



FÁLKINN

November/December 2003

ICCT FÁLKINN, 44th Year, Number 3



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday, December 7th, 2:30 p.m.

Grace Church-on-the Hill
300 Lonsdale Road, Toronto

Christmas is just around the corner, and before your weekends get filled up, mark down the ICCT's Tenth Annual Christmas Event being held on December 7th. We have plenty to offer this year, including: Christmas crafts activities for all ages, games, and storytelling (we will be telling the special Icelandic story of the Jólesveinar about the Icelandic Christmas elves).

We also will be singing both Icelandic & English Christmas carols and it's rumoured that Santa may even drop in for some dancing around the Christmas tree!

Adults can do some Christmas shopping while the Kids are having fun. There will be tables with an assortment of crafts, Icelandic & Icelandic-Canadian books, videos, T-shirts, pins and more.

There is still time to reserve your craft table for the Christmas fair. Please call Leah at (905) 277-5298 or email her at oceanroses@yahoo.com.

Each family should bring a plate of goodies.

Admissions: \$5.00 Adult Members, \$6.00 Non-Adult Members. Children under 12 are FREE! Please confirm attendance with Leah Salt at (905) 277-5298.



UPCOMING ICCT EVENTS:

MOVIE NIGHT:

Showing: "The Sea"
Thursday, November 27th
6:30pm & 8:30pm
The National Film Board
150 John St.



Showing: "Angels of the Universe"
Thursday, January 29th
6:30pm & 8:30pm
The National Film Board
150 John St.

* For more information on movies, see page 5

TRAVEL SHOW

Sunday Feb. 15th
2:30 p.m.
Swansea Town Hall Community Centre

THORRABLOT

Saturday March 27th
North York Memorial Community Hall

ICCT EXECUTIVE NEWS

NO EASY THING

Well, Garry finally did it! I have retired, bought my condo in Winnipeg, and will soon be moving to be close to the family in my old home town. I will miss a lot of things about Toronto, but especially my friends and the activities of the ICCT. I will continue my membership, and plan to attend ICCT events whenever possible, making sure that my 'air mile' visits coincide with ICCT activities.

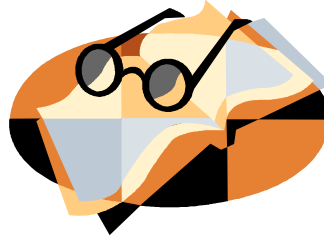


Obviously, the first person for me to thank is Don Gislason, who saw the name 'Oddleifson' in the phone directory, flashing like neon - "Here's an Icelander", and called to invite me to attend an event. I did so, and enjoyed it. It was at that very first event that Don gave me a job.

I've usually had some job or other since, and want to thank you all for the support offered and given. It is no easy thing to leave all of the friends that I have made among the members of the ICCT, and the extended family that I have met at National events, and there is not a single bad memory. The work, the planning, and even the events themselves are only vague memories, but it's the people that are foremost. I will miss you, but will see you periodically.

Vertu Saell og blessaður
Garry

LOOKING FOR NEW TREASURER



It is with great sadness that I announce that Evelyn Trites has stepped down as Treasurer of the ICCT. Evelyn has just recently relocated to beautiful Prince Edward County, making it difficult to commute to Toronto for the meetings. We'd like to thank Evelyn for all she's done over the last few years as treasurer.

This leaves a hole in our executive that we do hope to fill quickly. Do you have bookkeeping experience & a secret desire to get more involved in the Icelandic-Canadian Club of Toronto? If you answered YES then please call Leah at (905) 277-5298 to learn more about this position.

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

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

Membership Outreach:

Don Gislason

416-489-7737

Membership Information: Single \$20,

Family \$25, Senior Couple \$20,

Senior Single \$15

Webpage: <http://icct.info>



"A Taste of Iceland Naturally" Toronto Event - A Refreshing Experience

By Gail Einarson-McCleery

A momentous occasion for Icelanders in Toronto. What better way to start than talking about ...

THE FOOD

Icelandic cuisine was featured at the Delta Chelsea Hotel Sept. 3rd to 22nd, with menus developed by well known Icelandic chef Siggí Hall, in collaboration with Chelsea Executive Chef Ragnar Pedersen.



Iceland's Minister of Industry and Commerce Valgerður Sverrisdóttir sitting with Hjalmar Hannesson

On Saturday, September 13th, the ICCT hosted a special Icelandic dinner, with lamb and skyr flown in specially from Iceland by Siggí's second in command, Chef Eythór Rúnarsson. Icelandic char was also featured, and everyone agreed that the food was delicious. This was a very festive occasion, attended by 115 people from all across the country and Iceland, with a reception hosted by Iceland's Minister of Industry and Commerce Valgerður Sverrisdóttir.

