



FÁLKINN

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

February 2006

ICCT FÁLKINN 46th Year Number 5



April is just around the corner and that means



THORRABLOT

April 8th gives you the opportunity to go to Thorrablot and celebrate in the oldest Icelandic way known to men: Eat, drink and be merry. Feed the viking inside you. Icelandic dishes galore (and Canadian dishes), fellowship and conviviality, entertainment and dancing. Bar opens at 6 with appetizers (including hardfiskur and pickled herring). Dinner at 7 p.m. – All the food which you would expect, and then some you wouldn't, great buffet with something for everyone. Taste the food that was your forefather's everyday fare, such as Rúllupylsa, rófustappa (rutabega mash), hangikjöt and if the gods will bless us, there might be some brennivín a.k.a. Black Death and even hákarl (shark) going around, but that is truly only for the courageous.

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

Entertainment will be provided, singing will be done, among it a tribute to both the males and females will be sung.

**April 8th
NORTH YORK
MEMORIAL
COMMUNITY HALL
(Concourse Level -
under the Library)
5110 Yonge Street,
Toronto**

Two airfares from Boston to Iceland will be auctioned off, courtesy of Icelandair. (those who can not attend Thorrablot, but would still like to make an offer, can do so by emailing our Treasurer, Mel Johnson at: mljohnson@rogers.com. ICCT Scholarship and

Marion & Ragnar Memorial Scholarship will be presented The Icelandic Ambassador in Ottawa, Markús Örn Antons-son will be attending.

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



Typical Icelandic "Þorramatur" or "Thorrafood", the ICCT Thorrablot offers typical Icelandic food, Icelandic/Canadian food and typical Canadian treats..

Don't miss out on this one, order early.

Fill in the enclosed Order Form. Last reservation day is April 3rd.

762 8627.

This is an event that should not be missed, we hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Happy Thorrablot!

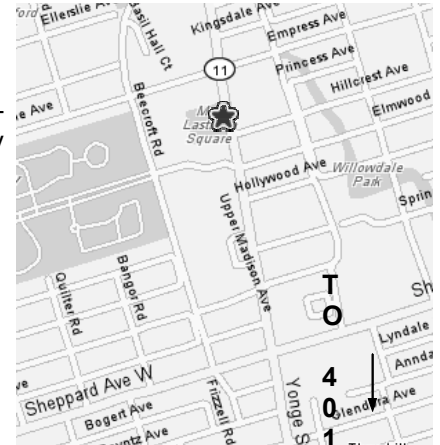
And - don't forget those great deserts - vinarterta, pönnukökur, half-mánar – everything that the Icelander in you has been craving so long! This is a excellent opportunity to meet your fellow members of the ICCT, have a good time and honour this great Icelandic tradition. Last year the hall was almost full, so it pays to be early and secure seats for you and your family and friends.

HELP! We still need donations for the Silent Auction. If you have a service or an item you would like to donate, please call Amanda Bjarnason on 519 589 1269 or email her at: amandabjarnason@gmail.com.

Since this is a self-catered event, we welcome your food donations and help in the kitchen, including teen-agers to serve.

Call Gail Einarson-McCleery on 416

How To Get There?





FÁLKINN-THE FALCON

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

*Editors: G. Tómas Gunnarsson email: tommigunnars@hotmail.com
Gail Einarson-McCleery email: icegem20@cs.com
email: falkinn@hotmail.com*

ICCT Executive:

*President: Kara Schuster
email: karaschuster@ica.net*

*Past President: Leah Salt
email: cpkexpress@rogers.com*

*Treasurer: Mel Johnson
2000 Roy Ivor Crescent
Mississauga L5L 3N8
email: mljohnson@rogers.com*

*Secretary: Tracy Morrison
email: tmorr@sympatico.ca*

*Membership: Barry Stinson
email: barry.stinson@sympatico.ca*

*Mailing Director: Ellen Gilmore
email: jgilmore.@sympatico.ca*

*Librarian: Margret Björgvinsdóttir
email: maggab@sympatico.ca*

*Assistant Librarian: Jon Thordarson
email: thorco@aol.com*

Marketing Director:

