



FÁLKINN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

May/June 2005

ICCT FÁLKINN 46th Year Number 1

WOW, WHAT A SUMMER!

NORTHERN VOICES CHORAL FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE

June 3 to 12 featuring choirs from the Nordic countries and Canada

HAMRAHLID CHOIR FROM ICELAND performs:
Sunday, June 12 3 p.m. St. Paul's Basilica, 83 Power St. \$13 & \$20, and again at 8 p.m. in the Closing Gala in Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen St. E.

Tickets: 416-366-7723 1-800-708-6754

www.stlc.com

AND FOR OUR MEMBERS IN WESTERN ONTARIO:

Tues. June 14 8 p.m. Downtown Cultural Centre
23 Rebecca St. Hamilton Tickets \$10, 905 648-5263
- hgarrett@cogeco.com

Check out the whole program of the festival at:
<http://www.soundstreams.ca/>

2 km walk or 5 km run

Book with Heidi Kinnon 416 466-5896

hkinnon915@rogers.com

NORDIC DAY AT SUNNYSIDE SUNDAYS

Sunnyside Pavilion,
Lakeshore Blvd. W. (at
Keele)

Sun. July 17

12 noon to 6 p.m.

Entertainment, food,
merchandise from all five Nordic countries

Family fun for the children

Join us for this first ever ethnic celebration at the beach!

More information on page 3.



ICELANDIC
MEMORIAL

ICE FEST

Grand Celebration at Austin Sawmill
Heritage Park

Kinmount Ontario

July 16, 2005 2:00 ~ 6:00 p.m.
(see back page for program)



KVENNAHLAUP (Icelandic Women's Run)

Sat. June 11

9:30 a.m. High Park (gates on
Bloor at High Park Ave.)



PATH TO GIMLI CELEBRATIONS

July 16, 19 and

21 Kinmount, Bracebridge, Hekkla

(See back page)



OTTAWA JUNE 17 PICNIC

Join our friends in Ottawa for their celebration of the Icelandic National Day (See page 4)

Check our website <http://icct.info> through summer



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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The Oldest Men in the World

Icelandic men have now the longest life expectancy in the world. Their life expectancy is now 78.8 years. This is though still shorter than the life expectancy of Icelandic women, who can expect to reach the age of 82.6 years.

It is worth noting that while the life expectancy of Icelandic men has been increasing and moving ahead of other countries, the life expectancy of Icelandic women, though increasing, has been moving down the ladder. Now women in countries such as France and Spain have longer life expectancy than the Icelandic women. Longest life expectancy for women is in Japan, where it is 86 years. Japanese men have the life expectancy of 78 years, a little bit less than their Icelandic counterparts. Icelandic women used to hold the #1. position but as mentioned earlier though their life expectancy has increased, it has not kept up with the gain in other countries.

Icelanders Like Broadband

Iceland is currently in fourth place in numbers of users of broadband. In Iceland 18.3% of the inhabitants are connected to broadband. In first place is S-Korea, with 24.9%, then Holland with 19%, Denmark with 18.8% and then Iceland, followed by Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, Japan, Finland and Norway.

If only DSL service is measured, Iceland comes out number 1, with



ICCT General Meeting...

Was held on the 14th of May. After the election of officers (see page 5), we were treated to a screening of "Saga of Hope", a documentary by film-maker Juliann Blackmore Whitney about two pioneer Gimli families. Juliann added anecdotes about her great grandfather Sigursteinn Oddson and Betty Jane Wylie spoke about her grandfather Hans Peter Tergesen.

On the picture from top row left: Barry Whitney, Betty Jane Wylie, Juliann Blackmore Whitney, Don Gislason, Incoming Pres. Holly Garrett, Outgoing Pres. Leah Salt

Reflections on Scholarship

By Emma Wedge Árdal

As a student at the University of Toronto, I have the wonderful opportunity to think and integrate different spheres of knowledge. In philosophy, I have the pleasure of thinking about thought, reality, and the nature of knowledge. My work in Women's Studies enriches my theoretical pursuits with attention to the political and social forces that shape these discourses. This combination of the academic and the cultural is an apt starting point for my reflections on being awarded the Ragnar and Marion Johnson Scholarship.