On Saturday, September 13th, the ICCT hosted a special Icelandic dinner, with lamb and skyr flown in specially from Iceland by Siggí's second in command, Chef Eythór Rúnarsson. Icelandic char was also featured, and everyone agreed that the food was delicious. This was a very festive occasion, attended by 115 people from all across the country and Iceland, with a reception hosted by Iceland's Minister of Industry and Commerce Valgerður Sverrisdóttir.

Ambassador Hjalmar Hannesson gave his last official address before moving on to his new post as Ambassador to the United Nations in New York. We were all sorry to see Hjalmar and his charming wife Anna leave us, as we felt fortunate to have had them as Iceland's first official representatives in Ottawa.

And then there was...THE MUSIC.

We were very lucky to have with us one of Iceland's foremost jazz groups, the Sigurðar Flosason Trio. This group, which included Sigurðar Flosason on sax, Gunnar Hrafnsson on bass, and Gunnar Gunnarsson on piano, performed during all events, including the dinner, and Thursday and Friday evenings at the lounge in the hotel. On the Sunday, Sigurðar on sax and Gunnar Gunnarsson on organ performed a very special concert of variations on Icelandic hymns at Christ Church Deer Park.

Another highlight was...THE ART.

Saturday afternoon saw the opening of Steinunn Þorarinsdóttir's sculpture show, entitled "Journey" at the Goethe Institut, with a standing-room only crowd ... her work was very well received.

Originally scheduled from September 13th to 25th, the show was held over until October 3rd. The exhibition featured life size figurative free standing pieces and reliefs in iron, aluminum, glass, stainless steel and lead.

Comments included "wonderful", "its marvelous to see how the images which have glass inserts pick up the light at sunset", "the work is that of a genius, it is unpredictable". "The work was inspired and beyond what one normally expects of the work of a sculptor." The choice of the gallery was also praised ... "it's situation at a corner with full glass windows on two sides meant that the light was constantly changing in colour, brightness and intensity and any movement behind the sculptures by people walking added another dimension to otherwise motionless forms. In a word, the marriage of two different sculptural materials, one the translucent glass and the other the solid iron, made for a bonding that gave a sense of life to otherwise motionless forms."

Steinunn also gave two illustrated lectures which demonstrated the range of her work, from huge standing monuments as memorials to those lost at sea in various towns in Iceland, to a fanciful installation beside the footpath near the sea in Reykjavik. This consisted of sculpted fish lying on the ground and was called "Washed Ashore" ... a favourite of local children who thought they would be ideal to pick up and run off with! She also showed other life size figurative pieces which were commissioned works and now live in places as far apart as Texas and England.

Steinunn is an Icelandic sculptress born in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1955, where she now lives and works. Earlier, she spent time in England and Italy where she received her training. For over 20 years, she has worked professionally and has exhibited widely in Europe, Japan, USA and Australia. Her works are in private, public and corporate collections in many countries.

Since her departure, her work lives on in Toronto, in the form of "Horizon", a life size man made of cast iron and glass, who now stands outside the gallery of her new representatives in Toronto, the Odon Wagner Gallery. The Gallery will be



Hjalmar Hannesson making his last speech in Toronto

Cont'd on page 6



CLUB NEWS

NEW AND EXCITING

It is with extreme pleasure and gratitude that we announce a new \$1000.00 Scholarship, presented by Honorary Consul-General Jon Johnson and Pat Johnson. It will be THE RAGNAR AND MARION JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP.

The criteria will be exactly as is presently in place for the Annual ICCT Scholarship. In this way, applicants need not make two separate presentations. Two winners will be chosen- the ICCT Scholarship and the Johnson Scholarship.

We express the gratitude of the ICCT to Jon and Pat for this new scholarship. I know that there are many of our more senior members who have affectionate memories of Jon's parents, Ragnar and Marion; and we are rightly proud to have their names memorialized. Ragnar was Honorary Consul from 1946 until 1983, when Jon took over. Again, a big THANKS to Jon, Pat & the Johnson family.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The application for the 2004 ICCT & JOHNSON MEMORIAL Scholarships are included with this issue of the Falkinn. We encourage your participation. If you or a family member qualify for the scholarships, please send us an application. The deadline is January 15th.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership renewal form is included with this issue of the Falkinn, and we encourage you to remit your 2004 membership dues. We were disappointed that there was a decline of some \$1300.00 between membership dues paid for 2002 and 2003. This means that approximately 50 of you did not remit your 2003 dues. Please realize that your remittance is needed in order to run this club effectively, including maintaining the standards that have been attained for the quality of this publication. Help us keep up these standards.