*Phone Committee: Irene Gibson
Email: gibson20@sprint.ca*

*Program Director: Heather Prinsloo
email: dhprinsloo@rogers.com*

*Membership Outreach: Don Gislason
416-489-7737
email: ericgislason@rogers.com*

*Kinmount ICE FEST Chair: Gudrun
Girgis email: gudrun@on.aibn.com*

*Thorablót Convenor:
Kristin Olafson-Jenkyns email:
markrisart@hotmail.com*

*Webmaster: Darla McKay
email: demckay@pathcom.com*

*INL Reg. Director & Honorary
Consul of Iceland in Toronto: Gail
Einarson-McCleery.
email: icegem20@cs.com*

*Directors at Large: Heidi Kinnon, email:
hkinnon915@rogers.com,
Brian Eyolfson, email:
brian.eyolfson@sympatico.ca
Jim Gibson, email: gibson20@sprint.ca*

*Membership information: Single
\$20, Family \$25, Senior Couple \$20,
Senior Single \$15.*

Webpage: <http://icct.info>

New Members

Elin and Leonard Grahalm & family, Toronto; Raket Birgisdottir Calabrese & family, Woodbridge; Natalie Wal-liser, Guelph; Elia and Gudrun (Finnbogadottir) Gallo, Milford; Thora Smaller, Toronto; Judd Brown and Lisa Golding, Burlington; Laurence and Cheryl Rodo, Mississauga; Harold and Eleanor (Borgford) Edwards-New Liskeard; Sara Benediktson, Barrie, Ont.

Donations

Ed and Margaret Eggertson, for general use; Philip and Carol Hryhorchuk, for kids camp; Peter Erlendson, for general use; Wayne and Cathy Bohood, for scholarship; George Isford, for scholarship; Heidi Kinnon, for general use. ICCT thanks all of those for their generosity.

ICELANDIC LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL CAMP GRANT

The main goal of this camp near Gimli, Manitoba, is to teach Icelandic language and heritage in a fun atmosphere. This year it is in the last week of July, exact date TBA. Once again, the ICCT is offering a grant of \$500 to help a child of Icelandic descent attend. Children must be between 8 and 12, and those under 10 would need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. The application form will be posted on our website at <http://icct.info>. The deadline is May 1st.,

Changes In The ICCT Executive

A few changes have occurred in the ICCT Executive recently. Kara Schuster has agreed to take on the President's position. Brian Eyolfson has also agreed to take a seat on the Executive. Fal would like to congratulate them on their post and send them the club's thanks and welcome. Lorna Day, has on the other hand decided to step down, due to other commitments. ICCT thanks her for her contribution and also sends its thanks to former president Leah Salt, who extended her presidency until

NEWS FROM ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE: Applications for the 2006-2007 Government of Iceland Scholarship are now available from the INL office.

"The Government of Iceland Scholarship" is offered to North American students of Icelandic descent who are studying language and literature. The Scholarship is approximately \$14,500.00 CAD and covers tuition, room and board. The successful applicant will study Icelandic language and literature at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik for the 2006 - 2007 term. **Applications for the 2005-2006 Government of Iceland Scholarship are now available from the INL office.**

Deadline for submissions of all application material is Monday, March 1, 2006. A special committee in Iceland will decide on the outcome of the applications.

Rosa Johnston

Executive Secretary

Icelandic National League

#103 - 94 1st Ave, Gimli, MB, Canada ROC 1B1

Phone: 204-642-5897 Fax: 204-642-9382

A Letter to ICCT Members

From Garry Oddleifsson

Winnipeg – Feb 2006

Hello to all my very good friends in Southern Ontario. Although I have missed the comradeship of my many friends in Toronto, and the activities of the Club, I am very much home now, and very satisfied with making the move back to Winnipeg, after 38 years in Toronto. I have family and friends here, and have been most heartily welcomed into the very vibrant and active Icelandic community here. I have had no time to be concerned with how I would use my time as a newly retired person. That has been no problem whatsoever.

