



FÁLKINN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

May/June 2007

ICCT FÁLKINN 47th Year Number 6

BLESSED - A Biography with a Difference

Sunday May 27th 2:30 PM Scandinavian Canadian House



Come join Toronto artist and writer Katrina Anderson (Fontana Swing), and editor Marjorie Anderson for readings from *Blessed*, "a biography with a difference."

Toronto artist and writer Katrina Anderson, (a.k.a. Fontana Swing), is wearing an additional hat these days. She debuts as the compiler and crafter of the

book, *Blessed*, published by Anderson House. She has teamed up with editor Marjorie Anderson, known for the *Dropped Threads* series, on this book "of incredible heart and substance." The book is to be launched here in Toronto on Monday, May 28th @ Nicholas Hoare, 45 Front St., East York from 6-8PM

Blessed is an intimate account of a first-generation Canadian pioneer woman whose powerful spirit becomes legendary to all who knew her. This story was preserved because of a fascination Katrina Anderson had for the stories her grandmother Asdis told of "a way of life that is no more." Katrina taped a series of conversations with her grandmother (amma) over a period of six years, compiled these recollections and then added, throughout the narrative, commentaries from three generations of family members. What resulted is a biography with a difference—a personal memoir told in a chorus of voices that flesh out not only a life worth knowing but also a time and cultural context relevant to all Canadians. "This memoir goes beyond family; it is really part of the fabric of our social history," says Anderson.

Two of Canada's well-known writers have identified the beauty and strength of this memoir:

"These pages contain the very best kind of history - intimate, detailed, thoughtful, exuberant and honest...a genuine Canadian heroine, Asdis Anderson (and her story). *Blessed* is cause to celebrate the heritage of this country and the remarkable people who have shaped it."
~Anne Giardini, author of *The Sad Truth About Happiness*"

This biography of Asdis Anderson is a story we should all read and remember (It is) a testament to the possibility of a meaningful life within the circle of one's family, friends and community; Steadfast, strong, loyal, intelligent, resourceful, she created by her daily acts an answer to the despair of Alfred Prufrock—here, her narrative demonstrates, is the way to live a good life."~W.D. (Bill) Valgardson, author of *The Girl with the Botticelli Face*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, May 27th 2:30 PM Scandinavian Canadian Club, 91 Stormont (Bathurst & Lawrence)

A slate of officers will be presented at that time. This is your chance to get involved in running our club and making a difference. Positions which are open are:

Marketing Director

Secretary

Thorablót Convenor

2010 Convention Team (Yes, we are doing the INL Convention in 2010!!)



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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Icelanders heading our way!!

This summer, the ICCT will be welcoming two visitors from Iceland in a spin-off of the ever so successful Snorri Program, tentatively titled Snorri West Ontario/Quebec. Friðný Ósk Hermundardóttir and Unnur Ýr Kristinsdóttir will be coming to Toronto for two weeks in August as part of a six week program that will also take them to Montreal and Ottawa for two weeks each.

During this time, the girls will be exploring the city, visiting the museums, galleries and all the other attractions that the Toronto area has to offer. Hopefully we will be able to connect them with some of their family during their stay; as well they will be meeting many of the members of or club that will help them make their stay as enjoyable as possible!

Would you like an opportunity to be involved? We are looking for help during these two weeks to take them to events and we are also looking for a few hosts with some space to spare at their home for the girls to stay in.

So if you have some spare beds, or spare time and would like to explore Toronto or if you would like to act as a tour guide, please contact Kara Schuster:

Email: karaschuster@rogers.com Phone: #905-828-1984

Grettis Saga from Thorsteinn

Thorsteinn Helf has donated a copy of Grettis saga in Icelandic to the ICCT library. This is a valuable edition of the saga, intended for Icelandic high school students and all those who are interested in Icelandic literature. Örnólfur Thorsson's introduction to this edition and his explanatory notes are also very important.

Thorsteinn's gift reminds us that, in 1974, the University of Toronto Press published Grettir's Saga, an English translation by Hermann Pálsson and Denton Fox.

We thank Thorsteinn for his thoughtfulness and generosity.

