



FÁLKINN

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

February 2008

ICCT FÁLKINN 48th Year Number 4

THORRABLÓT

When: Saturday, March 29th, 2008.
The Bar opens at 6:00pm, Appetizers at 6:15
Dinner at 7:00pm.

Where: North York Memorial Community
Hall
(Concourse Level, Under the Library)
5110 Yonge Street, Toronto

What: Great Food, Silent Auction, Kids
Crafts, Musical Entertainment by Lindy!!!!
Adults \$35, Youth/Students \$20, Children 6
and under are free

You must pre-purchase your tickets. They will NOT be any
available at the door.

Payment must be received by March 20, 2008
Cheques payable to ICCT, Mail to Gail Einarson-McCleary,
84 Morningside Ave, Toronto, M6S1C9

This is a self catered event , so please help out and let us know what you would like to bring to add to the meal, whether it be an appetizer, main, side or dessert, every little bit helps!! To arrange your donation, please contact Gail at 416-762-8627
icegem20@cs.com

We are also looking for donations for the Silent Auction. This is the main source of funding for our grants and scholarships program, so we need all the help we can get. If you have a service or item you would like to donate, please call Brian Eyolfson to make drop off arrangements. 416-763-9452, brian.eyolfson@sympatico.ca

Come and celebrate in the oldest Icelandic way known: Eat, drink and be merry! Be treated with Icelandic dishes galore, and some Canadian dishes too, entertainment, children's activities and a silent auction.

What better way to come together with great friends and friends you have yet to meet in the Icelandic community. We will also be awarding our ICCT and the Marion & Jon Ragnar Johnson Memorial Scholarships and our Snorri Grants, so check out the website and apply now!

Lindy Vopnfjörð will be performing some Icelandic songs as well as some songs from his band Major Maker (he's the lead singer!) Check out his band at www.majormaker.com

Thorri is the last winter month in the old Icelandic calendar. It was a difficult time of year for farmers and their families. The food stock was low and a late summer could have devastating effects on people's chances for survival. The month traditionally starts on Friday in the 13th week of winter (Jan. 19 - 25). The first day of Thorri is called Bondadagur (Farmer or Father's Day) On this day the man of the house would, in order to insure mild weather for the month, run around his farm with one leg in his trousers but otherwise naked (the earliest references to this custom date back to the mid 1800) Our ancestors probably held sacrificial ceremonies in honor of Thor the old god that the month gets its name from (blot = sacrifice). The aim of these was to create unity within the Icelandic community and to preserve old traditions related to food.

We want you to know that Thorrablot is a self-catered event. This gives all of us an opportunity to take part and share our best dishes with everyone. We always end up with a gourmet meal which also includes the old favourites, hangikjot (smoked lamb) , rullapylsa (spiced lamb), hardfish, vinarterta, pönnukökur, etc. and sometimes even some hákarl (rotten shark!). Putting all of this together takes a lot of work by our volunteers, and those in the kitchen often don't get to enjoy the event at all, so this year let's spread the work out. **We are in need of more volunteers. Please call Gail at 416 762-8627 and let her know what you can do to help make it the best ever.**

ANNUAL TRAVEL TO ICELAND SHOW

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24 , 2:30 P.M.

Swansea Town Hall - 95 Lavinia Avenue (near Bloor and Runnymede, west end)

Frida Ardal and her partner **Allan** will be reprising their trip to Kerlingafjöll in the interior, as well as traveling the ring road, with many fascinating pictures.

Arden Jackson and her mother will focus on the connection with the land and people they experienced in terms of family ancestry, discoveries and many delightful moments...as they experienced 'fall' in Iceland on the ring road.

Karen Wallington thought it was time to take her mom to Iceland since she had been 12 times!.. being non-Icelandic, the focus of her trip was a little different from the others. Come to see her delightful video!

Latest brochures, prices, as well as the chance to talk to many others who have been to Iceland recently! Don't miss it!

Coffee and goodies to follow ... Members \$5, Non-Members \$6 More info. Gail at 416 762-8627



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

Webpage: <http://icct.info>

New Members

The ICCT would like to welcome the following new members!

Lee Stedman & family, Toronto
Thora Rosemary Laevens, Rainy River
Paul Hallson, Toronto
Ian & Cindy Gislason & Krista,
Bolton
Nancy Morgan, Toronto
Linda Theron, Toronto
Marc Whiteway, Toronto
Ron McMahon, Nunavut
Tara Dawson, Aurora

Donations

The ICCT would like to thank the following for their gracious donations:

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Dymott,
Kinmount
Joe Martin, Toronto
Kristin Finkleman, Toronto
George Isford, North York
Signy Stephenson, Knowlton QC
Bryan & Jeannie Hollebhone, Ottawa
Daniel Thorkelson, Ottawa
Barbara Gubbins, Etobicoke

"A TASTE OF ICELAND" COMING TO TORONTO

MARCH 10th TO 16th, 2008

In anticipation of the upcoming non-stop Icelandair service on May 2nd, 2008, the popular food and music event, "A Taste of Iceland" will be coming to Toronto soon. Chef **Hákon Örvarsson** will be supervising tasting menus at both **The Drake Hotel** (1150 Queen St. West) and **The Bier Markt** (58 The Esplanade). Hákon is well known for winning the Bocuse d'Or Bronze award in 2001 and from his former Reykjavik restaurant, Vox, a popular hot-spot for local and international gastronomes.

