

# HALKINN

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

August/September 2004

ICCT FÁLKINN 45th Year Number 1



## "Taste of Iceland"

Icelandic Gala Dinner at the Delta Chelsea Hotel, opens the "Iceland Naturally" promotion in Toronto

As last year, The Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, will in co-operation with Icelandic embassy, "Iceland Naturally" and the Delta Chelsea Hotel,

host an Icelandic Gala Dinner. This years event will be held on September 10th, starting of the "Iceland Naturally" promotion in Toronto, which will run until September 26th.

The evening starts with opening reception at 17:30, and the dinner starts at 19:00. The menu, which is featured here on the frontpage, includes such well know Icelandic delicacies, as shrimp and salted cod, is prepared by Delta Executive Chef Ragnar Pedersen, and Icelandic chef Hilmar Jónsson, so the attendents should be in for a treat. As mentioned above The Gala Dinner is a part of "Iceland Naturally" promotion in Toronto. The program will include seafood promotion at the Delta Chelsea, and cultural events with a special focus on films. As of now we

cannot give you further information on this part, but we will try to inform you in emails as soon as possble. A sweepstake to win a trip for 2 to

Iceland with The Great Canadian Travel Company, is though confirmed, and will include all guests at the Delta Chelsea, and patrons of

> their restaurants. Those at the Gala Dinner included of course.

Menu

September 10.th 2004

Hot Smoked Atlantic Salmon Served on Young Baby greens with Apricot Chutney

Icelandic Shrimp Salad with Aurora Dressing

Potato Incrusted Salted Cod with Julienne of creamed vegetables

Apple Stuffed Pork Tenderloin with Sugar Glazed Potatoes and fresh vegetables. Port Sauce

> Rhubarb mousse Coffee & Tea \$55.00

This is a unique oppertunity for those who long to get a little taste of Iceland to enjoy good food and let the mind wander to Iceland. Those who wish to attend the dinner, should fill out the reservation slip which acompanies the newsletter. and mail it to the ICCT treasurer as soon as possible, as due to unforseen circumstances the time until deadline is not very long. Deadline to mail reservations is September 3rd. There should be an adressed envelope supplied as well, but if not, mail reservations with cheque to: Mel Johnson, Treasurer ICCT, 2000 Roy

Ivor Cr., Mississauga, ON.

L5L 3N8. Remember to

state the choice of appetizer and main course. Please note, that the tickets will not be mailed, but will be waiting at the restaurant.

## F an E

### FÁLKINN-THE FALCON

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

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Webpage: http://www.icct.info

### News from Iceland

Based on and edited from mbl.is, visir.is, ruv.is and icelandreview.com

## An Expensive City - Reykjavík

Reykjavík is number 8 on a new list of the most expensive cities in the world. The list is compiled by Economist Intelligence Unit, EIU, for The Economist. Last year Reykjavík was number nine.

Number one this year, as it has been the last decade is Tokyo and Osaka-Kobe, then as follows, Paris, Oslo, Copenhagen, Zurich, London, Reykjavík, Geneva and Vienna.

Though this does not come as a surprise for those who have visited Iceland, it has as it did last year, spurred discussion in Iceland, about what can be done to lower prices on goods and services.

## Iceland's Newest Export: Lazytown

A decision has been made to show the "Lazytown" children series weekly on CBS, throughout the US. The series made its debut on Nick Jr, on August 16<sup>th</sup>, and will been on CBS from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of September. On Nick Jr, "Lazytown" will be on twice a day every weekday, or 520 runs a year. The station reaches 91.000 homes. The decision to show the program on CBS as well came as a welcome surprise, as it will bring Lazytown to a much larger audience and out of the subscription television, and on a weekend, when the majority of children are at home.

The series is produced in Iceland, and around 130 people work in the production, which are scheduled to finish in December.

For those not familiar with "Lazytown", the series is based on a very popular Icelandic children's play, "Áfram Latibær", by Magnús Scheving.

"Lazytown", is populated by people that care more for candy and computers then healthy living. Then the "Sportsfairy" visits the town, and sets out to change things.

The author and creator of "Lazytown", Magnús Scheving, is a well known athlete, and has given many lectures on healthy living, and given special attention to the lifestyles of children.