Other books donated to the ICCT Library by Gail Einarson-McCleery recently are: "Icelanders on the Pacific Coast - Point Roberts, Blaine, Bellingham, Marietta"

"Secrets of the Viking Navigators - How the Vikings Used their amazing sunstones and other techniques to cross the open ocean"
Leif K. Karlsen

"Memories of Osland" (Ice. Settlement near Prince Rupert, BC) - compiled by Frances Hanson



Letters & Announcements

INL Fundraiser

Garry Oddleifson is in the process of setting up a Raffle for an INL Fundraiser. A beautiful painting by Jonina Cadorath was donated to the INL for this purpose. The painting resembles an Icelandic theme with white fishing boats, and is valued at approximately \$750. The raffle will run throughout the summer and the draw date will be sometime in September.

2nd prize will be an original batik by Karen Johannson; 3rd prize an Icelandic wool.

Blanket donated by Walter Sopher. Tickets are \$2 each.

Call Gail #416-762-8627 or email: icegem20@cs.com

Claire Ahronson Remembered

Our condolences to club members Ken and Jo Anne Ahronson and their sons Kristjan and Arni on the passing of Ken's mother on March 19, 2007 in Deep River, Ontario.

**Check out the
ICCT website
at:**

<http://icct.info>

Hello Gail,

Thank you for your continuing promotion of my shows. We are having invitations sent to all the Ottawa Icelanders on the list Lynne gave us. Show opening:

Karsh-Masson Gallery
136 Patrick Street

Ottawa, ON

Gallery hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00am-4:00pm

Show dates: May 25 - July 7

Vernissage: May 24, 5:50-7:30pm

Show details (from brochure):

While bones may be anonymous as objects, they are hardly neutral. In her new body of work, 'Ossuary', lone takes us on an investigation of these highly charged signifiers of human absence. She looks at both mass public death and individual death. The work suggests there may be no coherent point of reconciliation between these two experiences of death.

At the same time I will have two major pieces at a show of contemporary Canadian glass at the Lafreniere & Pai Gallery, 13 Murray Street (just around the corner). The show is called 'Glass Sculpture Now'. Show dates: May 24-June 13, Vernissage, May 24, 6:00-8:00pm. It's going to be a busy week.

Regards, lone

Icelandic Citizenship Deadline Approaching

The Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs draws attention to the fact that the deadline for applying for the re-granting of Icelandic citizenship under the Interim Provision of the Icelandic Citizenship Act, No. 100/1952 (cf. the Act No. 9/2003) is 1 July 2007.

Under this provision, persons who acquired the citizenship of another state before 1 July 2003, and lost their Icelandic citizenship in consequence without this being demanded by the state concerned, may apply to the Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs to be granted Icelandic citizenship anew. Applicants shall be domiciled in Iceland or shall meet the residence requirements stated in Article 8 of the Act.

Further information on the re-granting of Icelandic citizenship is available from the Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Skuggasund, 150 Reykjavík, tel. 545 900, fax 552 7340

2007 Scholarship and Snorri Grant Winners!

By Kara Schuster

This year at Thorrablot we were pleased to announce the recipients of two scholarships. One was from the ICCT and the other presented by Jon and Pat Johnson, The Ragnar and Marion Johnson Memorial Scholarship.



Kate, Olivia, Jon, Pat and Laurie.

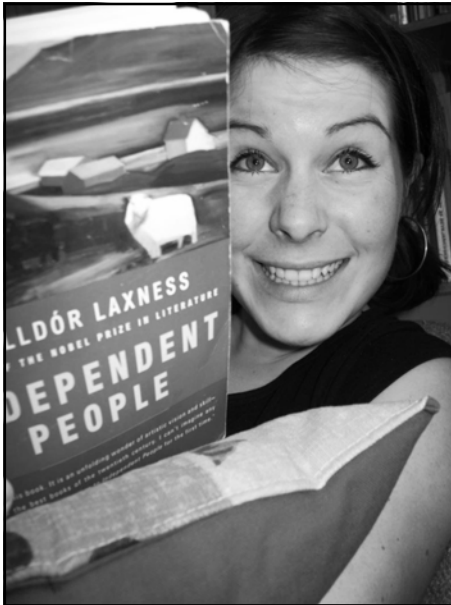
Olivia Jana Sigurdson Macleod was the recipient of the Ragnar and Marion Johnson Memorial Scholarship. Olivia is currently attending Havergal College and will be heading off to university next year. "I am looking forward to the challenges and experiences that University will bring. While I have broad academic interests, I plan to read History for my undergraduate degree. I have chosen History because it reveals where we have come from, assists in understanding the modern world, and helps to anticipate the future. I believe a degree in History will be an excellent foundation for future studies towards a career in law or academe...I am very proud of my Icelandic heritage and I intend to do whatever I can to keep its culture, language, and history alive in Canada. I will continue to tell people of my Icelandic background and to celebrate it. I find people are generally very intrigued when I tell them of my connection to Iceland. It seems a little exotic, even in today's multi-cultural world...My Icelandic heritage is a very important part of who I am. During my university years and beyond, I hope to deepen my understanding of Iceland and its people, including Icelandic Canadians.

