



# FÁLKINN

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

April/May 2005

ICCT FÁLKINN 45th Year Number 7

## JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

And Film presentation: **SAGA of HOPE**

Director: *Juliann Blackmore*

### – An Icelandic Odyssey

Find out how a personal vision led to a celebrated and haunting TV documentary. Meet the director of the film (23 minutes) which was shown as part of the series "A Scattering of Seeds", on History Television. Discussion and refreshments to follow.



*Juliann Blackmore*

Juliann Blackmore of Windsor, Ontario went on a momentous journey to discover her family background and Icelandic heritage. In reclaiming her past, a number of unknown relatives and an epic Canadian pioneer history surfaced.

Her story begins with the late 19<sup>th</sup> century massive exodus out of poverty from

Iceland to Canada and the hopes of a better future in a place called "New Iceland", Manitoba. It unfolds as two young men, Juliann's great-great-grandfather Sigursteinn Oddsson and Hans Peter Tergesen seek their fortunes in the new world. While Hans Peter started a general store at Gimli and prospered, Sigursteinn struggled to break the land near Lundar. In the end the hardships of breaking the land proved too much and his family life was shattered. His descendants scattered across Canada.

Juliann's background in television and film includes directing and producing for CTV in Regina, reporting CBC *Newsworld*, *Midday* and anchoring CBC Winnipeg, re-

**Saturday, May 14 -  
2:30 p.m.  
Scandinavian-  
Canadian Club, 91  
Stormont Avenue  
(Lawrence &  
Bathurst.)**

search and development for *The National: CBC* as well as *Vision TV*.

*Saga of Hope* is a story of unsung heroes who, in their own small ways, have helped

shape our nation.



*A scene from "Saga of Hope"*



*The great-great-grandfather of the director, Sigursteinn Oddsson and his wife.*

Our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will include ELECTION OF OFFICERS for the upcoming year

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR CLUB AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE... WE WELCOME NEW FACES!

If you would like to run for any office, or would like to nominate someone, please contact the head of our Nominating Committee, Holly Garrett at hgarrett@cogeco.ca OR 905 648-5263

You'll be guaranteed to learn a lot about your heritage and have a lot of fun!

AND Don't forget, that you can borrow books from our library at this meeting also!

Members \$5 Non-members \$6 Coffee and goodies to follow

See the clubs revenue and expenses on Page 7.

**Check out our revamped website: <http://icct.info>**



# 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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## NORTHERN VOICES CHORAL FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE JUNE 3 TO 12

Many of you will remember the marvelous choir which came to Toronto to be part of a choral festival in 1997 ... the Hamrahlid Choir from Reykjavik. Well. They're coming again, and will be one of the choirs featured in this Choral Festival produced by Sound-

streams. The Festival's Honorary Patron is our Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson. For 10 days, Toronto will resonate

with the sounds of some of the world's best choirs from Canada and the Nordic countries. Ranging from multi-choral spectaculars to intimate solo-choir concerts, *Northern Voices* celebrates the choral traditions of the world's northernmost countries. The event includes the *Northern Voices Choral Conference* – a unique oppor-

tunity for professional and non-professional choirs to expand their choral horizons.

Hamrahlid will be bringing us a 70 voice choir consisting of current students as well as graduates of the school. With Iceland's rich choral tradition, Hamrahlid has a history of Icelandic works specially composed for their voices including works by Haukur Tomasson, Jon Nordal and Karolina Eiriksdottir. **Their concert is:**



*The Hamrahlid choir*

**Sunday, June 12  
3:00 p.m.  
Metropolitan  
United Church,  
56 Queen St.  
East**

In addition, for our members in the Hamilton-Guelph-Kitchener-London area, ICCT is

sponsoring a special concert: **Tuesday, June 14 8:00 p.m. Downtown Cultural Centre, 23 Rebecca St. Hamilton**

If you are interested in helping sponsor this Festival, or more information about it, please contact Holly Garrett, email: hgarrett@cogeco.ca tel. 905/648-

## Don Gislason, Our Membership Director, featured on Ströndin Internet Radio, Program # 6

*A commercial-free internet Arts & Entertainment program for Icelandic-North Americans.*

Program #6 begins with observations on some early Norse cultural traditions associated with this time of year, and then moves on to a photo walking tour to the INL of NA central office in Gimli, Manitoba. Robert Asgeirsson interviews Rosa Johnston, INL Exec. Secr. (*Photo tour by Dilla Narfason*)

Our second item is a charming story told by Don Gislason from Toronto about his likely encounter with the ghost of artist Ólafur Túbals as he stopped by Múlakot in Iceland. (*Sketches by Pat Peacock*).

