



# FÁLKINN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

February 2005

ICCT FÁLKINN 45th Year Number 5

Sunday, February 20 2:30 p.m. Scandinavian Canadian Club, 91 Stormont Ave. (near Bathurst and Lawrence)

## DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A LENDING LIBRARY?

Well, we do, come and find out about it *AND* also meet KATHY ARNASON, writer from Manitoba *AND* join our new Book Club!

### KATHY ARNASON AND THE INL INTERNATIONAL VISITS PROGRAM BRING BACK HOCKEY, ALBEIT VERY BRIEFLY

A close up encounter with world class hockey is available. Because of the NHL hockey dispute, North American hockey fans are enduring winter without their favourite game. However, the Icelandic National League and the North American Visits portion of the INL International Visits Program have provided an antidote. It's a visit from Kathleen Arnason, author of *Falcons Gold*, the



story of the Winnipeg Icelandic hockey team that captured the first Olympic gold medal for hockey – at the summer games in Antwerp, Belgium in 1920. Yes, the summer games. Winter games began in 1924 but hockey was a recognized Olympic event four years earlier.

Kathy Arnason is a self-described “hockey mom” from Gimli. She’s also a proud Icelander who

says her heritage influences her writing. An author and a poet who is deeply involved in the Prairie Ocean Centre of the Arts, she is the recipient of the Queen’s Jubilee Medal for her work in arts and culture. *Falcons Gold* tells the story of the first hockey gold through a magical journey, facilitated by a puck that was caught at one of the 1920 Olympic games. With the hockey lock-out in effect, this might be as near as North Americans can get to The Game this year.

While the primary aim of the program is to facilitate cultural exchanges between Iceland and North America, the tours also offer an opportunity to introduce Icelandic culture, history and traditions to the general public. Arnason’s book has been endorsed by Bill Nicholson, President of the Canadian Hockey Association, and Arnason’s tour provides an opportunity to link a great piece of little-known Icelandic history with North America’s old and young hockey fans.

The tour begins in Ontario and Quebec in February, on the cusp

### AND THE ICCT LENDING LIBRARY WILL BE REOPENED, COME AND BORROW BOOKS ABOUT YOUR ICELANDIC HERITAGE.

Browse or take home books on genealogy like: “Icelandic River” by Nelson Gerrard (history of Riverton and district with detail of families), “Gimli Saga”. On genealogy in Icelandic: “Vesturfaraskrá” 1870-1914 ... lists all the Icelanders who left Iceland for N.A.

On travel: Maps showing all the original farms in Iceland Poetry: “Zero Hour” by Kristjanna Gunnars and “Andvökur” in Icelandic by Stephan G. Stephansson

Novels in English: “Where the Winds Dwell” by Böðvar Guðmundsson (fictionalized account of emigration to New Iceland), “Angels of the Universe” by Einar Már Guðmundsson (made into a movie), 3 novels by Laura Goodman Salverson (including “The Viking Heart”), “Bloodflowers” & “Red Dust” by W.D. Valgardson (short stories)

Childrens books (a number of them) in Icelandic. And this is just to mention a few, nothing beats having a look one self. Don’t miss this opportunity to look at or borrow great books in Icelandic or on Icelandic heritage.

And last but not least, you can join a book club (more information on page 3). Though nothing has been decided on future books, one can assume that Iceland will not be far away in our thoughts.

Come, borrow some books, hear about hockey, and if you are ready for more reading, join a book club.

On Canada’s Heritage Day, the third Monday in February, Arnason will be at Montreal’s Thorrablot Feb. 18, at the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa on Feb. 19 and at the re-opening of the lending library at the Scandinavian Canadian Centre in Toronto on Feb. 20.

Arnason will also tour the west and will be a panellist at the INL conference in Vatnabyggd, addressing the question of how an author’s prairie Icelandic background influences his or her writing.

For more information, contact Joan Eyolfson Cadham  
jcadh@sasktel.net

# Thorrablot is coming..see back page



# 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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## New Members

As an ever growing club, the ICCT is proud to present its newest members: Harpa Ardal, Kingston, Ont. Gudmundur Johannesson, Goretty Dias, Aidan Obbema, and Brandur Gudmundsson, Guelph, Ont. Dr. John and Grace Blondal, Toronto, Ont.