This years ICCT Scholarship recipient was Laurie Bertram. Laurie is a first year Graduate student at the University of Toronto. "For my own part I plan to preserve the Icelandic heritage by pursuing a career as a historian of Icelandic Canada, to contribute my time and energy to ensuring the success and survival of Icelandic traditions and institutions in Canada and to forge new ties with academic and cultural communities in Iceland. I think that preservation is so much more than a simple history recital. Rather, I think it should involve an ongoing commitment to understanding, analyzing and making public the Icelandic Canadian past. Our community has an amazingly rich and diverse history; however, much work remains to be done on the often complex people and institutions that have played such a vital role in history...My research on Icelandic MLA Salome Halldorson taught me that, as in all communities, many things lay buried in Icelandic Canadian history. I think that the most important step in unearthing our heritage is carefully listening to and preserving the voices of older community members...I am in the midst of preparing my work for publication and will also be traveling to Iceland in September to give a lecture on Halldorson as part of the anniversary celebrations for the Icelandic Women's Archives. I owe these exciting developments, in part, to the Icelandic Canadians who took the time and effort to preserve a record of their lives and thoughts.

The ICCT wishes both young women all the best in their future studies and in their endeavours in exploring their Icelandic heritages!

We are also happy to announce that we have given grants to two young women venturing out on this summer's Snorri program. Anna Davison and Sara Loftson will be heading to Iceland for six weeks to explore their heritage, discover their roots and enjoy everything Iceland has to offer.

Anna is currently in her fourth year studying Environmental Engineering at the University of Waterloo. "For as long as I can remember, I have identified myself with Icelandic- Canadian communities in the regions that I have lived - I feel drawn to the fiercely independent, yet unassuming and welcoming demeanor the culture seems to exude. I am incredibly honored to have been granted the opportunity to travel to Iceland with the 2007 Snorri Program and to experience the land and culture of my ancestors. I have always been proud of and interested in my Icelandic heritage and eagerly anticipate the opportunities the program will hold for me. I firmly believe that the best way to experience a country is to be submerged in its culture. This is what I find most appealing about the Snorri program: the opportunity to learn about the country and culture of my ancestors by surrounding myself in it in conjunction with the guidance of the Snorri cultural training. I look forward to spending time with and better getting to know my Icelandic relatives and their country."



Sarah Lottson

Sara moved to Toronto a year ago after accepting a reporting and editing job with The Catholic Register, a national weekly newspaper based in Toronto. "I am very honored to have been selected to participate in the Snorri 2007 program. While the trip itself is very exciting, I am also looking forward to my return and all the ways that I can share my experience with others. In the past year or two my uncle has been actively researching our Icelandic genealogy. What he's discovered is that there is an extremely strong probability that my great, great Afi was one of the initial Icelandic settlers in North America. A friend converted great, great Afi to Mormonism. Endowed with a missionary spirit, Afi went to Utah where there is a high Mormon population. He stayed there for a while, but then returned to Iceland and converted groups of Icelanders and brought them back to Utah. I am looking forward to going on the Snorri trip to find out for certain if this man is for sure my great, great afi. This is important for me, for my family and for the greater Icelandic community. I have dreams of recording this piece of heritage in writing, whether it be in a book or magazine format."

Both of you have the adventure of a lifetime ahead of you and we can't wait to hear all about your experiences upon your return!!!

CALL FOR ARTISTS FOR INL of NA Calendar for 2009

Each year the Icelandic National League of North America creates a themed calendar to sell as a fundraising venture. The 2009 calendar's theme is that of visual art. These calendars are distributed across North America for sale to the Club Chapters who, in turn, sell them to their members and the public.