As of now, nothing is known whether "Lazytown" will be broad-

cast in Canada, but for those who want to know more, the website is: www.lazytown.com

#### Prime Minister Has Cancer Surgery

Prime Minister Davíð Oddsson had a cancerous thyroid removed early August, doctors also removed near-by glands to ensure that the cancer did not spread. In July, Davíð was hospitalized and underwent surgery where his gallbladder was removed and his right kidney as well.

According to the Prime Minister's office, Oddsson is expected to make a full recovery, and states that there are no connections between the two growths.

The Foreign Minister, Halldór Ásgrímsson, is acting as Prime Minister, but he was scheduled for take over of the job, on September 15<sup>th</sup>, due to agreement made when the government was founded in 2003. Davíð will in return take over Halldór's chair, as Foreign Minister.

#### President Celebrates

#### New Term

Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson was voted for his third term as President of Iceland in June. Ólafur got overwhelming support of the voters, or almost 90% of valid votes.

The attendance was though the poorest in the history of the Icelandic Republic, or only around 63%. Worth mentioning is the fact that over 20% of the people who showed up to vote, turned in an empty ballot.

In a formal ceremony held at parliament, the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, Ólafur said that the role of the president is always changing and will continue to change in the future. "Democracy is important to Icelanders," he told the crowd, which was made up of dignitaries, ambassadors, MPs and high-court judges, and of course Iceland's acting Prime Minister, Halldor Asgrimsson. It was noted though, that many MP's were absent, without any special explanation.

#### **MOVIE OF THE MONTH**

"Tears of Stone" (English subtitles)
Thursday, September 30
6:30 and 8:30 p.m.
The National Film Board
150 John Street, Toronto

Admission: \$6 for NFB members, seniors, students, \$8 for others. Join us before the screenings for a drink or meal at Montana's (across the street).

### Beautiful "Tears of Stone" September 30<sup>th</sup>

Director: Hilmar Oddsson; Script: : Hilmar Oddsson, Hjálmar H. Ragnarsson, Sveinbjörn I. Baldvinsson.; Director of Photography: Sigurður Sverrir Pálsson; Exterior Photography in Iceland: Slawomir Isziak; Composer: Jón Leifs; Music Director: Hjalmar H. Ragnarsson. Cast: Throstur Leo Gunnarsson: Jón Leifs, Ruth Ólafsdóttir: Annie Riethof Leifs, Heinz Bennent: Mr. Riethof, Bergbóra Aradóttir: Líf, 1995 "Tears of Stone" is without a doubt among the best Icelandic movies. Based on a true story set in turbulent 1930s Germany, the movie deals with the first half of the life of Icelandic composer Jón Leifs. We see him clash with the Nazi regime, as he tries to stay faithful to his music and the interest of his wife, who is Jewish. His daughter Lif, also has a prominent part in the movie, and the title comes from a story, Jón tells her, about a little Icelandic stone he carries in his pocket. The stone he says, is a tear of a lost troll, searching for home, who is unable to reach his cave before dawn. When the sun's first rays touch the troll, he is turned to stone, as is the single tear that he sheds. Jón says that anyone, who has this stone, always finds the way home. It is tempting to compare the search of Jón's family of a place to call home, to the story.

The cinematography is excellent, and the music of Jón Leifs, reaches new heights in the film. Often thought strange and not so musical by Icelanders, it really comes alive in "Tears of Stone". Even though "Tears of Stone" is not flawless, it comes higly recom-



mended, and should not be missed by those who enjoy good movies and classical music.

"Tears of Stone", won numerous Festival awards, including the Nordic Prize at the Gothenburg Film Festival and the Best Cinematography Award at the Prague Film Festival

#### **Nordic Movies**

In addition to a monthly Icelandic film, those who enjoy Nordic cinema can now look forward to monthly Finnish films as well. The first Finnish film will be screened at the The National Film Board, on Wednesday September 29<sup>th</sup>. The first Finnish film will be "Kites over Helsinki", directed by Peter Lindholm. Before the movie will be a reception, further details to be announced later.