## Donations

The ICCT's various programs are made possible, by generous donations by its members, here below is the list of people who have made donations to various programs in January. Thank you to: Marlene Mintz, Fran & Vern Austman, Cathy & Wayne Bolahood, Brian & Donna Laxdal, Dr. Thomas and Adrienne Einarson, Garry Oddleifson, Lynne Thorkelsson (in memory of Jean Thorkelson).

## ICELANDERS DONATE TO TSUNAMI RELIEF

*Reprinted from Logberg-Heimskringla*  
Icelanders and others of Icelandic descent are among the millions worldwide who are donating to relief efforts for victims of the recent tsunami in south Asia. The Icelandic government agreed to donate \$3 million to tsunami victims. An additional \$2 million was raised from private donations, part of which was raised during a special telethon broadcast on all Icelandic TV stations on January 15. In Canada, a similar benefit concert, broadcast nationally on CBC Radio 1, CBC TV and other networks, was spearheaded in part by Tom Cochran, who is of Icelandic descent on his mother's side. The benefit concert was broadcast on January 13 and generated more than \$4 million, according to Canadian Press. (Note: Tom Cochran is a well known musician who lives in the Toronto area)

# Scholarship Deadline February 28

Two scholarships of \$1000 are being offered, one from ICCT and one from Jon and Pat Johnson in memory of his parents, Ragnar and Marion Johnson. Download the application form from our website: <http://icct.info> or phone Leah at 905 277-5298 [cpkexpress@rogers.com](mailto:cpkexpress@rogers.com)



## WANT TO GET YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

We have had some requests to have the newsletter sent by email. So we have decided that we will offer that service to those who request it. They will be sent a PDF file, instead of a hard copy by "snail mail". Just email Barry Stinson, our Membership Records director, and he will make sure it happens. If we don't hear from you, we will continue mailing the newsletter to you. [Barry.stinson@sympatico.ca](mailto:Barry.stinson@sympatico.ca) Presidents of clubs across the country and others on our complimentary list, will be sent a PDF file.

## WE GET EMAIL:

Hi Gail,

First, let me say it was nice meeting you last night. I really enjoyed *Rare Birds*. I look forward to seeing it again sometime. It was a nice, funny feel-good movie. My main reason for attending was the *Beowulf & Grendel* preview. I have a number of friends that I chat with online that are also following this film closely but could not attend due to 'geographic limitations'. I was their eyes and ears. Anyway, I wrote out my experience for them, and I thought I'd send it to you as well.

Regards,  
Lisa Dmytruk

"Post-flu weakness and shakes couldn't stop me from attending the preview of *Beowulf & Grendel* at the National Film Board in Toronto last night. The pale moon reluctantly showed its face on this bitterly cold winter night. Bundled against the cold I walked briskly along the snow-covered sidewalks to the theater that would serve as the present-day mead hall--the place to gather and listen to tales about monsters. Sturla Gunnarsson, director of the film, gave a brief introduction about the story and characters. He described the ambiance of the place and period for the story, characterizing the opulent Byzantine influence in the harsh world of these Danes as 'diamonds in the mud'. He spoke about the extreme weather conditions (the worst in 50 years), describing volcano eruptions and windstorms that destroyed some of their equipment and vehicles. But he had a smile on his face. I think he'll remember it with fondness.

Now for the preview. Of course, it was too brief for my liking, but I'm already anxious to see the entire film. The footage was chosen well. I felt that I was given a good introduction to the main characters, the costumes and setting, and the overall mood of the film. Thank-you Sturla.

There were two main things that struck me right off. First, there was the setting, and more particularly the weather. The weather seemed like a character unto itself. It never auditioned, nor was it hired, but it showed up anyway. I wonder if it will get a place in the movie credits? Secondly, the impact of the character Grendel is unexpected. In this brief introduction, he has already triggered a sympathy vote in the audience.

After the preview, Sturla answered questions from the audience. I'll try to summarize them as best I can, but remember post-flu fatigue was setting in by now.

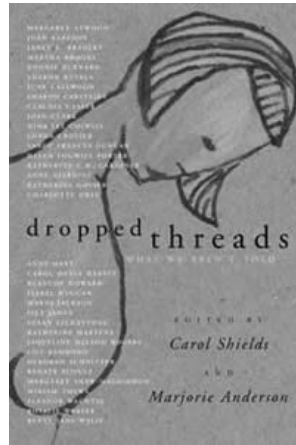
There is no set release date as of yet. The time required in post-production is too difficult to predict. The audience seemed unanimously eager for a showing at the Toronto Film Festival in September, and although it's not confirmed, it's a possibility.