For the 2009 calendar, visual artists are invited to submit a maximum of three painting images. Submissions will be in an open category, and the theme and images will reflect the discretion of the artist. This special project is open to all visual artists of Icelandic descent. The committee will be accepting images from September 1st to September 29th, 2007. Please note that this year only visual art (paintings) will be accepted. This will be a two year program; next year photography, sculpture, etc. will be accepted.

More information about this project can be found on the INL of NA website www.inlofna.org or by contacting Julianna Bjornson at jbjornson@shaw.ca or (604)542-0834.

STEFANIA THORDIS SVEINBJARNARDOTTIR

(19 JUNE 1944 - 4 FEB. 2007)

By her husband, Raymond Dignam



Stefania was born in Reykjavik, Iceland to a family of four girls and two boys. As a young girl she was sent to relatives in the country each summer and she was leading home horses carrying hay when she was six years of age. As a teenager she went to a boarding school at Bifrost.

Stefania married young and at 18 years of age she had a daughter, Alda. Stefania worked for Alafoss and her husband was a bank employee. They both studied acting and theatre arts for two years. Stefania had several small parts with the Icelandic National Theatre. Her marriage was not successful and after divorce Stefania and Alda followed her older sister, Vilborg, to live with them in

Ottawa. They all spent two years in Cyprus, and returned to Canada in 1973 when Ken Wilson, Vilborg's husband, became an assistant professor of civil engineering at Queen's University, Kingston.

I met Stefania at a green room Christmas party of Domino Theatre in 1973. We soon became a couple and bought a house in the new Bayridge sub-division. At that time we could go cross-country skiing starting at our front door. For the next few years, Stefania was busy studying for the Certified General Accountant (CGA). She also worked at Aunt Lucy's restaurant. She later worked for Kingston Honda.

In 1978 she played the lead role of Mrs. Markham in the Domino Theatre production of "Move Over Mrs. Markham". I played her husband. This was the last time either of us were to tread the boards. In 1979 Alda went to Toronto to the U of T and Stefania and I bought a farm, north of Kingston, at Parham. We renamed the farm, Yeoman Farm, after the rugby fields of my old school in England. We began to breed purebred Columbia sheep and Maine-Anjou cattle. After a few years of Stefania in full time farming and me commuting daily to Royal Military College in Kingston, where I was a professor of electrical engineering, we had a daughter, Louise in 1982. Louise, like her mother, grew to love sheep and by the age of ten she was helping to correct mal presentation of lambs at lambing time.

Stefania was determined to bring Icelandic sheep to Canada and she worked tirelessly for over a year, lobbying both the Canadian and Icelandic governments to get permission to achieve her aim. She finally succeeded and in June 1985 ten ewes and two rams were flown in a twin engined Cessna from Reykjavik to the Canadian Quarantine station at Mirabel airport, Quebec. The sheep had to stay at the station for 30 days and then on 25 July Stefania and I picked them up in our farm truck and drove them to Yeoman Farm. At first the sheep thrived and we were delighted with the results of our big investment. Then disaster struck. We found that the Icelandics had contracted maethe-visra, or ovine progressive pneumonia as it is called in North America. This is a wasting disease that ravaged Iceland, hundreds of thousands of sheep had to be culled. We did not realize that the disease was present in our purebred Columbia flock. We were determined to eliminate it from Yeoman Farm. We sold all our Columbias, snatched our Iceland lambs from their dams at birth and hand raised them. One year we hand raised 45 lambs. Our infected Icelandic ewes I put down.

In the fall of 1990 we did a second importation. This time 71 sheep came from Iceland in a four engined jet! This flock we had to keep separate from our original flock and we rented the barn and fields of a retired neighbour to do this. The U.S. Department of Agriculture insisted on this so that we could export to the USA sheep from our first flock. The second flock, and their progeny, received a 5 year farm quarantine before any of them could go to the USA. We struggled on, never making any money, and today there are over 6000 Icelandic sheep registered with the Canadian Livestock Records Agency (All Americans use this service too.) There are now Icelandic sheep in 34 states in the U.S.A. and in five Canadian provinces. Stefania was one of the founders of ISBONA, the Icelandic Sheep Breeders of North America. She served as the first President, followed by several more terms on the Board.