On the one hand, it is such an honour to be recognized for my academic achievements. I have maintained at A average for the second year and was named a Dean's List Scholar. In the school community, I was elected to the Faculty of Arts and Science Humanities Curriculum Committee and am an active member of the U of T French club. This past fall I was invited to join Gendering Adolescent Aids Prevention (GAAP) Youth Advisory Board. With GAAP, I attended the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) conference in November and have just finished writing a play that integrates ethnographic research in an arts based approach to HIV/AIDS education and prevention for youth. This play along with others from GAAP will be performed at the upcoming Health Equity and Diversity Conference at U of T. My recent volunteer work in the broader community has included being a team leader for the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre Bowlathon in 2004 and 2005, a recycling volunteer during last year's Pride Week in Toronto,

and my annual participation at the Mount Sinai Hospital "Premie" Picnic.

However, what is special about this scholarship is that it also reflects my commitment to my Icelandic heritage. My mother, Frida Árdal, came to Canada in 1970 with her sister Maja following the immigration of her parents Harpa and Páll and her brothers Steinþór and Grímur the year before. This extended family is the Icelandic community I grew up with. Our holiday, culinary, and cultural traditions

provided me with a colourful perspective on the world. I have been back to Iceland myself twice now. First, I went as a six-year-old who was enchanted by the fairy tale landscape and the warmth of my family. Then as a teenager I spent a summer working on a relative's dairy farm outside Akureyri. While these experiences connected my to my mother's homeland and have set in motion a lifelong relationship with Iceland, I am also aware that sometimes as immigrants we can be atavistic and frozen in our representations of our roots. Therefore, I try to be diligent about my cultural understanding.



The scholarships recipients, Emma Árdal on the left, and Jennica Gilmore on the right

(photo; Lögberg—Heimskringla)

Being Icelandic-Canadian is more than a peculiar affection for dried fish and democracy. It is also acknowledging a history both bloody and beautiful, and practices that are never right or wrong, but lived and loved. I would like to thank Jon Johnson and Pat and the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto again for this generous award. It is an honour and a tremendous help in funding my post-secondary education.

MERCHANTS AND SPONSORS NEEDED FOR NORDIC DAY AT SUNNYSIDE SUNDAYS JULY 17, 2005

Historic Sunnyside Pavilion on the Lakeshore in the west end of Toronto is about to be revitalized in line with the City's policy of renewing the waterfront.

To focus on this, each Sunday will feature a different ethnic group with their music, merchandise and food. We have banded together with the Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and Finnish communities on Sunday July 17th 12 noon to 6 p.m. for a Nordic Day

This is an opportunity for members of the Icelandic community to sell their goods ... tables are available for only \$150 each. Or for \$500, you can sponsor our entertainment,

and receive exposure in the Toronto Sun, Sunnyside Sunday website, on site and in all publicity.

Get in touch with Gail (416) 762-8627 icegem20@cs.com if you would like to take part.

And of course EVERYONE is invited to come down and join in the fun! If you'd like to help out, we would love that too.

SUNDAY, JULY 17 12 noon to 6 p.m. <http://icct.info> or www.sunnysidesundays.com

George Salverson, Playwright 1916-2005

George Jr. was born in St. Catharines, ON April 30, 1916 to George Salverson Sr. and the Icelandic Canadian writer Laura Goodman Salverson. She wrote and published ten books, the best known possibly being *Confession's of an Immigrant's Daughter*, winning the Governor General's Award twice. George's maternal grandparents immigrated to Canada from Iceland in 1887, first settling in Winnipeg, whereas his paternal side were of Norwegian background.