Our third item is a feature interview with Sharon Norman, renowned Icelandic-Canadian artist working in Vancouver. Sharon is planning to take an exhibition of her recent Icelandic landscapes to Iceland.

The show ends with a delightful reading from the Jóhann Magnús Bjarnason novel "Eiríkur Hanson" by our show's host, Gus Kristjanson. (*Sketches by Pat Peacock*)

Web pages with photographs and drawings accompany each segment in the show. Program #6 is now available "On Demand" at our website: <http://www.pennan.ca/SIR/>

You can "tune us in", so to speak, at any time of the day or night and you will be able to see and hear this new show at your leisure for the next few months.

## BABYSITTER WANTED!

Looking for a babysitter for our two children aged 2 and 6. Approximately one evening a week. Location: near 401/ Yonge St. The children speak Icelandic and English so this could be a perfect opportunity to practice your Icelandic. Contact: Haraldur Eidsson, haraldur-gudni@gmail.com

## CELLO STUDENTS WANTED

Ingunn Benediktsson, a master student at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music would like to teach beginner students of all ages, starting this fall. [ibenedikt@gmail.com](mailto:ibenedikt@gmail.com) or 416 960-4767; from May 30 th to Sept. 1, call her at 403 244-4506.

## ANNUAL PICNIC – FRIENDS OF ICELAND – OTTAWA

Our friends in Ottawa are going to be having their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic on Saturday, June 11 at Perth, Ontario and invite us to join them.

Volundur Thorbjornsson and Daja Kjartansdottir will host this picnic at their home at 256 Islandview Drive, Perth Ontario commencing at 2:00 p.m. Activities being planned for the day are as detailed by Volundur as follows: We

will have a play area for kids; swimming and water slides; boat rides; Unnur Einarsson reading from the Icelandic sagas; taste of Icelandic cuisine; volleyball; small craft show; horseback riding; showing the 40min film "Vikings" on a big screen few times over the day and if I get the right guys for the job I would like the show "Glima" the traditional Icelandic wrestling.

And of course we would finish it off with Icelandic music and bonfire for those who really want to have fun. For more information contact Gerry Einarsson, email: [einargk@rogers.com](mailto:einargk@rogers.com)

# SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED AT THORRABLOT

Two scholarships of \$1000 each were awarded at Thorrablot this year, the ICCT Scholarship and the Ragnar and Marion Johnson Scholarship, which was presented by Consul General Jon Johnson and his wife Pat in honour of his parents. This was won by Emma Ardal and we will be hearing from her in our next newsletter. The winner of the ICCT scholarship was Jennica Gilmore, and here is the essay she wrote to accompany her application:

My name is Jennica Gilmore. I live with my father, Bob Gilmore, and my brother Greydon in London, Ontario. I am currently enrolled in grade 12 at H. B. Beal Secondary School.

My great, great grandfather Sigurdur Sigurdsson (1859- 1943) and my great, great grandmother, Jarngerdur Eiriksdottir (1872-1951) emigrated from Iceland to Canada in 1891. My other set of great, great grandparents, Sveinbjorn Vigfusson Holm (1874- 1935) and Bjorg Benediktsdottir (1881-1910), emigrated from Iceland in 1903. My great grandfather Bjorn Sigurdson (1896-1981) married Hildur Holm (1907- 1965) and they later bought a farm at Bergstadir, which is near Gimli, Manitoba. The Sigurdsson family reunion I attended in 1991 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my great, great grandfather's immigration to Canada. Unfortunately I was too young to remember much of the reunion. However, in the summer of 2003 our family held the 100-year celebration of Sveinbjorn immigrating to Canada. I enjoyed meeting other family members and finding out about our Icelandic roots. Our family also made a visit to the farm, which belonged to my great grandfather, Bjorn Sigurdson. The farm is now owned by my second cousin, Barry Sigurdson.

My Amma, Ellen Gilmore, and Papa, John Gilmore, first got involved in the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto as co-treasurers. My Amma then became president of the Icelandic Club and served for two years.

About six years ago, when my Amma was president, I attended the first ICCT Christmas party. As soon as I arrived I was eager to help out. By the end of the party, I couldn't wait to attend the Christmas party again the next year. I have dressed as a Viking girl and helped with the Þorrablot for four years now. I have also spent time in the kitchen helping my Amma bake Icelandic desserts such as Vinarterta and Ponnukokur. It is exciting to go and celebrate my heritage with other Icelanders and enjoy the delicious Icelandic food.