Nowadays, my main preoccupation is with *Lögberg-Heimskringla*, the paper for North Americans of Icelandic descent, which is published here 24 times a year. I began as a volunteer well over a year ago, and now I am in the office at least one day each week. There were 3 other volunteers when I began, but now we are 8. It's amazing how much there is to do, now that we are campaigning for funds.

There is much light hearted banter, and we usually turn the work into just another good time. The professional staff of 5 is simply terrific, and it's hard to imagine how they could be better. It's like a well oiled machine, and I find it hard to realize that in very recent history *Lögberg-Heimskringla* was produced with almost no regular paid full-time staff, and it was a constant scramble to produce the paper, as well as to pay for it's production and distribution. There were several times when the future looked very dubious, and some very dedicated and committed people had to

help to keep it going. We have come a long way. The office is now very spacious and clean, and the equipment is quite up to date. There is a lot of pride in the product now, too. To my mind, a real positive change is what I call the policy of *inclusion* with content meaningful to all of us, all over North America.

The challenge now is to keep it going. We have it in our power to ensure that its quality is maintained, and that its future is assured. The Future Fund campaign, which is currently under way, is intended to meet this challenge. The Toronto club members are responding to the campaign, led generously by Oskar Sigvaldason and Donald Johnson. The Campaign Committee is grateful for this support from Toronto. But, the fund has a long way to go, having just passed half way towards our target. The Icelandic National League of North America, with which the ICCT is affiliated, has agreed to support this campaign as much as possible. But the INL of NA has no funds available – our resource is our members, such as you. So, I encourage all of you to consider making a contribution to the Future Fund campaign. If you decide to do so, we ask you to use the pledge form you received with your last issue of *Falkinn*. If you no longer have it, and wish to make a donation, you can call *Lögberg-Heimskringla* at (204) 284-5686 or e-mail karen@lh-inc.ca. Contributions by credit card may be made over the phone. A tax receipt will be issued.

And, please also consider getting a subscription. It is a very good publication, and well worth it.

RÚLLUPYLSA, ANYONE?

One of the traditional foods that we must have for Thorablót, of course, is rúllupylsa. Now, we can order it from Gimli, or we can make it ourselves. Doing the latter has the advantage of saving money, but also it offers the potential of teaching some of you how to do it (you can really Wow some of your non-Icelandic guests when you serve it, casually mentioning that you made it yourself). Maybe more importantly, it will be a fun time when you can get to know some fellow club members under congenial conditions. I personally learned how to make it from my cousin, and my sister was also learning, and we had lots of fun.

Thorablót is on April 8, and I propose that we have our rúllupylsa party sometime in the first two weeks of March, since I'll be away for the last two. Once they're made we can pop them in the freezer until the big day. So far our party consists of Honorary Consul Gail and me, and we

need at least two more, but up to six more would be lovely. Here's a special urging for Club members like me who don't know anybody and rarely come to Club events. Even if you're not coming to Thorablót, wouldn't you love to learn to make this unusual, nutritious, and delicious preserved meat?

I live in the Annex, downtown Toronto, and invite you to come to my house, with a great big table, for this "party". We could have it on a weekday evening, or a weekend afternoon. Great chefs can be either sex, right, and my non-Icelandic husband will be helping too, so all are invited. You don't need to bring anything except perhaps a nice sharp knife. Call me soon so we can choose the date.

Lynn Arnason Friesen, (416) 924-2117.

Remember our webpage: <http://icct.info>

Reunion at Borgarnes

by Marion Johnson

On August 19, 2005, a unique family reunion took place in Iceland when 16 Canadian descendants of Helgi and Asta Johnson converged on the little town of Borgarnes in the southwest. Our goal was to connect with distant relatives, learn about our heritage, and leave a lasting memorial to the courage of the emigrants who, like our grandparents, chose to make a different life in a very different world.