Stefania worked tirelessly on behalf of the board and mentored many beginning shepherds. She made many friends through her generosity, her energy and her vision for the breed, and will be sorely missed by the Icelandic breeders; community and by all who knew her.

Editor's Note: Stefania was a very active member of both the Toronto and Ottawa clubs.

ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF NORTH AMERICA 88TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Partnering with People

On Thursday, April 26, Winnipeg was the hot spot of Canada with a temperature of 26 degrees Celsius. That evening, the University of Manitoba honoured its graduates of Icelandic descent with a special party at the Convention Centre. Two warm receptions in one day thus preceded the 88th annual meeting of the Icelandic National League held in the Fort Garry Hotel from April 27-29th., attended by some 250 people from across Canada and the United States, along with some very special, honored guests: His Excellency Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland, and the Icelandic Consul-General in Winnipeg, Atli Asmundsson, as well as Halldor J. Kristjansson (Group Managing Director) of Landsbanki, Iceland's national bank, which opened a new branch in Winnipeg on that Friday.



*Don Gislason, Holly Ralph, Betty Jane Wylie,
Gail Einarson and Kara Schuster*

The Winnipeg organizers, Serena Goebel and Susan Hjalmarson, and their committee outdid themselves in welcoming the delegates and friends of the INL. Icelandic chef, Hakon Mar Orvarsson, came from Iceland ahead of time with special menus and recipes he introduced to two Winnipeg restaurants, where that week, for a prix fixe, one could savour the wonders of Icelandic gourmet cooking. Speaking of food, the banquet in the hotel, sponsored by Landsbanki, was also very good, in spite of incredibly slow service. More time to talk, a pastime dear to Icelandic hearts and tongues.

The entire program was interesting and varied, ranging from an historical Icelandic tour of Winnipeg; a presentation of Icelandic-Canadian writing sponsored by Lestrarfelag of Winnipeg; comprehensive committee reports and a stimulating panel on communication, led by *Logberg-Heimskringla* editor David Jon Fuller, comprising Steinthor Gudbjartson, editor of the Icelandic *Morgenbladid*, Lorna Tergesen, publisher and editor of *The Icelandic Canadian* magazine, and two Icelandic Canadian media stars: CTVs Joe Olafson and Jon Thordarson, with the Winnipeg Free Press.

The duration of the actual general meeting on the Sunday morning, chaired by ILN/NA President, Garry Oddleifson, surprised everyone with its brevity, in spite of Icelanders' tendency to talk (and argue, or shall we say, discuss?). The new Board of the INL was duly elected before noon, the hotel's check-out time. Here is the new slate of officers:

President: Garry Oddleifson (Voni)

1st V-P: Gerri McDonald (Arborg)

2nd V-P: David Gislason (Gimli)

Treasurer: Candice Murphy (North Dakota)

Directors: Membership Lyle Hillman (Calgary)

Convention Director: Gwen Mann (Winnipeg)

As well as... Culture & Youth: Serena Goebel, Intern Visits: Joan Eyolfson-Cadham, Communications: Margaret Grisdale, Marketing & Promotion: Vi Bjarnason, Directors at large: Gunnar Asmundson, Patricia S. McKay, Ron Goodman, Brad Hirst, Irene Finnson, Claire Eckley.

Congratulations to all concerned.. It was a great meeting. Next year: Calgary. and in 2010: Toronto!

VIKINGUR & KAREN TOUR A GREAT SUCCESS!

by Gail Einarson-McCleery



Ellen McGrudy with Vikingur and Karen in London

Vikingur Olafsson & Karen Ouzounian gave ten concerts in thirteen days, and what concerts they were! They were universally applauded with standing ovations and encores for their marvelous musicianship all across North America. Some comments were:

"Wow!!.....What a performance!! Vikingur Ólafsson & Karen Ouzounian are masters of their art. These two young musicians are a joy to meet and an even greater delight to listen to."

"The music received a rave reception and the people I talked to afterwards were ecstatic."

"I had to sit on my hands to avoid applauding between movements"

"These two gave a great performance and the audience was spellbound."

"They are marvellous. They are gifted musicians and wonderful huggable people."