At school I am involved in many activities. I have been on the girls' soccer team for two years and last year I started up a girls' curling team. I have also been involved in student council, stained glass club and choir. I will be the student chairperson of the Beal Cancer Campaign in



The scholarships recipients, Emma Ardal on the left, and Jennica Gilmore on the right (photo; Lögberg—Heimskringla)

March- April 2005. I have been on the honour roll for the past three years and maintained an average of 90%. In grade 10, I won an award for having the second highest average out of hundreds of grade 10 students. I also won an award for having the highest gym mark and the highest health mark. I also won the Fallona award, which recognizes students involved in the athletic courses at school. In grade 11, I was recognized for having the highest mark in accounting.

My community involvement includes acting as a volunteer and participating in walks to raise money for finding a cure for Multiple Sclerosis, Cystic Fibrosis and Cancer. Two years ago I helped to organize a walk for "Hope's Garden", which is a non-profit organization that helps people with eating disorders. I have also been involved in the annual United Way stair climb and have helped out at the London Food Bank. I have also spent many hours of my free time helping to better my school in the library and in the classroom. I have been very active as a babysitter in my community. Cur-

rently I have five clients.

I have been accepted to Wilfrid Laurier University for Accounting. I have also received an early acceptance from Western for their science program. Besides having applied to these two prestigious universities I have also applied to Waterloo and Ottawa Universities for accounting and Brock for their Concurrent Education program. In the past I have jumped at the opportunity to study Iceland, by doing various school projects on the history and facts relating to the country. I look forward to continuing to explore my Icelandic roots. I would also like to stay involved with the ICCT. I hope to visit Iceland with my family before I graduate from university.

## SPROCKETS FILM FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN



From "Stikkfri"

This year, the festival includes two Icelandic films ... a feature "COUNT ME OUT" (Stikkfri), which is shown on May 1 and May 7, and a half hour film "SAVIOUR" (Bjargvættur) April 30 and May 8 ... for more infor-

mation visit:

<http://www.e.bell.ca/filmfest/sprockets/index.asp>

# ICE FEST

## THE CANADIAN LEG OF ~ THE PATH TO GIMLI ~ BEGINS AT ICE FEST

*The Path to Gimli* is a pilgrimage by a small group of Icelandic horse riders tracing the trek of their ancestors to Gimli, Manitoba. The journey begins on Lýðveldisdagurinn (Icelandic Independence Day June 17<sup>th</sup>) in Eyrabakki, Iceland and ends at Íslendingadagurinn on July 30<sup>th</sup> in Gimli. Horses being shipped to Canada will be ridden a good portion of the way starting from Kinmount ON, through Rosseau, Hekkla, Gravenhurst, Bracebridge, and to Clear Lake Farm in Magnetawan. Then onwards with a stop in Thunder Bay before reaching home base on Arnason's Icelandic Horse Farm in Manitoba. In Gimli the horses will be sold to raise education funds for The Snorri Program which enables Icelandic-Canadian descendants to travel to Iceland to learn more about their ancestors and their heritage. As well, the trip will illustrate the significance of the horse in Icelandic history outlining its place in Icelandic culture.

This event celebrates the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of official Icelandic settlement in Canada. It is a compelling story of Icelandic and Canadian history that is little known to most Canadians. The Canadian leg begins July 16<sup>th</sup> 2005 at ICE FEST.

### Mail from Iceland

**A commemorative stamp will be franked in Iceland. A post horse will carry letters from Iceland to Canada to be opened at various stops along the way. If you want to take part in this historical event, you can invite family/friends in Iceland to purchase a stamp, write a letter to you and address the letter: Your name, c/o The Path to Gimli, 820 Eyrarbakki and place your Canadian address on the back of the envelope.**

ICE FEST will enjoy colourful trees, a busy river and hard rock hills, and the colour that people will bring to the festival. We celebrate our volunteers, some of whom are introduced below.

### Bill Berry ~ Our Roving Photographer

Bill lives in Barrie Ontario. With strong support from his wife Kelly, he has begun to elevate a long-time interest in photography as a hobby to a new creative level. A career in Emergency Health Services has greatly influenced his photographic style. "Being exposed to human suffering and tragedy on a regular basis gives one a completely different perspective on life. It tends to make you appreciate simple pleasures and the beauty around you, knowing that everything can change dramatically in a split second and without notice".