Our group included 10 first cousins, all grandchildren of Helgi and Asta, plus two members of the next generation, and 4 spouses. Three members of our group had travelled from British Columbia, 2 from Alberta, 2 from Manitoba, 6 from Ontario, 2 from Quebec, and 1 from Switzerland - a truly Canadian spectrum.

We had been together in Iceland for a week before reaching Borgarnes. Our first weekend was spent in Reykjavik, touring the city and trying out the thermal pools - most of us couldn't wait to get into those warm waters! We easily sorted ourselves out into smaller family groups, each doing its own thing. My sister, brother and I enjoyed a bus tour of Greater Reykjavik, then headed for the Blue Lagoon, Iceland's famous hot pool and spa. It was divine! Later in the day, we met up with the others for coffee and supper. It was fun being all together.

Early Monday morning, we set off on our Glaciers, Geysirs and Waterfalls tour, a 4-day excursion through the many spectacular landscape formations of southern Iceland. Every stop on that tour was a 'highlight'. To mention just a few: the Skogar Folk Museum, where the founder, Þórður Tómasson, gave us a personal tour and sang for us; the majestic Gullfoss, just one of numerous beautiful waterfalls along the route; the hot pool at Landmannalaugar - the wilderness setting made this the ultimate swimming experience; the fabulous Strokkur, a geyser that erupts with thrilling force every five minutes; the boat ride in Glacier Lagoon in Skaftafell National Park, where a drenching downpour added to the surreal atmosphere of the adventure; and of course, Þingvellir, site of the original Viking parliament. It was all better than Disney World, and just as fantastic.

On the bus we were continually entertained by our guide Ingi, a well-known photographer and folk singer in Iceland, who told us stories of trolls and elves and saga heroes. He also took care to explain in simple language the natural formations we were seeing, and managed to keep both the 'Western Icelanders' and the other twenty tourists on the bus happy throughout the tour.

Ingi's skill as a guide was a good example of how the

Icelandic tourism industry has been developing. Everywhere we went, there was warm hospitality and good accommodation, in hotels that were often brand new. Yes, the cost of travel is high in Iceland, but you get good value for your money. And you don't have to be of Icelandic descent to be swept away by all the natural wonders of this uniquely beautiful country.

On a personal level, the hospitality we enjoyed from the Icelanders we had family connections to was quite extraordinary. More than once, our whole group was invited to dinner at someone's home, and treated to a Viking feast. People remembered previous visits from other family members, and were always keen to sort out how we were all connected. It was the same everywhere: even strangers took a warm-hearted interest in who we were and what we were doing. That sense of kinship that permeates the whole country was readily extended to us as people of Icelandic descent.

I was especially delighted with the young people we met. They all spoke good English and were pleasant to converse with - polite, well-spoken and friendly. They showed a gratifying interest in these rather old Canadians

who had invaded their country. I felt that, with their computers, their cell phones and their American movies, they were not that different from Canadian kids - citizens of the global village.

There were very few things in Iceland which I did not like. Smoking was one of them - it is still commonplace, and Reykjavik restaurants impose no re-

strictions. Let's hope that changes soon. On the other hand, the pure clean air that Icelanders get to breathe - compared to our own smog-infested cities - is such a healthy advantage, it's possible they come out ahead despite their bad tobacco habit.

Something I would miss if I tried living in Iceland is the abundance of cheap local produce which we enjoy all summer long. That's a privilege we've come to take for granted as Canadians, but in Iceland fruits and vegetables cost much more for generally lesser quality. All the same, the food in Iceland was delicious, beautifully prepared, and the fresh salmon and free-range lamb were out of this world.



Borgarnes around 1900

66 Degrees North Comes to Toronto

By Margaret Van Hamme



Take a look at Threads collection of 66°N clothing.