The casting process had an interesting history. Film board regulations required the cast be either Canadian, Icelandic, or from the UK. Sturla felt that finding an actor that is a 'manly man' is hard enough on the global playing field, but it was very difficult given the restrictions. This is what led Sturla to Gerry Butler and to check out all his previous (not so good) films. Sturla's thought was this; if he could do a good job in a bad film, what could he do in a good film? Gerry was in. Sarah Polley was one of his choices and, luckily, Canadian. Stellan Skarsgard was Sturla's first choice for Hrothgar, but he was Swedish. Some good fortune and swift negotiating with the Film Board made this possible. Ingvar Sigurdsson was the choice for Grendel, and after considering the script, Ingvar concurred by naming Grendel as his character of choice.

The Icelandic residents on location made up most of the extras...particularly the Danes. Sturla figured that since Gerry was Scottish, he'd hire Scottish actors to portray Beowulf's fellow

## ICCT Book Club

Many INL groups have very successful book discussion groups. We would like to launch one in conjunction with the opening of our library on February 20<sup>th</sup> (see the front page)



This will be the first meeting of the book discussion group. Our club is extremely spread out, so this won't work for everyone. Those of you in the Toronto area who can't make the Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> meeting but still want to take part, please contact Leah at 905-277-5298, [cpkexpress@rogers.com](mailto:cpkexpress@rogers.com).

Those of us who are not willing to drive into Toronto can meet in an online discussion area, which has asynchronous discussion boards and synchronous live chats. Please contact Holly,

[hgarrett@cogeco.ca](mailto:hgarrett@cogeco.ca) to be added to the discussion boards and for directions on getting online.

We propose *Dropped Threads: What We Aren't Told*, Editors: Carol Shields and Marjorie Anderson, as our first book since it has contributions from our club members. This is the first of the two *Dropped Threads* books and has been available for some time, so many of you may have read it and be ready to express your opinions. It is a "woman's book" but we welcome comments from men. We have been able to affiliate the ICCT website with the Chapters/Indigo site to give you an easy way to order the book. Ordering through the link from our website, <http://icct.info> will help the ICCT as 5% will be reimbursed to the club.

More information on the book:

Format: Trade Paperback · Published: January 2001  
Dimensions: 368 Pages, 6.02 x 8.97 x 0.91 in  
ISBN: 0679310711 · Published by Vintage Canada  
Price: \$22.95

Geets. Ironically, Sturla laughs, Stellan is the only real Geet in the film, and he plays the king of the Danes.

I spoke briefly with Sturla at the end. The crowd for the next show was in and I didn't want to take up his time. He asked what I thought, and I made my comments about the weather as a character. When I mentioned Grendel's sympathy vote, he said 'Good'. I commented on my renewed excitement about the film, but my effect was blunted from fatigue, so I don't know I came across.

I don't think I did Sturla justice. I'm one of those people that needs to digest a film for a day or so to give much opinion or comment. Today, I had an important connection to the film. So, Sturla, if you're listening: The decision to make Grendel a real-world being rather than a computer generated monster was brilliant. Rather than just enjoying a good tale, I'll be able to step right into the movie and become a part of it. It will make it more real. Rather than sitting back and thinking "Isn't that sad" or "Wow, that would make me angry", my heart will pound and I'll feel rage and disgust and pride. And that's what makes the ride worthwhile.

~Lisa

# A Double-Barrelled Success!

On Sunday Jan. 23, 2005 club members gathered to hear readings by Andri Snær Magnason and to thank the Phone Committee for their work. Andri entertained the group with readings from his "Bonus" poetry and "Blue Planet" play and sang a rimur (old Icelandic chanting song). As well, behind the scenes glimpses into the Toronto production of "Blue Planet" and his efforts to establish himself as a poet and playwright were shared with an enthusiastic audience. Ambassador Eiriksson was in attendance and has invited Andri to a similar gathering in Ottawa. Bravo, Andri! We look forward to hearing more from this accomplished artist, who brings a cultural, environmental and historical awareness to his work.