#### More Movies

Also look out for The Arctic Dreamer: The Lonely Quest of Vilhjálmur Stefánsson, which will be screened on August 26<sup>th</sup>, usual place and time, and then we can start to look forward to Agnes, by Egill Eðvarðsson in October, and Rare Birds by Sturla Gunnarsson in November.

Those who are interested in the movie Boewulf and Grendel, which Sturla is about beginning to shoot in Iceland, should check out the website of the film: http://www.beowulf-movie.com

#### Museum of Halldór

#### Laxness

On the 4. of September, a museum to commemorate, Halldor Laxness, the Icelandic Nobel prize writer will be opened at Gljúfrasteinn, the home of Halldór. The Icelandic government bought the house in 2002, and the same year the heirs of the writer gave all furniture and other belongings. The museum will be shown exactly as it was, the home to his family and his work-

place.

Among features in the museum will be a multimedia presentation, and tours, either by guide, or vocal guidance, prerecorded by Auður Laxness, the wife of Halldór.

There will be tours through the museum every 20 minutes, each limited to 20 persons.

#### Record Heat in Iceland

Both July and August were unusually hot in Iceland. In August a lot of new records were registered. At Egilstaðir airport the heat reached

29.2°C, the highest temperature ever measured in Iceland. Around 29 degrees were also at Þingvellir, in Skaftafell and in Árnes. In Reykjavík the temperature reached 24.8°C, and has never measured higher.

The Icelanders have taken this climate with open arms and as little clothes as possible and ice-cream makers have also been quite content with business. Corn growing farmers also have a reason to be happy, as their crops have benefited from this good weather, and they expect a bumper harvest.

## Katrín Arnason Morgan

(By her daughter Nancy Morgan, with input from Gail Einarson-McCleery and Info. From "Pine Valley Echo", "Ladies Aid Club History of Pine Valley", and Katrín herself)



Katrín's maternal grandmother was Katrín Margrét Jónsdóttir, one of four girls, daughters of a minister. She became a teacher and married Einar E. Einarsson in Iceland and moved to America with their first child. They settled at Icelandic River in 1878, with their little girl, who died of smallpox. Their two sons were born there (Einar and Óli). They moved to Hallson, North Dakota, where Katrín's mother, Guðrun Sigurbjörg Einarsdóttir, was born. In 1900, when Sigurbjörg was 11, they moved to Pine Valley (now known as Piney). Sigurbjörg's mother taught her to read and write, both Icelandic and English. Katrín's father, Stefán Arnasson, was born in Iceland

in Eyjafjördur. He graduated from Möðruvöllum School in 1900 and emigrated to Tantallon, Saskatchewan in 1904. He could already read and write English when he arrived. He moved to Winnipeg, where he met the Einarsson family, first Einar and Óli and then their sister Sigurbjörg, and they subsequently married in 1911. Sigurbjörg and Stefán took over her father's farm in Piney and lived there until they moved to Vancouver in order to provide better opportunities for their adult

sons. They had 12 children, 6 boys and 6girls. Katrín, born October 25th,

1918, was fifth, after one girl, Ólaf, and three boys. In addition to farming, Stefán was Secretary Treasurer of the Municipality. The family advocated to have a school for the children in Piney and donated the land on which the school was built. This meant that Katrín had only to jump over the fence and she

was at school.

The town of Piney was located only 5 miles from the Minnesota border, and Katrín remembers it as a lovely little town The family had a piano, Ólaf learned to play, and many hours were spent with the whole family singing around the piano. A friend once said, "You should be a choir of your own". Anna's exceptional contralto voice has been immortalized in vinyl. Sigurbjörg was a wonderful mother. Originally, Piney was an Icelandic settlement, and there were 29 Icelandic families there. Later, it was a typically Canadian town, the railroad came through and the CN had headquarters there; RCMP headquar-

ters were there as well. Katrín had a wonderful childhood there and was reluctant to move with the family after she had finished high school. But her parents felt there weren't enough opportunities for their adult sons, so in 1937 the whole family moved to Vancouver. The boys got jobs, and the rest of the family did well. The youngest two sons graduated from U.B.C.. The surviving family members still live there: Katrín's brothers Stefán and Norman