Photo: Doug Van Hamme

One of the distinct advantages of traveling to Iceland is the opportunity to buy 66 Degrees clothing products. Icelanders have been enjoying and depending on them since 1926 when Hans Kristjánsson began

supplying protective clothing for the fisherman of Súgandafjörður. This high quality outdoor wear is now available at Threads Lifestyle at 1852 Queen Street east, just west of Woodbine Avenue.

The owner of Threads, Steven Cross, was impressed by the clothing line when he viewed it in Salt Lake City at the Outdoor Retailers' Show, and has been carrying it since the fall of 2005. Threads is the only supplier of this line of clothing in Canada and has a growing number of enthusiastic customers from across the country. The store is one that appeals to a lifestyle rather than targeting a specific age group.

Why not drop into Threads and have a look at their Icelandic clothing designed for looking good and feeling great while you live, play or travel?

Now, back to Borgarnes.

This was the place our grandparents, Helgi and Asta, departed from in 1900, on the first leg of their journey to the new world. We stayed at English House, a former fishing lodge, now a guest house, that was originally built as a family home in 1884 by Petur Petursson, maternal grandfather of three of our group members. When you are looking for nostalgia, it doesn't get much better than that! We went together to see Eskiholt, Helgi's family home, which is still a productive farm, and then we were taken down a bumpy country lane by Gunna, our local guide, to see Gufuá, the farm where Asta grew up. It was a pretty setting with a stream flowing through it - but it wasn't hard to see why it had been long since abandoned as a farm. It was far too marginal to yield a decent living for a family. This brought home to us the tremendous pressure on land use in the 1880's and 1890's, the time of the emigration, even in this relatively prosperous area of Iceland. Young couples were taking up homesteads on land that was less and less viable. Small wonder they began looking to North America where literally greener fields were on offer for the price of their own hard labour.

All this exploring of the past culminated in the unveiling of our family plaque at the Borgarnes waterfront on Friday afternoon. The plaque was mounted on a massive stone transported there for that purpose. It briefly tells the story of Helgi and Asta's lives, and there is a small photo of them at the upper lefthand corner. The text ends with an inspirational quote from the sagas: 'He who does not have a brother behind him in battle, has nothing.'

When we arrived, the plaque was draped with a cloth. The Canadian cousins gathered around the stone, and at a signal from our leader, pulled the cloth off together. It was the kind of moment you carry in your heart forever.

Later that evening we hosted a banquet for our relatives

and friends in Borgarnes. The mayor, the museum curator, the Lutheran pastor, a former chess champion, and other local dignitaries were among the honoured guests. The local Icelandair hotel provided a marvellous fish dinner, and there were speeches, singing, and a slide presentation of Helgi and Asta in their Winnipeg years. As well, there were gift presentations to those, like Gunna, who did so much to make this event possible.

The climax of the evening was a gift that Gunna gave back to us - a letter written by our Afi in 1955 to a relative in Iceland. We already had 2 similar letters, and diligent searching had turned up this third one. In the letter Helgi, now almost 90 years old, talks about the hard work and struggle it had taken to get established in Canada. Afi wrote: "I have in my life had a hard life, and a good life. I've never been able to go to school, and have always had to work, hard work, to have money to support my wife and family. It was often difficult, but it has turned out very well." To this he added: "I have more to thank Asta for that, as a wonderful partner in life, than myself. She is a bright angel on my life's road, as a good woman is to a man."

I'm sure I wasn't the only one wiping away tears when those words were read out.

My pilgrimage to Iceland was even better than anything I could have imagined. I loved the country and the people and felt at ease there. For the first time I understood why, even though our grandparents left their native country behind, they wanted so much for their children to be inspired by the mystique, the history, the beauty of Iceland. It was something precious they didn't want to lose. The choice they made when they left was irrevocable. We are Canadians now, and grateful to be Canadians. But our ties to Iceland are very real.