Bill takes an interesting approach to his photography always looking beyond the obvious with a keen eye for the



☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
☆☆ A Celebration at  
☆☆ Moonlight Mania  
☆☆ Kinmount ON  
☆☆ on Burnt River  
☆☆ Austin Sawmill  
☆☆ Heritage Park  
☆☆ Saturday July 16,  
☆☆ 2005  
☆☆ 2:00 ~ 6:00 p.m.  
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

subtle and unexpected things that show the real beauty of a subject. With his main interest lying in the areas of informal portraiture, nature and the documentation of special events, he strives to make his work tell a unique story and provide a positive experience for anyone viewing it.

### Tom Bjarnason ~ Illustrator and Artist

Tom was born in Winnipeg's Icelandic community. He started his commercial art career in Windsor after studies at the Winnipeg School of Art and Meinzingers Art School in Detroit. His work has taken him to London, Stockholm and Dusseldorf. In Toronto he became assignment illustrator for *Weekend* magazine and *The Canadian* magazine. As a skilled illustrator he was given commissions where accurate

depictions were paramount. These include the Canadian Department of National Defence and Canada Post. Five of Tom's Defence paintings are in the National Museum in Ottawa and 9 are in the War Museum Archives. For Canada Post, Tom created 21 illustrations, the most memorable being the Ship series stamps.

In 1990 Tom was invited 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. A sampling of Tom's work will be on display at ICE FEST.

### Hildegard og Thorsteinn Helf ~ Recreators of Nordic Life

Hildegard and Thorsteinn are a team with a wide sphere of interest. Their field of action comprises the arts, painting, woodcarving, acting, storytelling and the joy of gardening, flower arranging and plain good home cooking. They like the tradition of our teutonic ancestors, the tales of our Nordic gods and goddesses and the heroic sagas of old.

Their interest includes ancient history, a love of the spirit of nature and the earth, the mysteries of the runes and the way of Asatru which is the spiritual way of our Nordic gods and goddesses and as a religion recognized in Iceland and Denmark and practised by various groups in most countries of Europe and in North America. In the past they have been active participants at the Viking festivals in Hafnarfjordur in Iceland. Thorsteinn and Hildegard will recreate a replica of a small Nordic camp.

### Don Gislason ~ Writer

Don has been affiliated with the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto for almost 40 years. During that time he spent 10 years on research and writing about the Icelandic immi-

grant presence in Ontario. He continues to do so by narrating that story at various events including our forthcoming ICE FEST celebration. He has spent many hours bringing to light the buried history of the Icelandic settlement in Kinmount. Results of his work can be found in his book ***Icelanders of Kinmount*** and on the plaques supporting the sculpture "In the Presence of a Soul" both of which are memorials to these early settlers. Don has expanded his efforts by searching for and finding some of their descendants living in Canada and in the USA. Don's book will be on sale at ICE FEST.

Don's academic background includes his vocation as a geography teacher and department head in a secondary school operated by the Toronto Board of Education.

**Sara Benediktson ~ Performer**

At the request of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, Sara makes her performing debut at ICE FEST 2005. Those familiar with the term "accidental tourist" will best understand Sara's view of herself as an "accidental musician". A few years ago after taking up guitar Sara's own unique style of playing emerged along with her fresh approach to song writing. Sara is on the dawn of a musical journey without a map. Those with an open mind looking to sample something a little different will appreciate this performance.

**Fredda Stevenson**, of Barrie is being joined by her brothers **Lloyd Gudnason** of Huntsville and **Roy Gudnason** of Oakville to assist in the many tasks that will ensure the success of ICE FEST.

**More Events of Interest ~**

The smithy beside the railway station on Burnt River will be open and operational. This is your chance to talk to Kevin Robillard, a working blacksmith in a real forge. The local historical society will display its artefacts. During the evening hours of Moonlight Mania, local residents will display and sell dolls featuring various kinds of Icelandic national dress. These will be sold in the Artisan Marketplace.

There is a children's playground and nature walkways near the Burnt River. The river affords an opportunity to swim, canoe and to kayak. Visitors are encouraged to bring your own lawn chairs and picnic lunches to supplement tasty ponnukokur and homemade jams.