Katrín surrounded by her grandchildren

and sisters Mildred and Anna. Katrín has a long history of

involvement with the Icelandic community; she was awarded a scholarship of \$100 from the Icelandic Club of Vancouver when she was 22. This money enabled her to attend Nursing School, and she graduated as a Registered Nurse from Vancouver General Hospital. She worked at Shaughnessy

Military Hospital after the war as a surgical nurse. This professional training gave Katrín a perspective, which enabled her to be an outstanding parent, daughter, sister and friend. She worked at her profession part time in Trenton, Owen Sound and Toronto. A retirement party was held for her at the East General Hospital in Toronto. She was 67 years old and had worked consistently for fifteen years in the paediatrics area of the hospital. Coworkers often still recognize her on visits to the hospital where she is treated with love and respect. Katrín met John Wilbert Morgan in 1946. He was a handsome, charming young man who came from Brighton in Ontario. She and her husband John had their first three children in Vancouver (Mary Evelyn in 1948, Nancy Ann in January, 1950, and Katrín Margret in December, 1950). They purchased a home in North Vancouver and had property on Grouse Mountain. They decided to return to Ontario hoping to establish their own business. Their other three children were born (John Arnason in 1954 in Trenton, Gwen Sigrid in 1956 and Julianne in 1959 in Chatsworth). At first they lived in Trenton to be near John's family. He worked at Weaver Brothers funeral home in Trenton and then they established the Morgan furniture business and funeral home in Chatsworth. It was a successful business, and they were there for fifteen years until they felt they needed some time off occasionally for holidays and travel. Moving to Toronto in 1970, John worked for Sherrins Funeral Home owned by the Day brothers, and they purchased their home on Balsam Avenue. Every two years they planned a major holiday, visiting Kathmandu, Europe, The Middle East, India, Siberia, Mongolia, China and many other places. As soon as they arrived, they joined the Icelandic club and thoroughly enjoyed attending their events. As a matter of fact, her husband was heard to say that he had a better time going to Icelandic events than he did going to church! John Wilbert Morgan, Katrin's husband, passed away after a lengthy illness in November of 1991. The three voungest children went to Malvern Collegiate. Mary went on to get her Honors B.A. in History from Victoria College, U of T and now teaches high school in Belleville. Nancy graduated from University of Waterloo and became a high school maths teacher; Margret graduated with a B. A. from U. of T. and worked for the Department of

Public Works. John got his PhD in Political Science from U of T and also teaches high school.. Gwen completed a Master of Social Work at U of T and works for Women's College Hospital. Julianne completed her Honours BA in science at U of T (biology) and works for the Department of Public Works. Katrín is a proud grandmother of fourteen: Graeme, Anne Louise and Julia Tubbs; Morgan and Kathryn Boyd; Michael and Dharma Morgan; John, Robert and Jem Cuthbert and Frances, Katrine, Elizabeth and Siobhan Handley-Derry. Katrín exemplifies the spirit of a pioneer woman. She can fix anything from the stove to the car, is a wonderful gardener, cook and seamstress providing beautiful tailored clothing for her five daughters. She encouraged academic success and valued hard work and responsible behaviour. Her commitment to her family's success led her to step out of familiar roles and teach Sunday School and assume responsibilities on the Home and School executive. She made sure that each child in the local school had a large sugar cookie decorated in pink icing for their Valentines party. A tradition continued by her daughters. Katrín's diverse abilities extended to a dedication to painting and refinishing furniture. Through the challenges involved in raising six children, the family felt strongly the support of Katrín's sisters in British Columbia. The box of gifts at Christmas and the love through cards and short visits was deeply felt by each member of the family. This is the heritage that she brought to her family. our Icelandic tradition. She has held a candle up for her children in terms of their Icelandic heritage and brought them all to Thorrablót year after year. Organizers remember her arrival each year, bearing her vinarterta! As a matter of fact, the Morgan family has been the largest family group there for many years running, often with 16 or more members present. She is very proud of her Icelandic roots and it shows in the way her children and grandchildren have become involved in the ICCT, taking part in the Icelandic choir and taking part in Viking plays. organizing craft activities for children at events and most recently organizing the entire Silent Auction. We are very proud to present an Honorary Membership in the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto to this outstanding example of Icelandic womanhood. Katrín Arnason Morgan.