"We were so mesmerized by their magic that we want to advise all our friends: Do yourselves a favour and go"

Here in ICCT land, we were lucky to have two concerts, one in London, very capably organized by Nancy Johnson and her great crew, and a final concert in Toronto. This being Karen's home town, the Armenian community turned out in force for her, as did the Icelandic one for Vikingur. Their playing was superb, and the audience of 300 was enthralled.

As the organizer of the tour for the INL International Visits Program, it was a very gratifying moment for me to witness the standing ovations! We are so grateful to all the sponsors, Landsbanki Islands, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the donors to the Cultural Exchange Fund of the Canada Iceland Foundation.

You still have one more chance to hear Vikingur... he is appearing solo in Ottawa on Wed. May 23rd at the Unitarian Church, 30 Cleary Avenue, 7 p.m. Tickets from petcan@ca.inter.net

Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto Fall Dinner

Lynn Friesen and Betty Jane Wylie, both members of the ICCT as well as of the University Women's Club of Toronto, propose to introduce a new venue and format to the 5th annual fall dinner of ICCT. Whereas in the past the dinner has been held in the Chelsea Hotel, the dinner this year will be held on the premises of the UWC at 162 ST. George Street, kitty-corner across from the St. George subway station on the Bloor line.. There is limited parking behind the Club but lots of other parking places as well.

We have a new chef, Mike Kolwell, at the Club, who trained at the Stratford Chef's School and apprenticed with Jamie Kennedy. He has already created one Icelandic dinner for the Club's April International Dinner, at which Gail Einarson-McCleery and Tomas Gunnarsson, were present. They pronounced it 'a good attempt' but it's going to be better. We plan to have a taste-testing rehearsal dinner during the summer, by invitation only, to perfect the presentation. We hope to get some authentic Icelandic recipes from an Icelandic chef. We have a lovely set of public rooms for mingling before the dinner: an intimate bar and a gracious lounge. (The clubhouse is an Edwardian mansion, acquired by the UWC in 1929 and lovingly renovated).

Lynn and I cordially invite you to join us on Thursday, September 27 for the fall dinner.

Betty Jane Wylie



News from Iceland

Aluminum Merger?

Icelanders have that in common with Canadians to pay close attention to the possible merger of Alcan and Alcoa. Both companies have smelters in Iceland. Alcan has the oldest one in Hafnarfjörður (which was recently denied an expansion in a vote by the inhabitants) and Alcoa has the newest one, which has just begun operation in Reyðarfjörður. Some have voiced the opinion that it is frightening if such a big part of Icelandic electricity is sold to just one customer.

Burning Downtown

The look of Austurstræti, the main street in downtown Reykjavík changed dramatically in a big fire recently, when two of Reykjavík oldest houses burnt down. It has not been decided yet, whether the houses which date back to the early and middle 19th century (1801 and 1852) will be rebuilt or a modern house constructed at the site.

RES College and Keilir, a Center of Excellence

RES Energy College opened in Akureyri recently. RES stands for Renewable Energy Science. The aim of the college is to be a privately run international education and science center for renewable energy sources. The first students will begin their studies in few weeks, but the total number of students is estimated between 50 and 80, once the college is running at full capacity. Another collage will open soon in part of the houses left by the US army at Keflavik airport. The college is named Keilir , Atlantic Center or Excellence. The college is owned by University of Iceland and group of Icelandic companies. The focus is on studies in the renewable energies, environmental studies, geology, engineering, sustainable development and international and defense studies. To begin with the main focus will be on the energy and environmental studies.

Oil Rich Iceland?

And more on the energy field. A report regarding the search for oil in Icelandic water was released late April by the Icelandic National Energy Authority (Orkustofnun). If the proposal in the report is accepted a search could begin in 2008. The territory mentioned in the report as a likely oil zone is known as *Dragon Area (Drekasvæðið)* located on the Jan Mayen ridge off Iceland's northeastern coast and only partly in Icelandic waters, as RÚV reports. "There are about 3,600 square kilometers, which we consider very promising and we have to investigate more closely," said Orkustofnun project leader Kristinn Einarsson. "Compared with the size of other such areas abroad, this is quite large." Orkustofnun believes oil can be found in the dragon zone at a depth of 1,500 meters. It takes 24 hours to travel to the dragon zone by ship and it can only be reached by air with larger helicopters.