2004 CALENDARS

The 2004 INL calendar is now available, and can be obtained at club events; or by sending your order to our treasurer for receiving your calendar(s) by mail. The order form is included, on the reverse side of the Membership renewal form. This year the calendar is the Icelandic Homecoming Calendar, instead of the usual Icelandic Heritage Calendar. Instead of the Icelandic-Canadian photographs, which have been previously featured, this year's issue has beautiful colour photographs of the natural glories of Iceland. The cost has changed, and the postage has increased, but this is a very high quality product, and we encourage you to order. There is a small profit for our club with each calendar that you purchase.

THANKS TO:

Ragnheiður Hlynsdóttir and Georg Bjarnasson for hosting a very successful Newcomers' Night at their home on Thanksgiving weekend and to John and Ellen Gilmore for helping us bid "Sjáumst" (see you later) to Garry in their usual hospitable style. We will all miss Garry's cheery presence and endless commitment to the ICCT.

HELP NEEDED

Would you like to get involved with helping to run the club? Now that Garry has decided to move to Winnipeg, we need help with the Newsletter, and now that Evelyn has moved to the country & Tracy Morrison is unable to take over, we need a Treasurer! There is also an opportunity for people to help with Thorrablot. So give President Leah a call if you'd like to be part of our dynamic group! 905 277-5298.

WORLD PREMIERE OF (NOD)

ICCT member Aaron Willis is featured in the upcoming production of (nod) by Theatre Gargantua. (nod) is an indomesticated dark comedy written by Rick Roberts, star of the CBC comedy "Am American in Canada". (nod) will take you into the psychologically perilous terrain of a family in crisis to witness the downfall of an already fallen family. This screwed-up comedy reaches across time, space and death as three siblings try to salvage what's left of a family which is just barely holding on by its fingertips. Directed by Artistic Director Jacquie P.A. Thomas, (nod) previews on November 21, opens Saturday November 22 and runs until December 7 at the Factory Theatre Mainspace, 125 Bathurst Street. Box Office: 416-504-9971. Tickets \$15 - \$25

DEADLINE FOR SNORRI PROGRAM IS JANUARY 12TH!

If you are between 18 and 25+ you have a chance to discover your roots in Iceland with the Snorri Program. You will travel, learn about Icelandic culture, and meet your relatives in Iceland. It's a six week summer program that offers an opportunity to visit Iceland over the long days and bright nights of mid-summer. The program offers a unique experience of the country, including its culture and nature. Aaron Willis was a Snorri participant this year, and his impression was summed up in one word, "Awesome".

Aaron Willis further explains "Exploring my Icelandic heritage through the Snorri Program was like finding out I was a member of a club that I hadn't known existed until now! I discovered that if I wanted to, I could really claim the place as my own, as part of my own history - and I have. It's always a privilege to be able to travel somewhere else in the world, but to go to a place where you have a palpable connection to the people and the land is absolutely unique"

Next year's Snorri Program runs from June 13th to July 24th, 2004. Go to www.snorri.is for details and an application form.

THE ICELANDIC—CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

All in all, the promotion in Toronto provided a showcase for Iceland and gave a chance for us and others from across the country to sample excellent food, music and art from Iceland. It was my pleasure to be involved with this promotion from the outset and to see it through to such a successful conclusion. Thanks to all those who helped make it possible, including the Foreign Ministry of Iceland, Eimskip, Ambassador Hjálmar Hannesson, Helga Bertelsen from the Embassy, Pétur Óskarsson from Iceland Naturally in New York, Jón Ragnar Johnson, Consul General, the staff of the Delta Chelsea Hotel and the Goethe Institut, along with Jón Thordarson and Kristinn Jakobsson, who provided invaluable help with setting up Steinunn's show.

ICELANDIC CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ESTABLISHED

By Gail Einarson-McCleery, Consul for Toronto & Heather Ireland, Consul General for BC and Yukon)



Consular members of the Icelandic Canadian Chamber of Commerce

On Friday, September 12th, Ambassador Hjálmar W. Hannesson saw the fulfilment of one of his dreams - the establishment of the Icelandic Canadian Chamber of Commerce, with Canadian and Icelandic business people and Iceland's career

and honorary diplomats in attendance. Special guest speaker was Valgerður Sverrisdóttir, who told the gathering that Iceland's dependence on the fishing industry has been decreasing and that it is now the knowledge based industries that are driving economic growth. She pointed out the advantages for companies located in Iceland and for foreign investment. We also heard from Pétur Óskarsson who explained Iceland Naturally's role in promoting Iceland in North America. Other speakers included Páll Magnússon, a Deputy Member of the Álfingi, Guðmundur Hoganson of Clearwater Fine Foods, Hugh Porteous of Alcan and Einar Gústafsson, Director of the Iceland Tourist Board in New York.

After the adoption of By-laws for the newly formed ICCC, Gordon Reykjadal was elected President, Johann V. Olafsson Vice-President and Helga Bertelsen, Secretary-Treasurer. Fifteen board members were elected, representative of both countries and the Canadian provinces.