## **ICELAND**

(By Dr. A. Teglas)

(this poem was written after his recent trip to Iceland)

Do you miss me tonight
when the sun, tired, searches for the Horizon
hesitates, then stops,
pale gold against a restless Sky
against sharp black shapes
that echo the cries of Gunnar, Njall,
the ghosts of Egil, Snorri
and Leif the Lucky:
Battles fought, enemies decapitated,
Riches dreamt and fought for
Honour defended as Iceland was born.

All that and much more:
For a brief spell of time
I WAS Iceland,
the land of clean air, wild rivers,
Lakes, now still tired at the end
of the long journey.
For a time,
I was the Sky, the Sun, the Moon
the soft all embracing Beds of Moss
reserved for Lovers
Young and Old;
Green Grass

Greener than English, Irish or Scotch gently bathed by the Mist of Foss bleeding bloodless flow of Tears shed by Giant Fields of Ice and ducks, nestling in eiderdown protecting those to be born, Hunted by Falcons, by Terns in attack formation: or them just a meal.

Do you think of me
When you hear the Loons
the Wind,
as it carries the groans of Kjartan and Bolli
Avenged and Revenged

Do You, on the odd occasion
think of me as the days grow shorter,
Blackness rules, as if forever,
Till broken, unexpected,
By Rivers of Fire
in a Land where heroes no longer ride into Battles
Where not much threatens the Established Order.

Still, men and women come and go But rivers run over well-washed Stones Waters, wild with Salmon, Char and Trout, The father the Son and the Holy Ghost ride Wild Horses over green glades, valleys, mounds where children play hide and seek moors, heather and fields of broken dreams petrified lava, smiling at the relate surface of the Moon The Wind restless, never ending over Mountains, Fields, Fjords Cities, built by Sons of Peasants Sons of Men who harvested the Ocean Sons and Daughters who now ride the Internet in search of the Holy Grail of the Double Helix a People by and large a happy family, Warm friendly, nurturing and more and more

For less than a blink of an eye
I WAS THIS Island of endless days, sunlit nights
an Island, forever young
cradled me:
By Invitation only

Scattered over the Globe

never leaving their home in their hearts and minds

Their Island caresses by the Gulf,

warmed by boiling waters of the Deep.

## EINARSON-McCLEERY, Eric John

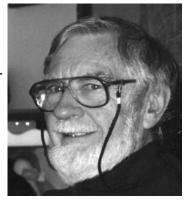
After being diagnosed with cancer only one month ago, Eric passed away on Sunday, July 18, 2004. Born in Melbourne, Australia on the 18th of September, 1926, he is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Gail Einarson-McCleery, O.F., Honorary Consul for Iceland, and by his two sons Andy and Cameron, from his first marriage to Joan (deceased 1971) and four grand-children, Sean, Lauren, Christopher and Esther. He also leaves Joanne (Cam's wife) and in Australia his sister Lois, his niece Liana and nephew David, and in Vancouver Gail's daughter Lesley and her family.

Eric was studying to become an aeronautical engineer but as World War II came to a close and the cold war began, he found a career in international broadcasting as a news announcer for Radio Australia. Eric then became a pioneer of Australian television being one of the first three producers at the Australian Broadcasting Commission in Melbourne. He produced and directed documentaries and variety programs for five years, notably live multi camera broadcasts of several plays. Arriving in Canada in 1961 with his first wife and two children, he joined the CBC and produced shows such as "Let's Speak English", "Country Calendar" and "This Land". At the CBC Eric was again a pioneer, producing CBC's cutting edge program "Analog", the first business analysis and stock market program of its kind. Eric retired after 25 years of service.

Although he was a Canadian citizen for almost forty years, Eric delighted in his Australian heri-

tage and many of the friendships "down under" he kept throughout the years.