During his long career George Salverson wrote about a thousand radio plays for CBC and later moved on to become that corporation's first TV drama editor. Among the dozens of series he conceived or wrote were *The Forest Rangers*, *Hatches Mill*, *The Beachcombers* and *The Discoverers*. His documentary about air pollution *Air Of Death* resulted in a failed libel suit against the CBC by several American manufacturers claiming that they did not contribute to pollution. Much of his work centered on social issues. One such documentary was a series called *Return Journey* written in 1951 about a released prisoner from Kingston Penitentiary, his struggle and internal conflicts to make it on the outside.

George's first job was as a newscaster with CFAR in Flin Flon, Manitoba, where he had the memorable task on Dec. 7, 1941 of informing his listeners of the attack on Pearl Harbor. His second job was with CKRC in Winnipeg where his career as a radio playwright took off, which included acting, producing and sound effects. He also wrote, produced and directed plays for Eaton's when the store used dramas to promote their sales. Finally, in 1948 George ended up with the CBC in Toronto.

Among his first shows was *Paper Railroad*, based on his father's job with the Canadian National Railway. The family lived in Port Arthur ON (where he went to high school), Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Kamloops BC, Vancouver and Victoria. He wrote one production exclusively for stage, *The Legend of the Dumbells*, which has traveled to the Charlottetown Festival, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, the Elgin Theatre in Toronto, etc. When the CBC moved to its new headquarters in Toronto and Studio G closed in July 1993, George wrote the ten minute radio sketch called *End Credits*. He won first place in the Canadian Radio Awards of 1948 and another from Ohio State University. George was also a teacher of writing at Ryerson University in Toronto; he admired his students and was adored in return.

As he grew older he kept his mind quickened by reading *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. He was in the process of memorizing it backwards when he passed away on April 9, 2005 in his home at the Performing Arts Lodge in Toronto. He was predeceased by his wife, actress Sandra Scott, and leaves son Scott, daughter Julie, grandchildren Shelby, Lucas and Robyn and goddaughter Georgia Corkins.

George was a long time member of the ICCT, always taking an interest the club's progress and activities over the years. He was among the honoured guests at an official reception held in Toronto for Vigdis Finnbogadottir, when she was President of Iceland.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL PICNIC FRIENDS OF ICELAND INL OTTAWA CHAPTER SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2005 PERTH ONTARIO.

Volundur Thorbjornsson and Daja Kjartansdottir will host this picnic at their home at 256 Islandview Drive, Perth, Ontario commencing at 2:00 p.m.

You Are Invited to mark the day on your calender and plan to be there with us for a day of fun. PLEASE, bring your contribution of suitable picnic food for us to share, and of course any beverage that you might need for the occasion.

Activities being planned for the day are as follows: 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 a 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 off course we would finish it of with Icelandic music and bonfire for those who really want to have fun. Directions: 417 west from Ottawa, then Highway # 7 to Carleton Place, keep on going on 7 through Carleton Place for about 15 min. you will see a sign for Mississippi Lake, Westshore Driver. (Also McCullough's Landing and McCreary's Beach) you turn left or South off 7 on Westshore Drive, and again left on Is-

landview Drive, and we are number 256. home phone 264 0136 cell 614 2122.

Looking forward to seeing you. Volundur Thorbjornsson

Please bring your own lawn chairs.

If it rains, the picnic will move indoors, there is lots of room.

Help us to prepare, by advising Lou Howard of your intentions to attend.

Volunteers willing to help please call Lou Howard (623) 523-5543 or mail to lou.howard@sympatico.ca

NOTE: PARTICIPANTS WILL VOLUNTARILY ASSUME THE RISKS THAT MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN THIS ACTIVITY, AND WILL BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY LOSS OF DAMAGE CAUSED OR SUSTAINED.