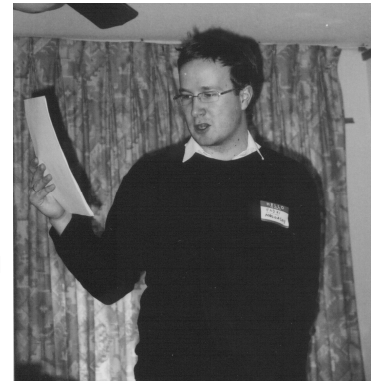


President Leah Salt plus some members of the Phone Committee; Gail Einarson-McCleery, Chair Tracy Morrison, Evelyn Trites, Gigi Fridriksson, Irene Gibson

The Phone Committee was recognized for the work they do "connecting" with the membership. A team of twenty-four people call before events and keeps up to date with those on their lists,

often hearing of changes, illnesses and important happenings in peoples' lives and linking with the Club Executive. The Phone Committee is a vital link in the club, particularly for older members who may not be able to get out to events. Members in attendance were: Tracy Morrison (Chair), Gigi Fridriksson, Gail Einarson-McCleery, Evelyn Trites and Irene Gibson. The other members of the Phone Committee are: Dorothy Purchase, Ragnheidur Hlynisdottir, David Swanson, Marion Johnson and Nancy McCreedy, Donald & Norma Johnson, John Thordarson, Betty Jane Wylie, Elaine Charette, Edith Smith, Carolyn Ar-nason, Margaret Jackson, Arden Jackson, Joan Albert, Kathleen McDermott, Gudrun Girgis, Cathy Bola-hood, and our newest member Cheryl Bristow. Holly Garrett (Vice-President) presented

each member with a Canadian and Icelandic flag pin. The event adjourned with a wine and cheese where members got a chance to talk with Andri and socialize with one another before heading back out into the cold weather.



Writer Andri Snær Magnason

## INL CONVENTION IN VATNABYGGD TO FEATURE LOCAL HISTORY

(By Joan Eyolfson Cadham, reprinted from Logberg-Heimskringla)

One of the features of the Icelandic National League Convention, slated for Vatnabyggd from April 29 to May 1, is an opportunity for delegates to enjoy some living history. Friday afternoon sessions will include a bus tour of the "Icelandic" Unitarian church in Wynyard, the monument to Icelandic pioneers in Elfros, the Leslie United Church, originally the Mount Hecla one-room school, and the east edge of the Foam Lake marsh, the site of the first Vatnabyggd Icelandic settlement. Local Icelanders will facilitate a history discussion at each site. The Vatnabyggd Club is hosting the convention as part of their Saskatchewan Centennial celebrations. The first Icelanders in Saskatchewan came to Churchbridge in 1885. The first Icelanders to reach Vatnabyggd came to Foam Lake in 1892 from Churchbridge, and in 1904, Icelanders from Pembina County, North Dakota, were the first to settle around Wynyard.

The theme of the convention will be "Come Home to Vatnabyggd". Seminars and panels will explore Vatnabyggd area history, including a general history of Icelandic settlement in the area, and an introduction to some specific Vatnabyggd Icelandic pioneers. The present will include Icelandic writers and the Quill Lakes Birding Trails project which commemorates the Icelandic history of the area. The future includes a local BioDiesel project combined with a discussion of the Ice-

landic hydrogen fuel project, our Icelandic legacy of clean air. An equally important part of the Icelandic future will also be thoroughly explored during the conference. The future direction of the INL will be the topic of a three-hour brainstorming session on Saturday. The session will be split into two parts, before and after lunch.

Conference sessions will be held in Wynyard with Saturday night's Thorrablot in Foam Lake. There will be concurrent sessions for those not registered for the Friday bus tour, including a walking tour to the Unitarian Church and a walking tour to the Quill Lakes Birding Trail Interpretive Centre. Conference attendance will be limited to 250. The Thorrablot will be open to 500 attendees, with advance registration only. All conference locations are just off Highway 16, a major Saskatchewan two-lane highway in good condition with little traffic. Both Saskatoon and Regina are about 2 ¼ hours away by car. There are motels in Wynyard and Foam Lake as well as in Wadena, which is half an hour from either conference town via a good highway.

### WANT TO ATTEND THE INL CONVENTION?

ICCT club members are welcome to attend the convention; we can subsidize part of the cost for one or possibly two members. ... please call President Leah Salt if you are interested in attending (905) 277-5298 or [cpkexpress@rogers.com](mailto:cpkexpress@rogers.com)



## ICE FEST

A Celebration at Moonlight Mania  
Kinmount Ontario  
**Austin Sawmill Heritage Park**  
**Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup> 2005**  
**2:00 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

Plans for the event are successfully underway. We thank those volunteers who have agreed to assist. We invite others to help with events still in need of support. Should you wish to help please contact any committee member listed at the bottom.