Premiere of Beowulf Helps Fights Illiteracy

The Canadian premiere of Sturla Gunnarsson's, "Beowulf & Grendel", will be on March 1st. The premiere will be at the Varsity Theatre, and is a special benefit premiere for World Literacy Of Canada. The event will start at 6 pm, with drinks and hours d'houvres at the Heliconian



Director Sturla Gunnarsson

Club (35 Hazelton Avenue), where both the director and screenwriter will be present. The screening starts at the Varsity Theatre (55 Bloor Street W), at 7:15, which includes pre-screening interview with Sturla Gunnarsson and Andrew Berzin. Tickets are \$75 and include plus the aforementioned, a charitable receipt for \$50, a signed film poster, and the possibility to win a return ticket to Iceland, courtesy of Icelandair. For advance tickets, please call

416 977 0008.

As there is no doubt that people have been waiting for the Canadian premiere of "Beowulf & Grendel", this is a unique opportunity to attend a gala premiere and give one's support to a great cause at the same time.

Further information about the event and the film in general can be found at: <http://www.worldlit.ca> and <http://www.beowulfandgrendel.com/>

News from Iceland

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

The Third Most Expensive City in The World

In a recent survey by Economist Intelligence unit, which measures the cost of living in US\$, Reykjavík came third. Norway's capital, Oslo, knocked Tokyo from the number one spot, to the second. Reykjavík moved up several places, mostly due to the strengthening of the Icelandic Króna. Many readers of Fálkinn will without a doubt be familiar with Reykjavík prices, and know that even though they are high, most of the goods are well worth it.



Reykjavík is getting more expensive

Yoko Ono Donates Art To Reykjavik

Yoko Ono, widow of the late Beatle John Lennon, will be in Reykjavík on February 25th, for Reykjavik Winter Festival, to discuss her artwork, an illuminated peace column, which she is presenting to Reykjavik. It is 10 to 15 meters high, and is full of wishes of peace from people all around the world. The outside hosts engravings of poetry, one written by Yoko herself, the other from John's song, "Imagine". The passages will be translated into several languages. Yoko Ono fell in love with Iceland when she visited it 14 years ago, and displayed her art at Kjarvalsstaðir. Her wish is that the

peace column will be erected in the country that is on the top of the world and right between America and Europe.

Will Lazy Town Get an Emmy?

Julianna Rose Mauriello, the US girl who plays in the Icelandic "Lazy Town" series was nominated for Emmy Award this year.

Julianna is nominated for her role as Stephanie, under the category: Outstanding Performer in a Children's Series.

This is of course a great achievement for Stephanie and the whole "Lazy Town" series

20 Years Since The Höfði Meeting

On 11th of October it will be 20 years since the historical meeting of Reagan and Gorbachev in Höfði House in Reykjavik. To celebrate this anniversary Icelanders have invited Gorbachev to Reykjavík, and he will give an lecture at Háskólabíó on the 10th of October.

In his lecture Gorbachov will talk about governing in the 21st century, peace, historical significance of the Höfði meeting and his memories from it.



The human cast of Lazy Town

A Summer Job?

Eileen McCurdy, a recent ICCT scholarship winner, wrote to Falkinn asking for help finding a summer job. She is open minded but among her own ideas would be: waitressing, anything in the media, public relations, research, tourism, newspaper etc. Email Eileen at eileenmccurdy@hotmail.com

A Vocal Training

And Ann Helga Denny sent Falkinn a short description of the vocal lessons she is offering:

"I'm offering 1/2hr free trial lessons as a way for people to find out what voice coaching is like, and to do some vocal exercises.

My credentials are 15+ years of vocal study myself, 2 years of singing teaching, and referrals from current students. My teaching style is based on the work of New York teacher Michael Warren (my teacher's teacher). His studio and branches are called ProVoce Studios.

It is a very embodied and intuitive approach to finding your true voice (emphasizing freedom and control). So far I have helped/am helping people who are singing bel canto jazz and rock styles.

I teach lessons from home, which near Bloor and Bathurst. My fee \$35 dollars for a 45 minute lesson and discounts for buying a block in advance are available. I'd be happy to schedule you a complimentary trial lesson!"