INL ANNUAL CONVENTION - VATNABYGGD, SASKATCHEWAN

(by Gail Einarson-McCleery)

Snow and cold weather greeted us on arrival in Wynyard on Thursday, April 28th, but the warm reception of the Vatnabyggd group and other INL members more than made up for it over the weekend following.

It was my first trip to the Vatnabyggd area, and I really enjoyed hearing about the history of the settlements in the area, and having a chance to see it on the tour on Friday. We were able to experience the vast rolling prairie and visit two Icelandic farms in order to learn about farming today, with 60 ft. wide seeders and other modern equipment. We also saw pioneer churches and schools, while one of the highlights was the monument to the Icelandic pioneers at Elfros.

Back at the Conference Centre in Wynyard, we were treated to a mix of business and pleasure, as we were entertained by a local band as well as by Oddný Sigurðardóttir mezzo soprano and pianist Illugi Gunnarsson from Iceland. Greetings were brought from the Gov-

ernment of Iceland by the Minister of Culture and Education, Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir and from INL Iceland by Chair Almar Grimsson and Co-ordinator of the Snorri Program Asta Sol Kristjansdóttir. Many deserving people were made Honorary Members and the Lawrence Johnson Memorial Award for Lifetime Service was presented to Stella Stephanson of the Vatnabyggd Club.



Members of ICCT attending: Gail Einarson-McCleery, Don Gislason, Tracy Morrison, Holly Garrett and Garry Oddleifson

On Saturday night, we were treated to great food and a plethora of entertainment at Thorrablot, which boasted an attendance of 350. A fashion show through the ages was one of the highlights, and when the dancing started, those Saskatchewan Icelanders really showed us how it was done!

INL business was attended to as well, with a number of resolutions coming forward, as well as a motion to recon-

stitute the International Visits Committee and increase the number of cultural exchanges between Iceland and Canada.

All in all, we had a great time, and enjoyed the opportunity to mix with other Icelanders from all across the continent and celebrate our shared heritage. Congratulations to President Walter Sopher and Vatnabyggd President Joan Eyolfson-Cadham on a great convention!

NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR ICCT

At the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 14th, the following officers and directors were elected:

Officers:

President: Holly Garrett
Past President: Leah Salt
Vice President: Vacant
Treasurer: Mel Johnson
Secretary: Tracy Morrison

Directors:

Membership: Barry Stinson
Mailing Director: Ellen Gilmore
Librarian: Margret Bjorgvinsdottir
Assistant Librarian: Jon Thordarson
Phone Committee: Irene Gibson

Youth Committee & Social: Kara Schuster
Newsletter Editor: Tómas Gunnarsson
Newsletter Assistant Editor: Holly Garrett
Membership Outreach: Don Gislason
Program Director: Heather Prinsloo
Thorrablot Convenor: Kristin Olafson-Jenkyns
Kinmount ICE FEST Chair: Gudrun Girgis
Webmaster: Darla McKay
Marketing: Vacant
Directors at Large: Heidi Kinnon, Lorna Day, Jim Gibson
Regional Director: Gail Einarson-McCleery

Congratulations to all of them!

Subscribe to Lögberg-Heimskringla, the Icelandic paper in North-America. Check out their website: <http://www.logberg.com>

ICE FEST

Austin Sawmill Heritage Park
Kinmount Ontario

July 16, 2005 2:00 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto

Opening Ceremonies

Emcee ~ Arden Jackson

President ~ Holly (Ralph-Palmason) Garrett

Honorary Consul of Iceland ~ Gail Einarson-McCleery

Performers

Windsong Choir

Sara Benediktson ~ Singer

Ann Helga Denny ~ Singer

Lindy ~ Singer

Bifrost Lillefolk Theatre Troupe

Brenda Bjarnason ~ Playwright/Director

Saga Stories ~ Carol McGirr, Storyteller

A Reading from Her Writings ~ Betty Jane Wylie

Nordic Camp ~ An Interactive Representation

Thorsteinn & Hildegard Helf

Trip to the Historic Railway Trestle

On Tractor/Flatbed

Don Gislason & Guy Scott ~ Narrators

"The Path to Gimli"