Emcee ~ Arden Jackson  
Roving Photographer ~ Bill Berry  
Windsong (choir) with Judy Davidson  
Singer/Musician ~ Sara Benediktson  
Nordic Camp ~ Thorsteinn Helf  
Icelandic Cooking Demonstrations/Samples  
*Flatbrauð* ~ Hildegard Helf; *Pönnukökur* ~ ?  
Photo Gallery of Icelandic Canadians ~ ?  
Memorial Sculpture ~ Gudrun Sigurdsteinsdottir Girgis  
The Sagas ~ Carol McGirr  
A Trip on the Railbed to the Bridge ~ Don Gislason  
Children's Events ~ ?  
Picnic Basket Auction ~ Auctioneer ~ ?  
Marketplace ~ Holly Garrett and ?

In addition we will require someone to assist with preparation of signage for each of the events in the park as well as for promotion of ICE FEST; preparation and supervision of complimentary coffee, tea, lemonade; hosts for booths; set-up and clean-up. We encourage young people to get involved ~ your participation can add to those service hours you require to graduate from secondary school.

The next edition of FALKINN will include information about accommodation, restaurants, and "Moonlight Mania". Further information will be given about other events and volunteers as well.

Gudrun Girgis, Chair, [gudrun@on.aibn.com](mailto:gudrun@on.aibn.com)  
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Fran Moscall, [hegilles@connection.com](mailto:hegilles@connection.com) 416/221-6453



*Leona Hendry of Belleville Public Library receiving her Saga Set from Consul Gail Einarson-McCleery*

## SAGA PRESENTATIONS

Another two libraries have become recipients of sets of The Complete Sagas of the Icelanders as a gift from the people of Iceland. Consul of Iceland Gail Einarson-McCleery and ICCT member Evelyn Trites braved the cold and presented sets to Belleville and Cobourg Public Libraries January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The libraries were delighted to receive the gift. Coming up is a presentation by Donald and Norma Young of Sudbury to Nipissing University Library in North Bay.

## EXULTATE CHAMBER SINGERS PRESENT:

# THE TRUE NORTH

As our Canadian winter lingers and Toronto music lovers long for spring, Exultate Chamber Singers fight the winter blues with a colourful program of music and poetry from Northern climes. Let the magic of music warm your heart and stimulate your imagination as Exultate extols the might and mystery of the frozen north. "Mon pays, ce n'est pas un pays, c'est l'hiver", wrote Canadian poet Gilles Vigneault. So John Tuttle and his ensemble have designed an invigorating evening featuring works drawn from the lively choral traditions of Scandinavia, Russia, Iceland and, of course, Canada. To better depict the trials and tribulations and the joys of trying to live and create a life in the north, veteran CBC documentarian and broadcaster Paul Kennedy will be reading poems inspired by the physical and mental landscape of the north.

THE TRUE NORTH includes First Snow by Canadian/Icelandic poet Stephan Stephansson, set to music by Danish composer Bo Holten; Two Russian Pieces by Russian composer Vissarion Shebalin (texts by Pushkin); Snowforms by R. Murray Schafer; Aftonen by Sweden's Hugo Alfvén; Snow by Eugene Butler on a text by Ralph Waldo Emerson; Elgar's My Love Dwelt In A Northern Land; and the premiere of Arctic Dreams by Toronto composer Christos Hatzis. The program also features such stunning pieces as Derek Healey's Salish Song; Imant Raminsh's Earth Chants (War Song); and Waking The Birds by Estonian composer Veljo Tormis. All works will be sung in their original languages.

*THE TRUE NORTH - Exultate Chamber Singers - John Tuttle, conductor, Friday, March 4 at 8PM, St. Thomas's Anglican Church: 383 Huron Street. Tickets: Regular \$20, Senior \$17, Student \$12. Tickets may be ordered by calling 416-971-9229 or purchased at the door on the night of the concert.*

[www.exultate.on.ca](http://www.exultate.on.ca)

# News from Iceland

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

## Icelandic Literary Prize to Halldór and Auður.

Halldór Jónsson and Auður Jónsdóttir received recently the Icelandic Literary prize, Halldór for his biography on Halldór Laxness, but Auður for her novel, "Fólkið í kjallaranum" (The People in the Basement).

It is worth mentioning that Auður is the grandchild of Halldór Laxness, so one could say that the Nobel Prize winner had a strong presence at the awards, even though he passed away several years ago.