**JAM \* JAM \* JAM**

**We invite donations of jam for 500 ponnukokur**  
**Please call Fran (see below) for pickup or delivery**  
**Transportation** ~The ICE FEST planning committee would be pleased to arrange for a chartered bus from Toronto to Kinmount return for those wishing to attend the festival. Should you need transportation you are asked to contact Gudrun Girgis. (see below)

**Accommodation** ~ The Kinmount Agricultural Society has confirmed that camping facilities (with running water and toilets) will be available in the local fair grounds at \$10.00 per site. You are asked to enter at the main entrance to the site.

**Planning Committee ~**

Gudrun Girgis, Chair, gudrun@on.aibn.com tel. 705/792-6830  
 Diane Austin, Chairperson, Kinmount Committee for Planning  
 Holly Garrett, hgarrett@cogeco.ca tel. 905/648-5263  
 Fran Moscall, hegilles@connection.com tel. 416/221-6453



Marylin Rayner

**Marilyn Rayner**

Marilyn Rayner, ICCT 1994 scholarship recipient, successfully defended her doctoral thesis in engineering on "Membrane emulsification: modeling interfacial and geometric effects on droplet size" at Lund University in Sweden on February 25, 2005. Marilyn is a graduate

from the engineering department of the University of Guelph in 1999 and has been studying in Sweden on a full academic scholarship. Marilyn has been named as the 2005 recipient of the SCI (Society of the Chemical Industry) Seligman Bursary from Great Britain. She is the first scholar from either Canada or Sweden to receive this award. She has also been awarded the Scanian Gastro-nomical Academy Research Prize of 100,000 kr to continue her research on the use of radio frequency cooking in the production of high quality meat products. Marilyn has accepted a post-doctoral research position at Lund University. Marilyn resides in Lund with her husband Fredrik who is also completing his PHD in Civil Engineering. Marilyn is the daughter of Georgina and Wally Rayner and the grand daughter of Imba Phinney(Sigurdson) of Keewatin and the late Eva and Norman Rayner of Kenora.

**KVENNAHLAUP SAT. JUNE 11TH**

The "Kvennahlaup" (Women'sRun) has been held in Iceland since 1990, and has been catching on year by year, especially in Iceland, but also by Icelanders and their friends around the globe. This year, Montreal is going to be joining Winnipeg, Vancouver and Toronto with their own Kvennahlaup.

The Montreal club (Icelandic Canadian Club of Quebec) describes their event: "Kvennahlaup 2004" in Winnipeg raised over \$400.00 for breast cancer research and in Reykjavik raised money for 'handling mental disease'. This multi-generational run/walk encourages participation - from a few months to 100+ years old. It is not a race, it is not timed - it is simply to inspire us to exercise. Wearing a special tee shirt on the course, each participant receives a trophy at the finish line. Montreal is going to join the fun, so bring your babes and their stroller, tie on some sneakers...circle the date on your calendar and everyone come out, bringing your family and friends to walk, run or ride... If you can't participate, come and wear a teeshirt...hand out water bottles - encourage the "athletes"

**SO**, let's see how many people we can get out in **TORONTO**. Our run will be in High Park in the west end of the city, starting at 9:30 a.m. We have decided to have a 2 km walk and a 5 km run. We will end up at the Grenadier Restaurant in the middle of the park, so those who don't want to run can join us there for coffee or lunch. We have to order the tee shirts ASAP, as they are going to be produced in Iceland early in May. Cost is \$25 (including a \$5 donation to breast cancer research) ... Heidi Kinnon will be co-ordinating the event, so please contact her at 416 466-5896 hkinnon915@rogers.com.

# News from Iceland

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

## Biggest in the World

Icelandic company Bakkavör has now become the biggest company in the world in the production of fresh ready made food. Bakkavör recently acquired the British company Geest for 70 billion ISK (about CAD 1.4 billion). Before the acquisition Bakkavör was the biggest stockholder in Geest. Bakkavör borrowed 58 billion ISK at Barclay's Bank, which is believed to be the biggest loan an Icelandic company has taken. The Icelandic KB bank was also involved in the financing. Lýður Guðmundsson the CEO of Bakkavör, claimed that this not only makes Bakkavör the biggest producer of fresh ready made food, but also the biggest company on the Icelandic stockmarket.

This is the second Geest company that an Icelandic company has bought this year, as shortly before this happened, the shipping company Samskip, bought the Geest shipping company.

## Exporting Flowers To Holland

Iceland would not be considered the most likely country to export flowers, but that is to become a reality, if the plans of some Dutch flower merchants work out. They will build a 2400 square meter greenhouse at Flúðir, to grow a popular indoor flower, *Nertera granadensis*, and export them to Holland. They intend to use the Icelandic summer to simulate the growing conditions in Holland in the winter, and therefore will be able to grow the plant all year round. The plants will be sown in Holland in March, then transported to Iceland in June and grown there until October or November, and then exported again to Holland.