In addition to Hákon's food on the tasting menus at both venues, there will be a number of musical guests from Iceland at The Bier Markt and The Drake, including **Magni**, very well known here in North America from his finalist appearance on the Rock Star Supernova TV show.

"A Taste of Iceland" will be launched at the Bier Markt on the Esplanade on Monday, March 10th, and will feature the musical genius of Magni and his band **Á Moti Sól**.

More details will be available shortly at <http://www.icelandnaturally.com/> and in NOW Magazine.

Donald K. Johnson

The Globe and Mail's Nation Builder of the Year

By: Joe Martin

On the last Saturday of 2007 many Canadians from all walks of life were pleased to read in their Globe and Mail that Donald K. Johnson was chosen as Nation Builder of the Year. He beat out some pretty distinguished competition including two time National Basketball Association MVP Steve Nash and Jean Vanier, prominent humanitarian.

He won the award for his 12 year struggle to make gifts of stock exempt from capital gains tax. This has been a tremendous boon to the not for profit sector in Canada.

In simple terms prior to the change if you bought stock for \$1,000 many years ago and the stock appreciated to \$10,000 over the years and you decided to give the stock to charity you would receive a charitable receipt for \$10,000 but you would be required to pay a capital gains tax on the stock when you transferred the shares to a charity. This was not the case in the United States.

One of the consequences is that Canadian shareholders were prepared to give their 'dogs' to charity where they could claim a capital loss but not their 'stars' where they had to pay capital gains tax.

Don fought long and hard for this goal and as former Prime Minister Paul Martin said 'He seemed to pop up behind every tree, on every street corner, with a big smile and yet another letter explaining his cause.'

Well, you might ask, that is nice, but what does it have to do with the Icelandic Canadian community of Toronto? The answer is simple – Don is one of us.

Don is a 1.5 generation Icelandic Canadian. On his father's side he is a first generation Icelandic Canadian as his father was born in Iceland and came to Canada, specifically to Lundar, when he was a child in the late 1880s. Lundar is located 99 kms north of Winnipeg on the east side of Lake Manitoba, almost due west of Gimli.

Lundar is the main centre in the Rural Municipality of Coldwell, named after a Manitoba Minister of Education. According to the Lundar web site "The Post Office was established in 1890 and named Lundi by Postmaster Henrick Johnson after the farm in Iceland which his bride came from. "Lundi" is Icelandic for meadow, and the mix-up in names resulted from a mistake in Ottawa. The 1892 Postal Guide listed it as Lundar under Post Master Henrick Johnson."

On Don's mother's side Don is a second generation Icelandic Canadian as his mother was born in Otto a tiny community near Lundar. Don was born in Lundar and received his early education there. When Don lived there the population was about 800 and they were mostly of Icelandic descent. As a consequence you knew everyone in town and the Icelandic influence was further embedded by the fact that there were many relatives.

Don's father died when Don was in his early teens and his mother moved the family to Winnipeg, to 933 Lipton St. in the Icelandic, or 'Ghoolie' section, so that her children could pursue their education. Don was assisted by the local doctor in Lundar – Dr. Gudmunder Paulson, who provided a scholarship for promising young people attending High School in Lundar. He continued to be influenced by the section of Winnipeg in which he grew up and by the fact that his family subscribed to both Icelandic papers and visited Lundar on a periodic basis.

This early example of philanthropy made an impact on Don and he in turn established a scholarship for Lundar students and also contributed \$25,000 to the Pauline Johnson Library on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Don has also been very generous to other Icelandic initiatives, including ICCT's 'Vikings in Canada Gala' in 2000, the recent Logberg-Heimskringla campaign, and many others.

Don graduated from the University of Manitoba with a degree in engineering in 1957. The only two jobs available for electrical engineers that year in Manitoba were with the two Crown Corporations, Manitoba Hydro and the Manitoba Government Telephone System. Don came east to work. After working for a while he decided to take an MBA at the University of Western Ontario – at that time the leading Business School in the country. Ironically in the preponderantly Anglo Saxon environment two of his class mates had Icelandic backgrounds which kept Don in touch with his roots.

Don has had an extraordinarily successful career in the Investment Banking business in Canada, with what has become BMO Nesbitt Burns. In spite of, or perhaps because of, he has made five trips to Iceland – two were entirely family related and three were business related.

Don was succeeded as CEO of BMO Nesbitt Burns by John MacNaughton who went on to become CEO of Canada's Pension Plan. John described Don as Mr. Superlative. He said Don was tenacious, optimistic, resilient and successful at every thing he decided to do and always talked with pride about his Icelandic heritage.