Contact: ann.denny@gmail.com / 416-537-7222

DAYS TO REMEMBER: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday February 23

Toronto, ON: Movie **101 Reykjavik**, an Icelandic movie by director Baltasar Kormákur
National Film Board, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.
\$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

Wednesday, March 8,

The deadline for Scholarships applications.

Thursday March 30

Toronto, ON: Movie **6 Icelandic Short Films**, by various directors. National Film Board, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.
\$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

Saturday, April 1st,

The application deadline for Snorri Plus program.

Sunday April 2nd

Trollabundin, Bill Bourne and Eivör Pálsdóttir touch down in

Ontario, one show only, Hugh's Room. More information at www.hughsroom.com or on (416) 531-6604. It is safer to book in advance, as tickets might go fast.

Saturday, April 8th,

The yearly ICCT THORRABLÓT, An event not to be missed. Remember to book your tickets early.

Thursday April 27

Toronto, ON: Movie **Screaming Masterpiece**, a documentary by Ari Alexander, featuring most the the better know Icelandic bands. National Film Board, 150 John St. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.
\$8 adults \$6 st/sr/NFB members

Monday, May 1st,

The application deadline for Kids Language and Cultural Camp.

Singers needed!

The Icelandic Club of Toronto is interested in starting an Icelandic choir here in Toronto to sing at seasonal gatherings and during Cultural events! If you are a woman, man or young person who ENJOYS singing (*note, you don't have to be good at it) then we would love to see you out on Tuesday nights, from 7:30-9pm. Singing will commence at 8pm, so there is time for chatting and warming up our voices before we begin. We are interested in a casual performance for Thorrablot, so please ensure you can make the time commitments prior to April 8th. Please contact Heather Prinsloo at dhprinsloo@rogers.com if you are interested and for further details! Cheers and hope to see you there!

Icelandic Classes

Sigga Friðriksdóttir has started a new Beginners' Class in Icelandic. It will be held Mondays at 6:30 in the Gerrard-Coxwell area, and started Feb. 6th

Sigga is a young actor and singer who moved to Toronto from Iceland a few years ago and is very enthusiastic about helping us all to learn! Please contact Sigga ASAP if you are interested in attending, it is not too late.

sigga_eyrun@hotmail.com

Film of the Month - April:

National Film Board, Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present:

"Screaming Masterpiece" (*Gargandi snilld*) – English subtitles - A documentary by Ari Alexander Ergis Magnússon

Thursday, January 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.

A Screaming Masterpiece

Director: Ari Alexander Ergis Magnússon; **Featuring** Steindór Andersen. Björk, Bang Gang, Ghostdigital, Minus, Mugison, Múm, Nilfisk, Eivör Pálsdóttir, Quarashi, Sigur Rós, Slowblow and many more.
Iceland 2005, 87 Min

A musical documentary about the buzzing Icelandic music scene, and why so many musicians come from such a relatively small population (300,000). Does the music have some special Icelandic features? The audience is taken to lots of concerts, and in between enjoys interviews with the artists, among them Björk and Hilmar Örn Hilmarsson.

One of the highlights of the film is the performance by Sigurrós, Hilmar Örn, Steindór Andersen and the Icelandic Symphonic Orchestra, of "Odin's raven magic" at The Icelandic Arts Festival in Reykjavík 2004.

Certainly these screenings, which are the first in Canada is something that should not be missed by anyone interested in Icelandic music.

The documentary has been well received all over the world, including at the Cannes Film Festival last year.



Film of the Month - February:

National Film Board , Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present: "101 Reykjavík" – English subtitles - A film by Baltasar Kormákur
Thursday, February 23
6:30 and 8:30 p.m.
The National Film Board
150 John Street, Toronto
Admission: \$6 for NFB members, seniors, students, \$8 others.