## The Oldest Icelander Ever?

Guðfinna Einarsdóttir is now the oldest Icelander in history, at least that can be certified. Guðfinna is now 108 years and almost three months old. She was born on 2nd of February 1897. She is in good health, but needs a walking aid. She lives with her daughter in Reykjavík. In the census of 1703, one male was registered as being 110 years old, but it is believed to be based on wrong information. However, the oldest person of Icelandic descent of all was Runa Arnason of Gimli, who lived to be 110.

## Among the Richest Men in the World

Björgólfur Thor Björgólfsson is on the Forbes top 500, which lists the richest men in the world. Björgólfur who is #488 on the list, is believed to own around 84 billion ISK or just over CAD 1.6 billion. This is the first time an Icelander has made this

list. The biggest reason for Björgólfur to be on that list, is likely the strong Icelandic króna and the strong Icelandic stock market.

## Award to an Icelander

Ragnheiður Gestsdóttir was recently awarded the "Nordic Children's Book Award", for her achievement as a writer and a visual artist, but with special mention of the book "Sveröberinn" or the "Swordbearer". The Awards jury is made up of representatives from all the Nordic countries, and is organised by "Nordisk skolebibliotekarforening" or "The Nordic Association of School Librarians".

## SNORRI PLUS DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MAY 15

Here's information from organizer Asta Sol Kristjansdóttir of INL Iceland: As most of you know The Snorri Foundation has created an innovative opportunity for people of Icelandic descent living in North America who are over 30 years of age, and for those who may be travelling as a couple. Snorri Plus is an *exciting and unique* adventure and is truly the opportunity of a lifetime! Snorri Plus offers the descendants of those who emigrated between 1855 and 1914 a two-week program in Iceland, full of diverse experiences and adventures. The program is scheduled during the last weeks of Iceland's long summer nights, August 19 to September 1

### An Opportunity Designed for You

As a participant in the program, you will spend your first week in Reykjavík participating in a cultural and educational program, visiting museums, dining out and travelling to interesting spots in and around the capital area. Upon arrival you will receive your family tree, and get assistance with contacting your Icelandic relatives. You will also get to visit a company, organization or individual in your field of work. There will be opportu-

## Finnish Film in May: Huutajat - Screaming Men

The Finnish film for May is a documentar "Huutajat" or "Screaming Men", about The Screaming Men Choir, and cover their activity for 5 years. The film directed by Mika Ronkainen was chosen "Best Nordic Documentary 2003". The choir is coming to the Northern Voices Choral Festival, just as the Hamrahlið choir. Like the Icelandic films the Finnish films screen at The National Film Board, at 6:30 and 8:30, but on Wednesdays, in May on the 25th. Admission is free, For more information please call 416 964 0066 or e-mail [toronto@finland.ca](mailto:toronto@finland.ca)

nities for you to pursue activities related to your own special interests or hobbies, learning how your interests and passions may be shared by your relatives and friends both in and outside Iceland. During your second week you will travel to some of the most important historical sites in Iceland, seeing Iceland's magical nature firsthand by horse, boat, coach and foot.

For further information about the program, price and an application form please visit our website at:

[www.snorri.is](http://www.snorri.is) and/or contact:

The Snorri Foundation  
c/o The Nordic Association  
Óðinsgata 7  
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Iceland  
Tel. +354 551 0165  
Fax +354 562 8296  
Email: [info@snorri.is](mailto:info@snorri.is)

## ICELANDIC LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL CAMP

The deadline for applications is April 30<sup>th</sup>, so don't miss out on this opportunity for your child to attend this great camp near Gimli, Manitoba this July ... application form is on-line at <http://icct.info>

### SIGNY M. GRIGGS 1944-2005

Signy was the daughter of founding member of ICCT, Birgitta (Guttormson) Gillis, who is one of our Honorary Members. Birgitta had been living with her in Hastings, ON for the last few years. Signy, who had been a nurse in Toronto before her retirement, passed away in her 61<sup>st</sup> year after a battle with breast and brain cancer. She is survived by her husband, Edward (Ed) Griggs of R.R. 2, Hastings, daughter Anneli (Jim) Farrell of Barrie, son James Griggs (Christine) of Bowmanville, and grandson Daniel. Her father was the late Kitchener Russell of Millbrook. She was the sister of Steve (Kathy) Russell of Toronto, Kitchener Russell of Aurora, Rick (Connie) Russell of Whitby.