THE SEA - FILM FROM ICELAND ~ SCREENS NOVEMBER 27TH

by Gail Einarson-McCleery

The Icelandic film industry produces an amazing number of first quality films considering the small size of the country. In recent years, many of these have been co-productions with other European countries. Most film festivals across the country include at least one and often two of these films on their schedules, but wider distribution is often a problem. Not everyone can attend the Gimli Film Festival in August! So, the Icelandic community in Toronto has taken steps to make sure these films will be available for general screening.

The first film was shown on September 25th: we started with "Cold Fever", a favourite from prolific director Fridrik Thor Fridriksson. Next we will be screening "The Sea", which is the second film directed by Baltasar Kormakur of "101 Reykjavik" fame. "The Sea" will be shown November 27th, and we plan on a regular schedule of a film on the last Thursday of every second month.

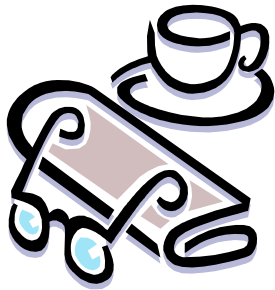
The National Film Board theatre at 150 John Street downtown is the venue, and we are partnering with the NFB as part of their regular Thursday night screening series. The Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto and the Icelandic Consulate are organizing the series, with help from the Icelandic Film Centre, and we are currently looking for a sponsor to help defray costs.

"The Sea" (Thurs. Nov. 27, 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.) is set in a remote fishing village on a beautiful fjord in Iceland. No one notices the incredibly majestic nature there, as, like everywhere else, material well-being is the driving force. Life revolves around fish and the worldly wealth that harvesting the sea can create. But that prosperity depends on sustaining the fish stocks and preventing overfishing. For this reason, fishing boat owners have been issued with quotas which have become a very precious asset especially when they are sold. Thordur Haraldsson, the father of the family at the centre of this story, has a lifetime's fishing behind him, and has therefore been allocated a large quota. Wealthy, aging patriarch Thordur assembles his scattered heirs to discuss the future of the family fishery. But bringing everyone together unleashes a storm of long-repressed sexual abuse, lingering suspicions, sibling rivalries and incestuous passions. Ultimately, it's a heartless battle between the past and the future that culminates in a night of explosive rage. This is a story that could be set in Newfoundland, or even Gimli, but happens to take place in Iceland.

Cont'd on Page 6

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

ICCT COFFEE KLATCH?



Is there anyone out there who is interested in a little coffee and conversation once or more a month? The executive of the ICCT was thinking that this would be a great idea for interested members to come together to share Icelandic recipes, talk about their recent travels to Iceland or just have a nice conversation with a fellow Icelandic-Canadian. If this type of event interests you, please let Leah know by calling her at (905) 277-5298 or email her at oceanroses@yahoo.com.

A TASTE OF ICELAND NATURALLY

cont'd from page 3

featuring more of her sculptures at the Toronto International Art Fair at Metro Convention Centre November 14th to 17th, as well as taking them to the Miami Art Show in January. You can also see Steinunn's works at www.steinunnth.com.

FILMS FROM ICELAND WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thursday, November 27th

THE SEA

National Film Board

150 John Street (at Richmond)

6:30 & 8:30pm

\$6 for adults & \$4 students, seniors and NFB members

If you'd like to reserve a seat, or have more information, call Leah at 905 277-5298, oceanroses@yahoo.com or Gail at 416 762-8627, icegem20@cs.com.. or just show up.

Meet us before at Montanas across the street for a drink or meal. See you there!



Start the year Anew - Volunteer with the ICCT

We are looking for enthusiastic people, willing to make a difference in the Icelandic-Canadian community. Most positions only require a few hours a month and are a great way of getting involved in the community and staying in touch with fellow Icelandic-Canadians in Toronto. For more information on any of the positions, please call Leah at (905) 277-5298.

Treasurer ICCT Executive

Duties:

To receive & keep an account of all monies received and spent by the ICCT

To pay ICCT suppliers within a timely manner

To prepare monthly statements for the ICCT board of directors

Bookkeeping experience is a must.

Vice President ICCT Executive

Duties:

Assisting the president in running the club

Must have prior leadership experience & good organizational skills

Regular contact with the Icelandic-Canadian community of Toronto is an asset

Intern ICCT Website

Duties:

Assist with the overall maintenance of the website

Update the newsletter area & president's message when needed

Maintain ICCT e-mailing list

Must have familiarity with the Internet and website design

Intern Falkinn Newsletter

Duties:

Assisting in gathering and writing news stories

Laying out the newsletter when the editor is unavailable.

Must have working knowledge of desktop publishing programs such as MS Publisher