An Historic Journey from Eyrabakki to Gimli

Icelandic Horses with Mail from Iceland via Post Horse

Horses & Riders from Iceland

Saga Presentation

Honorary Consul of Iceland, Gail Einarson-McCleery

Art Gallery

John Welsh ~ Photojournalist from Philadelphia

Icelandic Language & Literature

Birna Bjarnadottir, University of Manitoba

Icelandic Collection

Courtesy Sigrid Johnson, University of Manitoba

Videos about Iceland

Photo Gallery/ Merchandise Sales

Nordic-Theme Sculptures

Rick Lindal

Baking Demo/Food Samples

Draws for Prizes Last Draw 6:00 p.m.

Children's Activities, Canoe/Kayak Launch

A visit from an Icelandic sheep, lamb, dog

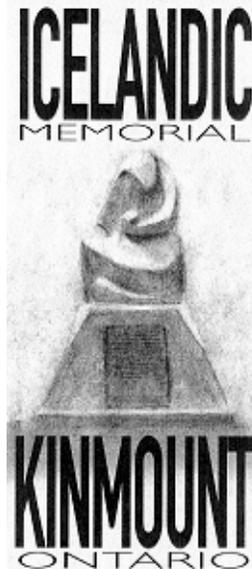
Louise Stefaniudottir-Dignum

A Roving Photographer ~ Bill Berry

~ A Community Dinner ~

The Path to Gimli

The path to Gimli is a pilgrimage by horseback beginning in Eyrabakki, on the south coast of Iceland on June 17th (Iceland's National Day) and ending at the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba in Gimli, Manitoba on July 30th. Amongst the group will be a "Post Horse" carrying mail with a specially franked stamp **created for this event only, by Iceland Post**. This happens to be one of those "once in a lifetime" opportunities, where anyone can ask a friend or a relative from Iceland to send them a letter to be delivered by the Path to Gimli post horse. These letters, with this particular stamp are bound to become a **valuable collectors item** and a much sought after memorabilia by generations to come. The horses have already been shipped from Iceland and are being acclimatized in preparation for their trek to Gimli. The Canadian leg will begin in Kinmount on July 16th, which is the date of ICE FEST. From Ice Fest the Path to Gimli will travel through Gravenhurst to Bracebridge where the town is preparing to celebrate this event.



On July 19th, the Bracebridge celebration begins with the Icelandic horses and riders parading through Manitoba Street in Bracebridge, towards the library. At the library, sets of Icelandic Sagas will be delivered by the post horse to our Honorary Consul of Iceland, Gail Einarson-McCleery, who, on behalf of the Icelandic government will present these gifts from the people of Iceland to the Gravenhurst and Bracebridge libraries. The celebration continues in Memorial Park, where the Mayor of Bracebridge welcomes the Path to Gimli and holds a reception in their honour.

On July 21st, 2:00 pm., the descendants of the early pioneers of Hekkla, Ontario (1873) welcome the Path to Gimli. This event takes place at the Hekkla church, a church given to the Icelanders by the Ashdown's of Ashdown, Ontario and moved to Hekkla in early 1901. The Icelanders then quickly re-assembled the church and raised it on land previously donated by Edith(Olson-Einarson) Smith's grandparents, Jakob and Jorunn Einarson. Many of the Hekkla cemetery markers bear Icelandic names and date to the late 1800's up to present day. The descendants of the early pioneers in Hekkla, Ontario have chosen this day, July 21st, 2005 to unveil a cairn in honour of their forefathers and our Honorary Consul of Iceland, Gail Einarson-McCleery will present a set of the Icelandic Sagas, a gift from the Icelandic people, to the library of Rosseau. Inside the church, the descendants will entertain the visitors with their own song and music, followed by a reception.