## Bocuse d'Or: Fifth Place for Iceland

Icelanders got to fifth place in Bocuse d'Or, which was held in Lyon, France late in January. Ragnar Ómarsson competed on behalf of Icelandic chefs, among 24 contestants. The French took the gold, Norway the silver, Denmark the Bronze, then Sweden number 4 and then Iceland. Great results for Iceland and of course the Nordic countries.

Each contestant cooked a fish course and a meat course. The main ingredient in the fish course this year was Icelandic monk fish, but for the meat course Danish veal.

Bocuse d'Or is usually looked at as the unofficial world championship of cooking.

## The Best Natural Spa?

The readers of the British travelling magazine "Conde Nast Traveller"



chose The Blue Lagoon as the best natural hot medical/thermal spa, in a poll recently. The Blue Lagoon received 93.69 % and it was said that its atmosphere and surroundings were unique. Second came "Terme di

Saturnia" in Italy, and lower on the list are famous spas like "Royal Park Evian" in France and "Clique La Prairie" in Switzerland.

This is the second year that the magazine ran this poll; last year the Blue Lagoon was in 8th place.

## New Citizenship on the Rise

Never have as many foreigners received Icelandic citizenship as in 2004, or 637. Plus these 637 their 182 children received citizenship as well.

Most of the new Icelanders come from Eastern Europe, Poland, former Soviet Union and former Yugoslavia. Also Thailand, Phillipines and the US.

This is a substantial increase from 2003 and almost double the figures from 2002.

## Icelandic Optimism Award to Dagur Kári

The film director and musician Dagur Kári received recently the "Icelandic Optimism Award". The award is sponsored by Alcan in Iceland, and the Awards Patron is President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson.

Dagur Kári is born in 1973, and has already shown himself as a mature artist. Among his film works are "Lost Weekend" and "Nói Albinói", which was shown at the Toronto Film Festival in 2003. He is now working on a Danish project, "Voksne Mennesker" or "Grown Ups".

Besides being a film maker Dagur Kári is also a musician, and his band "Slowblow" has published several records.

Among those who have received the Awards are: Helgi Tómasson (1984), Einar Már Guðmundsson (1988), Björk Guðmundsdóttir (1999) and Andri Snær Magnason (2002).

## Oscar nomination for Icelandic Producer

A short film, produced by Sigurjón Sighvatsson has been nominated for an Oscar. This is the first time Sigurjón has been nominated for an Oscar "I have always wanted an Oscar nomination, but I didn't think it would be for a short film production, but the Oscar is just as big, whether the film is short or long." Said Sigurjón.

The film is named "Everything In This Country Must" and is made from a short story by the Irish author Comum

McCann, and is directed by a young Irishman, Gary McHendry. The film is 18 minutes, shot in Belfast and tells about the fighting there.

## Big Increase in Foreign Tourists

42,000 more foreign tourists visited Iceland in 2004 than in 2003, which was a record year. This is an increase of 13.2%. 362,200 foreign guests came to Iceland. The biggest group came from Britain, or a little over 60,000 people, from N-America came 47,800 visitors, and 38,700 from Germany.

It is worth noticing though, that if the Nordic countries were considered as one, that would be the biggest group, or 94,000 visitors.

## Icelandic Beer Gets A Little More Icelandic

Beer maker "Egill Skallagrímsson" has put on market "Þorabjör" which is partly brewed from Icelandic barley. According to the beer maker this is the first time that Icelandic beer is brewed from home grown barley and marketed. The barley comes from Borgarfjörður, the farmstead "Leirá" to be precise; barley has been grown there since 1997. Guðmundur Mar Magnússon, brewmaster at "Egill Skallagrímsson" said that barley growing is increasing in Iceland, and there is nothing that should stand in the way of brewers using more and more home grown ingredients.



### Classified:

### Job Wanted:

Newly arrived young Icelander Rafn Alexander Juliusson (Alex) is looking for work. Trained as a massage therapist, he cannot yet practice his profession here, so is looking for any kind of work. He says, "I worked as a sales person in an electronics department for two years and really enjoyed that work. I sold digital cameras, video cameras, mobile phones and other electrical products. I have also worked as a painter." Call him at 647 439-3589 or email:

rafnalexander@rogers.com

# DAYS TO REMEMBER: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Sun. February 20

Toronto, ON: Opening of ICCT Lending Library featuring Ice-Can. Author Kathy Arnason "Falcons Gold". 2:30 p.m. Scandinavian-Canadian Centre, 91 Stormont (Bathurst/Lawrence).