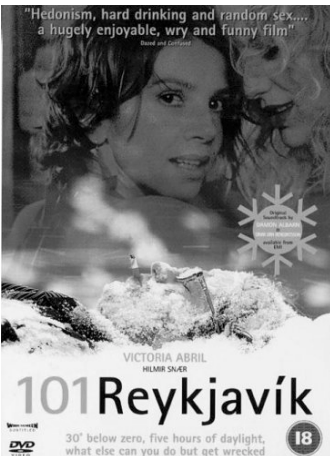
Director: Baltasar Kormákur; **Screenplay:** Baltasar Kormákur from a novel by Hallgrímur Helgason; **Music:** Damon Albarn og Einar Örn Benediktsson.
Cast: Hilmir Snær Guðnason, Victoria Abril, Hanna Maria Karlsdóttir, Baltasar Kormákur, Þrúður Vilhjálmsdóttir, Ólafur Darri Ólafsson
Iceland 2000, 90 Min

One of the worlds most famous postal codes

101 Reykjavík

One of the best known Icelandic films, 101 Reykjavík has traveled all over the world, and was among other festivals, shown at Toronto Film Festival in 2001, and got a great reception.

The film which tells the story of Hlynur, a 30 old boy/man who still lives with his mother, in the same room that he grew up in.



We watch Hlynur's life, which only seems to focus on television and nightlife. His relationship with Hofí, is not advancing, at least definitely not in the direction she would like to.

Everything changes when his mother's flamenco teacher, Lola, moves in with Hlynur and his mother.

The actors all put in a good performance, Hilmir Snær is really convincing in his role as Hlynur and Victoria Abril

fits the role of a Spanish flamenco teacher, as a hand in a glove.

As a directorial debut, the film is exceptionally powerful, and one could argue that it still stands taller than the Baltasar's later films, "The Sea" and "A Little Trip To Heaven"

The music score, by Damon Albarn (Blur) and Einar Örn Benediktsson (Sugarcubes) is both inspiring and original and makes good use of the old Kinks song "Lola".

If you still haven't seen this film, it would for sure be considered a "must", but it is also delightful to see it again, especially on a big screen.

Film of the Month - March:

National Film Board , Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center present: "6 Icelandic short films" – English subtitles - Films by various directors
Thursday, March 30
6:30 and 8:30 p.m.
The National Film Board
150 John Street, Toronto
Admission: \$6 for NFB members, seniors, students, \$8 others.

6 Short Films

On March 30, we will screen 6 Icelandic short films by young and upcoming Icelandic directors, They are:

MAN ON THE BACK (21.min): Short film by Jón Gnarr (lead actor in A Man Like ME).

Two strangers meet in the middle of nowhere. This is a tragic comedy about human behavior and how we sometimes carry other people on our back. Funny, surrealistic and deep. Music by Björk Guðmundsdóttir. Has been showed at various festivals.

LAST FARM (15 min): Short film by Rúnar Rúnarsson, which has travelled widely on the festival circuit and won various prizes.

Nominated for this year's Oscar awards as the best live action short film.

The stage is a remote valley and all the farms except one have been abandoned.

Director Rúnar Rúnarsson Producer Þór S. Sigurjónsson, Skúli Fr. Malmquist Writer: Rúnar Rúnarsson

THE LAST WORDS OF HREGGVIÐUR (22min): Short film by Björn Helgason Hreggviður, an old rightist, dies from a heart attack when he is trying to publish an article in The Conservative Paper. Hreggviður disagrees with the new editorial policy and tries to publish the article from beyond.

SLAVEK THE SHIT (15min): A short film by Grimur Hákonarson

A love story taking place in a public toilet in the centre of Prague.

Was part of The Cinefondation Selection at Cannes 20 and was chosen the best short film at the Trieste Film Festival.

THE MAGICAN (13min): Short film by Reynir Lyngdal The Magician is a story about a boy who uses his magic tricks to escape the harsh reality. It is a strong and personal story of how one's imagination can help make unbearable situations bearable.



From The Last Farm, lead actor Jón Sigurbjörnsson