summers and long, mild winters. Sitka Spruce and Engelmann Spruce, both native to B.C. and Alberta seem to do well. At the suggestion of a U.S. consultant, the Iceland Forest Service is going to try the Chestnut tree. The chestnut trees are to be grown from seeds supplied by Ontario's Grand River Conservation Authority.

The assumption is that seeds developed to tolerate the Ontario winter should stand a good chance in Iceland.

EMIGRATION NEWSLETTER

We recommend the website www.simnet.is/ for the weekly newsletter put out by Hálfán Helgason. The information deals with our ancestors that came to North America in the 19th century, and is easily downloadable. The current issue is Number 10, but all back issues are accessible. Of course, it's a free site, and well worth your time.

REPLICA VIKING SHIP ON LAKE WINNIPEG

This summer, from June 20 to mid September, a 13.5 metre replica Viking ship will be berthed at Gimli. It will take a twice-daily jaunt out onto the lake.

People are invited to go on these outings - manning the oars and sails.

During this same time, the New Iceland Heritage Museum in Gimli will be hosting the exhibit: Full Circle: First Contact—Vikings and Skraelings in Newfoundland and Labrador. If you have been unable to go to L'Anse Aux Meadows, maybe this exhibit and the replica ship will be of interest. Of course, Gimli is always nice to visit during that time period, especially the first weekend in August for Islendingadagurinn (Icelandic Days).

The cost to visit the boat while it is moored is \$5. The one-hour tour on the lake will cost \$25.



FÁLKINN—THE FALCON

Fálkinn is the newsletter of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto and is published approximately 6-8 times a year.

Editors:

Garry Oddleifson

416-463-1324, e-mail: eoddeifson@rogers.com

Leah Salt

905-277-5298, e-mail: oceanroses@yahoo.com

ICCT Executive

President: Leah Salt

Past President: Darla E. McKay

e-mail: demckay@pathcom.com, 416-960-0561

Secretary: Barbara Doherty

Treasurer: Evelyn Magnusson Trites
416-444-7355

Membership Outreach: Don Gislason
416-489-7737

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

Webpage: <http://icct.info>

CLUB NEWS

ICELANDIC GOURMET FOOD FESTIVAL



Toronto will play host to one of Iceland's finest chefs in September, when gourmet Icelandic food will be featured at the Delta Chelsea Hotel on both its

lunch and dinner menus. Sponsored by the Icelandic Embassy in Ottawa, Iceland Naturally and the Icelandic Tourist Board, the event will also include art and film.

On the film front, "Nói Albinói" will be shown at the Toronto Film Festival (dates not decided). It is also possible that other Icelandic films will be part of the festival.

Icelandic artists will be represented by sculptor Steinunn Thorarinsdóttir... her beautiful pieces will be shown at the Goethe Institute on King Street West (just west of University), opening on the afternoon of Saturday, September 13th and on view until the 26th.

Also on the evening of the 13th, there will be a gourmet dinner specially prepared for the Icelandic community. Details of cost and venue will be available shortly.

Full details about the program will appear at the Embassy's Home Page as soon as they are available. www.iceland.ca

In the meantime, be sure to mark Saturday, September 13th on your calendar for a special treat!

ICELANDIC, ANYONE?

We are starting a new beginner class in Icelandic... Wed. Sept. 17th at 8pm., weekly, 6 weeks \$35 for non-members, \$30 for members. Eglinton-Yonge area, Hulla Gunnarsdottir will be our teacher. We have books in stock "Colloquial Icelandic" \$35 or \$70 with two cassettes. Call Gail (416) 762-8627 to join or buy the book (so you can start studying now!)

SNORRI PLUS PROGRAM

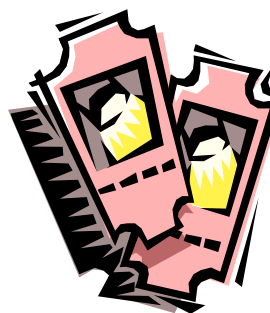
The Snorri Program has been expanded to include a program for those who find themselves above the proposed range for the regular program (ie; 18-23) The Snorri Plus Program for 2003 is set for Sept. 12 - 25. The cost will be approx. \$4400.00 CAD, including airfare from Boston, Baltimore or Minneapolis.

During the first week, you will research your family tree, visit museums, dine out and discover Reykjavik by foot, and visit the Blue Lagoon. This is followed by a five-day motor coach trip to Þingvellir, Gullfoss and Geysir. You will cross the highlands, Hveravellir, to the Hofssós Emigration Centre. There will be an organized program, including participation in a sheep round-up and a boat trip. The last two nights are to be spent in Hafnarfjörður. You will get the opportunity to meet relatives, go swimming, visit museums, and take part in a real Viking-style dinner.

The cost includes all accommodation, airfare (see above), domestic traveling costs, 27 meals (13 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 8 dinners) - considering all the inclusions, a great offer. You need to decide quickly. Applications are due by June 13.

For more information and application forms, see the website at: www.snorri.is

ICCT RAFFLE WINNERS



Congratulations to the winners of our 5th Annual ICCT Raffle. The winners, drawn at our AGM on May 13th: Oskar Sigvaldason (Oakville) won the 1st prize Icelandair Airfare for Two, O & D Eyolfson (Fort Frances) won the 2nd prize of \$250, and C. MacRae (Palgrave) won 3rd prize, \$100. Thank you to everyone for supporting the raffle!



ICCT Picnic (cont.)



Remember:

- Call to let Leah know if you plan to attend
- Dress accordingly, especially appropriate footwear – it's a working farm
- If you have been at, or come from, another farm, wear different footwear, or wash them in bleach.
- Please do not bring any pets
- Don't forget the food, it's pot luck!
- Lawn chairs
- Mosquito repellent
- Sunscreen

Driving directions -- Those who are driving should aim to be at Yeoman Farm by noon.



From Toronto: Allow 3 to 3.5 hours. Take Highway 401 east to exit 611 (Kingston) Rd 38 north towards Parham (this is about a 45 km stretch). Road 38 will bend to the right towards Sharbot Lake. Don't go there. Rather, turn left towards Wagarville/Tamworth. After 1/2 km, turn right (north) on Long Lake Road (the first right turn after crossing the tracks- Hinchinbrook Public School is on the corner). About 1.6 km up Long Lake Rd, you will arrive at Yeoman Farm – 1273 Long Lake Rd.

From Ottawa: Allow 2 hours. Take Highway 7 west towards Peterborough/Toronto. At Sharbot Lake, turn onto Rd 38 south towards Parham (this is about a 16km stretch). Road 38 will bend to the left towards Kingston. Don't go there. Rather, go straight towards Wagarville/Tamworth. After 1/2 km, turn right (north) at Long Lake Road (the first right turn after crossing the tracks- Hinchinbrook Public School is on the corner). About 1.6 km up Long Lake Rd, you will arrive at Yeoman Farm – 1273 Long Lake Rd.

From Montreal: Allow 3.5 to 4 hours. Take Highway 401 west towards Toronto. Exit at Rd 38 (exit 611). From there, see the directions from Toronto, detailed above.

The owners of Yeoman Farm will not be held responsible for any accidents, mishaps or damage occurring on their property and by participating, visitors free the owners from all responsibility for personal damage.

Map to Yeoman Farm

1273 Long Lake Rd, Parham, ON