## Thurs. February 24

Toronto, ON Movie NICELAND - Friðrik Þór Friðriksson's first feature in English ... a hit at the 2004 Toronto International Film Festival "Visually stunning, Niceland argues that innocence and its corollary, the ability to hope, are virtues we have both overvalued and lost touch with.

This is a surprisingly adult fairy tale." (Steve Gravestock, TIFF)

Sponsored by Bill & Karen Hurst, National Film Board, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. \$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

## Friday, March 4 at 8PM

THE TRUE NORTH

Exultate Chamber Singers - John Tuttle, conductor

St. Thomas's Anglican Church: 383 Huron Street

Tickets: Regular \$20, Senior \$17, Student \$12.

Tickets may be ordered by calling 416-971-9229 or purchased at the door on the night of the concert.

## Sun. March 13

Toronto, ON: Annual Travel Show ... ICCT members Margaret and Doug Van Hamme, along with Kathy Hannesson, share their trips to Iceland last year. Plus latest brochures, tours, info. on prices. 2:30 p.m. Scandinavian-Canadian Centre 91 Stormont (Bathurst/Lawrence)

## Thurs. March 31

Toronto, ON: Movie ONE POINT 0 ... A thriller in English by Icelander Marteinn Thorsson

National Film Board, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

\$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

## Sat. April 2

Toronto, ON: THORRABLOT 6:00 Appetizers and drinks 7:00 Dinner

\$35 adults, \$20 youths 7 to 18; children under 6 free

Live entertainment.

Scholarships from ICCT and the Marion and Ragnar Johnson Memorial Scholarship will be presented

Silent auction .. call Leah Salt to contribute items 905-277-5298.

## Sat., 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.

## HALFDAN'S GENEALOGY SITE:

And here's a message from the Icelandic Association of Utah: "Halfdan Helgason - Reykjavik - Iceland has a web-site that is a tribute to all the people from Iceland who had for known or unknown reasons to search for a new life in a new country. The main purpose of his site is to help people of Icelandic origin search for their roots in Iceland, their ancestors and living relatives. Therefore his aim is to build up databases with names of Icelandic settlers in North America as well as their descendants. Please help by providing him with all available genealogical information you have on your Icelandic heritage. Doing that you might find unknown relatives in North America and you do help your Icelandic relatives to get in touch!

Halfdan sends to descendants of the Icelandic settlers in North America a weekly (almost) **Newsletter** featuring Icelandic genealogy related information you only need to subscribe. Which is easy just go to: <http://www.halfdan.is/iceletters.htm>

The reason I am again encouraging you to subscribe or at the very least visit his site frequently, is because of his Newsletter #48 [http://www.halfdanis/news/newsletter\\_048.htm](http://www.halfdanis/news/newsletter_048.htm) Read the section titled "What I have been doing". Halfdan has started to create a database of Icelandic emigrants to North America.

How can you help him? By sending him information on your Icelandic ancestors at [halfdanh@simnet.is](mailto:halfdanh@simnet.is) or just send him what you have. The more you write, the less he will have to. And a photo would be great.

For an example of what he would like see about Icelandic emigrants that are already in his database, go to **Your searchpage for Icelandic emigrants** All you need to do is put 1887 in the year of emigration and search. "

David, Icelandic Association of Utah

## INL RAFFLE WINNERS:

The Icelandic National League of N.A. held its fundraising raffle draw January 16. Winners were:

Framed print by Cal Jolley of Utah - to Lynne Thorkelsson of Port Perry, ON

5 volume set of the Complete Sagas of Icelanders - to Mark Cassidy of Virden, MB

27" Toshiba TV - to Lynn Brooks of Calgary, AB

Trip for two to Iceland + \$1000 cash, 2 nights at Hotel Borg and 1 day tour of Reykjavik etc. - to Rita Hiorth of Willowdale, ON.

Congratulations to the winners (two from our club!), thanks to the sponsors, and thanks to all of you who supported this raffle ... INL raised about \$13,500!

## HATCH, MATCH, DISPATCH

Aaron WILLIS tied the knot with his beloved Julie TEPPER-MAN in October. From all accounts, it was an awesome wedding. Congratulations to both of you.

Carolyn Stinson is the proud mother of a baby girl, Clarice Audrey May (named for Carolyn's mother and grandmother). She arrived a little early on January 5<sup>th</sup> and is doing very well (and is very cute!)