Yahoo to Farm Their Servers in Iceland?

Yahoo has expressed their interest in having some of their server farms positioned in Iceland. Yahoo representatives had meeting with Geir Haarde, the Icelandic prime minister recently. This is still only a speculation, and several steps have to be taken if this is to become a reality, not the least a big improvement of Iceland's internet connection, which though good is hardly up to the standards which are needed for a operation of server farms. What Yahoo finds attractive in Iceland, is cheap and green energy, educated workforce good technical standards and education. According to the Yahoo representatives, a decision could be reach in 6 months or so.

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

Upcoming Events

- Vikingur solo show in Ottawa on Wed. May 23rd at the Unitarian Church, 30 Cleary Avenue, 7PM Tickets from pet-can@ca.inter.net
- lone Show at the Karsh-Masson Gallery 136 Patrick Street, Ottawa, ON
Gallery hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00AM-4:00PM Vernissage: May 24, 5:50-7:30PM Show dates: May 25 - July 7
- Katrina and Marjorie Anderson will be reading from *Blessed* and talking about this new concept in memoir writing at the ICCT AGM, Sunday May 27th 2:30 PM at Scandinavia House, 91 Stormont AND at Nicholas Hoare, 45 Front Street East, on Monday, May 28 from 6-8PM
- Photo Show - Contact Annual Toronto Photography Festival features Iceland:
1) "Iceland Raw" Fluid Living, Building #8, Distillery District, 33 Mill St.
www.fluidliving.com until May 31
2) "Iceland" Gallery One 121 Scollard St.
www.icelandexhibition.com 416 929-0278
Until May 29th
- Icelandic Classes online.
Check out www.hi.is
Local classes recommence in the fall
- Icelandic language and culture camp for 6-15 year olds begin at the end of July.
Contact icelandiccamp@hotmail.com for further details.
- Icelandic festival of Manitoba takes place August 3rd to 6th in Gimli, Manitoba.
- The Gimli Film Festival runs July 27—31 also takes place in Gimli, Manitoba.
Check out www.gimlifilmfestival.com for more details.

Nordic Movies will return in the Fall

Iceland Independence Day Picnic

Summer is almost here, and plans are underway for another great celebration. This summer, please join us on Saturday June 16th in celebrating Iceland's Independence Day, otherwise known as National Day or jó háti ardagurinn. We will be having a grand picnic at Rick Lindal's beautiful property, just outside Grafton Ontario, just a short hour's drive east of the city. There will be lots of games for both adults and children, entertainment and great company!

Please join us on this special day, there is a BBQ for grilling, so bring your best picnic-ing eats. Traditionally, on National Day there is also a Fjallkona (woman of the mountain), clad in the most festive national dress of Iceland, who recites a poem. She represents the fierce spirit of the Icelandic nation and of Icelandic nature; this is in many ways an inheritance from the period of romanticism that was reigning when the first steps toward independence were being taken.

So with this in mind, new this year is the "Spirit of Iceland" contest! Open to anyone, man, woman, boy or girl! Dress up in a "Spirit of Iceland" costume, and prepare a few lines on what the "Spirit of Iceland" means to you. We will have a mini pageant showing off all of your creative costumes, and prizes for the winners!! Its all starts at 1:30, we hope to see you there! There is a bit of room for camping if you would like to stay the night, and a few guest bedrooms (for adult guests only on a first come basis). Please contact Rick 905-349-2642 if you would like to stay over.

What to bring: food, drinks, sun screen, games, musical instruments, chairs, blankets, good spirits!!!!

Directions to 481 Clouston Road , Ontario K0K 2G0, 905-349-2642:

Take 401 east, past Cobourg

exit 487, go North

Turn Left onto Academy Hill Road

Turn Left onto Massey Road

Turn Right onto Clouston Road (St Anne's Spa is at the corner)

At the bottom of the hill at Boomerang Road is 481 Clouston Road, on the corner.

There are many Inns, B&Bs and Hotels in the area, as well as Ste Anne's Spa, check out these websites for more information:

<http://hotel-guides.us/ontario/cobourg-on-hotels.html>

<http://www.wayspa.com/steannes/>

please contact Kara @ karaschuster@rogers.com 905-828-1984 if you would like to help with this event

**THIS WILL BE A RAIN
OR SHINE EVENT!**