Those two countries didn't hinder Eric in "adopting" the third, Iceland. He was an ardent supporter of



the Icelandic - Canadian club, and supported the club both directly and his wife in her work for the Icelandic community. To mention one of his contributions, one would have to choose, "Vikings in Canada Gala", in the year 2000, which he co-produced with his wife, celebrating 1000 years of Nordic visits to Canada. But Eric was always ready to lend a helping hand, and had ready good words for Iceland and the Icelandic community here in Canada. During Eric's brief illness he received many visits, emails and calls from all around the world which cheered him greatly. He enjoyed wonderful memories.

The family thanks the staff at St. Joseph's Health Centre, in particular Dr. Jon Blondal, and the caring staff and volunteers at St. Michael's Palliative Care Unit.

Celebrations of his life were held in Toronto, Morningside-High Park Presbyterian Church, in Gimli at Minerva Hall and in New Westminster at Iceland House during August.

The Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto extends it condolences and sends its best wishes to Gail, and Eric's family.

### **Interesting Finds**

We would like to turn our readers interest to the INL website: http://www.inlofna.org. There one can find information about activities in all Icelandic clubs across Canada and the US as well. We especially like to mention the bulletin board that can be found on the homepage. Use it to post information, that you think is interesting for the Icelandic community.

Have you noticed something, some product ,something in the news or in the stores that you think would be interesting for other members of the Iclub? Any website that you think others would like to visit? To share any information, send an email to: falkinn@hotmail.com or tommi@hugemail.com

## **Donations**

The Icelandic Canadian Club in Toronto, has always relied on its member to take active part in the club, and as well donations from our members, following is a list of people who have made d donations to the club the last four months. We send these members our sincerest thanks.

George Isford, Dr.Georg Bjarnason, Dr.Barry & Lilia Day, Anne Brydon, J.Torfi Bildfell, Blair Laxdal, Dr.Barry & J.Whitney, Glen Thordarson and Carol Spencer.

And last but not least, we would like to mention the generous donation of Signy Stephenson, who donated \$250 back to the club, when she won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the clubs raffle. A truly unselfish and generous gesture.

## I am Icelandic and it expresses itself in a lot of ways.

### - Linda Lundström goes to Reykjavík

Icelandic – Canadian designer Linda Lundström will show off her fall collection 2004 in Reykjavík

September 27th. Canadian fashion show is nothing that is common in Iceland, so we asked Linda why she had decided to go to Iceland, "As a member of the Toronto Icelandic Committee, a group of Canadians of Icelandic descent and Icelanders residing in Canada pulled together by Gail Einarson-McCleery, Consul for Iceland in Toronto, I am interested in creating connections between Iceland and Canada. So the possibility of doing business with Iceland was something that I felt was an important way for those connections to happen." And Linda also quoted her Icelandic background, made it tantalizing to go "back" to Iceland, "I visited Iceland five years ago with my mother who is fluent in Icelandic; it was a life altering experience for many reasons. It was

like a pilgrimage. After that visit I appreciated my mother and her culture so much more though I was raised to be proud of my

Icelandic culture. My mother is pure Icelandic and her family of 12 siblings and many, many cousins, from the Interlake area of Manitoba have always been very

proud of their Icelandic heritage." "People have also pointed out to me that some of my designs may

have an Icelandic origin. Going to Iceland is a way of rediscovering a part of me. Because such an important part of me is the work I do designing clothes. it is just the ultimate expression of my pride of being Icelandic that I would show my work to people in Iceland. I guess it is part of the journey of discovering who I really am-my authentic self. There is a part of my authentic self that I know is there because of my Icelandic and my Swedish heritage. In order to continue on that journey towards authenticity I need to discover that part of my heritage. And I want them to discover me too."

The show will be held in cooperation with Jakops Pelsar, which will carry Linda's designs. The owner, Guðrún Jakopsdót-

tir, has also been very enthusiastic in making this possible.

We hope that we can bring you some

news of the show in later issues of Fálkinn, and we send Linda our best wishes and hope that she will dazzle the fashion happy Icelanders.



Linda Lundström wearing one of her designs.



## "Kvennahlaup" – Women's Run

The first "Kvennahlaup" or "Women's Run" was held in Toronto this summer. The women ran in High Park on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Though the runners should have been bigger in numbers, this is a good and healthy start. "Kvennahlaup" has been held in Iceland since 1990, and has been catching on year from year, especially in Iceland, but also by Icelandic women around the globe.