## "BLUE PLANET" PLAYS UNTIL MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>

The play by Icelander Andri Snaer Magnason opened on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, to much acclaim. It is being presented at the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, and features a talented cast and a delightful story with an environmental twist.

The play runs Saturdays at 12:30 and 4:00 and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Ticket prices \$19 to \$29; ICCT Members get 20% off; call 416 862-2222 and quote Code ICE102

# Film of the Month: Welcome To Niceland

National Film Board, Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present: "Niceland" A film by Friðrik Þór Friðriksson.

Sponsored by Bill and Karen Hurst.

Thursday, February 24

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.

A Zik Zak Filmworks production in co-production with Tradewind Pictures, Nimbus Film and Film & Music Entertainment Ltd., 87 min. Producers: Skúli Fr. Malmquist, Þór S. Sigurjónsson. Screenplay: Huldar Breiðfjörð. Music: Mugison. Cast: Martin Compston, Gary Lewis, Kerry Fox, Peter Capaldi, Shauna McDonald, Guðrún Bjarnadóttir, Timmy Lang, Guðrún Gísladóttir



Jed and Chloe are in their early twenties, in love – and mentally handicapped. When Jed accidentally causes the death of Chloe's cat, which she loves almost as much as Jed, Chloe retreats into silence and loses her will to live. Convinced that there must be something else in life to give it meaning, something that will help revive Chloe's spirit, Jed sets out to find it. Led to believe that a scrap-metal dealer, Max, knows the precious answer, Jed cautiously enters the eccentric world of this solitary man. Yet in spite

of the bond of friendship that develops between them, Max remains tight-lipped – even after Chloe falls into a coma and Jed begs him to tell him the secret. All that Max reveals is the tragedy that haunts him and pushes him toward self-destruction. In a moment of raw catharsis, Jed realizes that he, he himself, knows what he's been looking for. Whispering the magic words to Max, Jed saves him from a greater tragedy. Now he must hurry to tell Chloe. But when he arrives at the hospital, her bed is empty... Friðriks film was shown at The Film Festival here in Toronto, last September, three sold out screenings and many were turned away.

This is the first film Friðrik has made in English and it has often been described as a fairytale for adults. Excellent cinematography, interesting story and good music, makes this definitely a film not to be missed by anyone with interest in Icelandic or international cinema.

Saturday April 2nd 6:00 p.m.

## JOIN US FOR THORRABLOT 2005



NORTH YORK MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HALL  
(Concourse Level - under the Library)

5110 Yonge Street, Toronto

Come and celebrate in the oldest Icelandic way known to men: Eat, drink and be merry.

Icelandic dishes galore (and Canadian dishes), fellowship and conviviality, entertainment, dancing

Dinner at 7 p.m. - Bar opens at 6 with appetizers (including hard-fiskur and pickled herring) .

Order your tickets from Treasurer Mel Johnson (905) 828-9222 - Order form enclosed

Don't wait. @ Adults \$35 Youth 7 to 18 \$20 Children 6 and under free

Live musical entertainment

Viking Play - Brenda Bjarnason has written a new play "Thor's Hammer and the Giant Thief" and the

Elfinfolk Theatre Troupe is busy practicing.

ICCT Scholarship and Marion & Ragnar Memorial Scholarships will be presented

Take home a bargain from our Silent Auction. To add to the fun, we will have a 50/50 draw.

And - don't forget those great desserts - vinarterta, pönnukökur, halfmánar - yum!

HELP! We still need donations for the Silent Auction. If you have a service or an item you would like to donate, please call Leah Salt at (905) 277-5298 Since this is a self-catered event, we welcome your food donations and help in the kitchen, including teen-agers to serve. Call Kristin Olafson-Jenkyns at (905) 627-6921



Old style "porramatur" served in "traditional" "porrtray".

Don't miss out on this one, order early. Fill in the enclosed Order Form. Last reservation day is March 25th.

## FINNISH MOVIE WED. FEB. 23

NFB Film Wednesdays, in partnership with the Consulate of Finland presents

Rakkaudella, Maire/KISS ME IN THE RAIN

A drama by Veikko Aaltonen, 1999, 95 minutes. In Finnish with English subtitles.

Middle-aged Maire is a housewife in a shell of a marriage who collects newspaper clippings of tragic events. She becomes fascinated by a young widow of a police officer killed on duty and soon finds herself entrenched in the other's life.

Wednesday, February 23, 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Free

Information: (416) 964-0066 or e-mail: toronto@finland.ca