# DAYS TO REMEMBER: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursday, April 28** Toronto, ON: Movie “Cold Light (Kaldaljós) ... Icelandic movie by Hilmar Oddson. English subtitles

National Film Board, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.  
\$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

**Saturday, May 14** ICCT AGM and a film presentation: “**SAGA of HOPE – An Icelandic Odyssey**”, 2:30 p.m. Scandinavian-Canadian Centre 91 Stormont Avenue, (Lawrence & Bathurst).

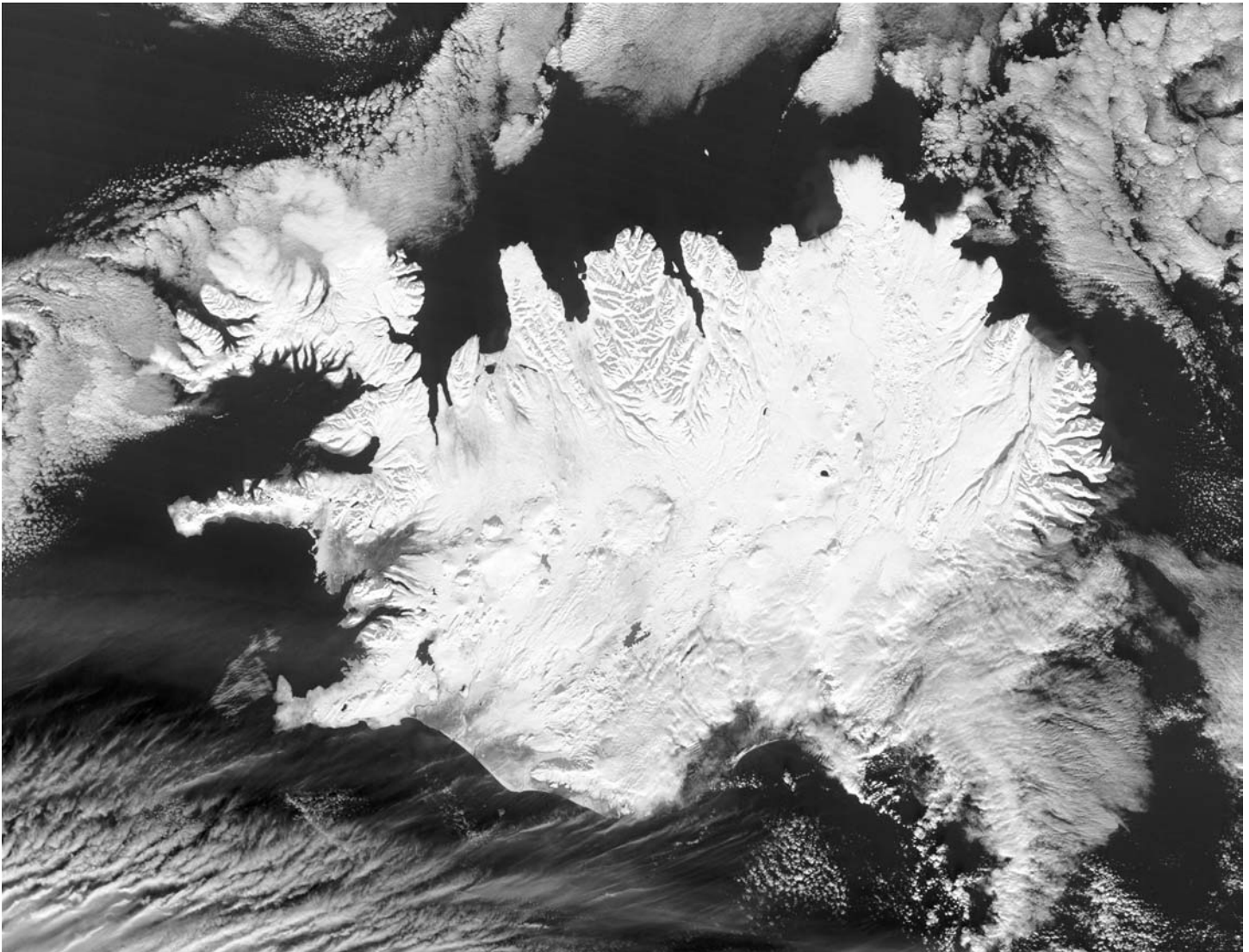
**Thursday, May 26** Toronto, ON: Movie “Nói (Nói Albinói) ... Icelandic movie by Dagur Kári. English subtitles  
National Film Board, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.  
\$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

**Saturday, June 11** Toronto, Kvannahlaup (Womens Run) in High Park. The run ends at Grendadier Café.

**Sunday, June 12** Toronto, concert by the Hamrahlíð choir, 3:00 p.m. Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen St. East

**Tuesday, June 14** Hamilton, concert by the Hamrahlíð choir, 8:00 p.m. Downtown Cultural Centre, 23 Rebecca St. Hamilton

**Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup>** ICE FEST in Kinmount 2 to 6 p.m. A Celebration at Moonlight Mania Austin Sawmill Heritage Park , Kinmount Ontario.



*Iceland, seen from space.*

## Film of the Month - May:

National Film Board, Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present: "Nói" (Nói Albinói) – English subtitles - A film by Dagur Kári  
Thursday, May 26  
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 for coffee and Vínarterta between screenings, at 8 o'clock.

**Please notice that these are the last screenings in this series. Screenings will begin again in the fall.**

## Is There Hope For Nói?

Starring Tómas Lemarquis, Þróstur Leo Gunnarsson, Elin Hansdóttir, Anna Friðriksdóttir, Pétur Einarsson, Sveinn Geirsson, Gérard Lemarquis, Guðmundur Ólafsson, and Hjalti Rögnvaldsson. Written and directed by Dagur Kári. 93. minutes. 2003.



Nói; Actor Tómas Lemarquis

This feature debut by writer/director Dagur Kári, has gotten great reviews around the globe, and been a constant and popular feature at various film festivals, including here in Toronto, where it was screened two times in 2003, and was completely sold out. The film has sometimes been said to be a crossbreed between Aki

Kaurismaki and Truffaut.

The film tells the story about a teenage boy who lives in a remote village in the Westfjords in Iceland, and nobody is sure whether he is a genius or the village idiot. He dreams of running away with the girl of his dreams, who works at the gas station. But nothing happens as intended and maybe the only thing that can save Nói is nature?

Dagur Kári newest film, "Voskne Mennesker" (made in Denmark, in Danish), or "Grown Up People" has already gained a lot of attention, though it has not been premiered yet, and will be screened at the Cannes Festival this year, in the category "Un Certain Regard", so one can say that this director is on a roll.



Writer/director Dagur Kári

## THORRABLOT SUCCEEDS DESPITE SNOW!

We had a sellout crowd at our Thorrablot on Saturday April 2nd and not even the awful weather kept people away ... they came from Kingston, Guelph, London, Barrie, Hamilton, Burlington, and many other places. The food was marvelous and we must make a mention of Kristin Olafson-Jenkyns, Ellen Gilmore and the whole kitchen and serving crew, who did such a great job. Despite Brenda Bjarnason breaking her leg skiing and being stranded in Alberta, her newly written Viking Play was a hit, with the young actors having a very good time as well. Our thanks to all who did so much work on all aspects, especially to treasurer Mel Johnson and to Holly and Jim Garrett who not only took care of the silent auction and the music but also brought us so many interesting things to buy! Take a look at Lögberg



Young actors performed a Viking Plays by Brenda Bjarnason  
(photo: Lögberg—Heimskringla)

Heimskringla, which also has a write-up on our Thorrablot.

## Lögberg – Heimskringla is your paper

Dear members of Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto. First of all I want to thank you for the invitation to Toronto and to your recent þorrablót. It was a very pleasant evening loaded with excellent food and I'm looking forward to seeing you again.

Secondly, I must congratulate you for the excellent work you do in the club. Without strong grassroots support, nothing would be accomplished and you sure have accomplished a lot. Keep up the good work.

Thirdly, I would like to use this opportunity and remind you of the importance of Lögberg – Heimskringla. It is not only the oldest continuously publishing ethnic newspaper in North America, but the umbrella that keeps the Icelandic community together. It is written in English about people of Icelandic descent in North America and Iceland.

This paper is the only one of its kind in the world and it is your paper.

It costs less to subscribe to Lögberg – Heimskringla than going out for a weekly cup of coffee, and the advertising rates are inexpensive. Yet, every subscriber and every ad counts.

Enjoy the summer,

Steinthor Guðbjartsson  
Managing Editor  
Lögberg - Heimskringla

**Remember "Cold Light" (Kaldaljós) -  
Screens April 28 at 6:30 and 8:30.  
DON'T MISS IT**