In 2006, he was named to the Order of Canada in recognition of his work on the capitol gains tax issue.

At the end of an interview Don was asked "You have been nominated as a Nation Builder of the Year for your work on changing the tax laws. You worked at that for a dozen years – what kept you going, was any of it related to your Icelandic background?" He said he thought so and then added a phrase that is worthy of the ages in Management Literature right up there with Peter Drucker or Chairman Mao if you prefer, 'the sale begins when the customer says no'.

Svartárkot: Culture – Nature

You are invited to take part in any of three courses to be held in Iceland in the summer of 2008.

In the remote location of Svartárkot in Northern Iceland, at the edge of the wild Central Highlands, the edge of the inhabited world, a cutting edge study centre is being developed (see <http://www.svartarkot.is>). The place, straddling the border between the settled landscape and the wilderness, is strangely appropriate for investigating the interaction between culture and nature. The approach is multi-disciplinary, incorporating cultural studies, literature, history, anthropology, folklore, geography, geology, ecology and the natural sciences. Svartárkot is a farm giving participants first-hand experience of the interaction between people and the natural world. Courses will involve a generous number of excursions and field-trips, capitalizing on the fascinating cultural and natural environment. Courses are intended for graduates and undergraduates. They are supervised by the Reykjavik Academy <http://www.akademia.is/> and tailored to international university level standards, meaning that they should be accepted as credits at your university. Teachers bringing five or more students will be able to attend a course free of charge. They will instead be asked to assist in teaching procedures other than lecturing.

*Courses for 2008:

- 1) Geography programme: This course deals with the development of settlement and natural history. The processes controlling the development of geography, both human and natural, will be viewed from several angle with lectures, field trips and project work.
- 2) Reverse cultural history – manuscripts and local culture: The course deals with the main themes in Icelandic cultural history and puts them in a new light from the perspective of scribal studies. The old scribal tradition is still with us, and it has been renewed in our time with the writing of diaries and blogs. This tradition will be the subject of lectures, project work and field trips to archives and places of interest.
- 3) Environmental and agricultural history of Iceland in a global context: How did and do different kinds of agriculture use the environment? How does industrial society use the environment? What is the effect of the environment (climate, germs, volcanism) on different kinds of societies? The emphasis will be on the area around Svartárkot, NE-Iceland, and how this history can be viewed and analyzed.

For further information, prices and registration please visit <http://www.svartarkot.is>

The Icelandic Canadian Club Of Toronto Scholarship, and the Ragnar & Marion Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Two awards of \$1,000.00 each are available to students of Icelandic descent. They are the annual ICCT Scholarship, and the Ragnar and Marion Johnson Memorial Scholarship. These two scholarships are each offered to a student who is in or about to enter post secondary education or training. We are interested in attracting candidates who, in addition to high academic standing, leadership qualities and community involvement, have an interest in their heritage. The applicant or applicant's family must be a member in good standing of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto. Please visit <http://icct.info> to download the application. Deadline: March 1st

Grants for ICCT Snorri Participants

Grants are available to people of Icelandic descent participating in the Snorri Program to Iceland in 2008. These grants are offered to assist in the funding of your travel expenses. The amount awarded may vary from year to year, and will be subject to Board approval based on the number of applicants for the year and the funding available. We are interested in attracting candidates who, in addition to their Icelandic heritage, leadership qualities and community involvement, will be active and involved members of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto upon their return. The applicant or applicant's family must be a member in good standing of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto. Please visit <http://icct.info> to download the application. Deadline for applications is March 1st, 2008.

Support Snorri Toronto 2008 This Summer

The ICCT will be hosting two young Icelanders for two weeks this summer. In order to make this a success we need your help. **What is Snorri?** An opportunity for Icelanders to experience Eastern Canada ... for people between the ages of 18 & 28.

How can you help?

Make a donation. Even a small donation will help pay for activities during the visit. Join us on an outing or host the Icelanders for a dinner, a few nights or even an outing or take them out and about and give them a taste of your Canada.

Snorri Fundraising Gala!

A fantastic fundraising Gala will be held at the Gladstone Hotel on Tuesday, May 27th. For tickets, information or to volunteer please contact Linda Theron: linda.theron@gmail.com 416 520-4378

Volunteer!

LOGBERG CEMETERY GETS A FACELIFT

Ever wonder what happens when a church closes, members move away and a cemetery is left uncared for? In the case of Logberg Cemetery in Saskatchewan, the resultant neglect has now been corrected due to the efforts of local volunteers. The Logberg Lutheran Church, located approximately 8 miles west of MacNutt (near Churchbridge) was disbanded in the mid 50's and the last burial occurred in 1965.

As the centennial of Saskatchewan's entry into Confederation in 2005 approached a Heritage Cemeteries Project was created as a non profit organization based in Langenburg to cover the churches and cemeteries in the RMs of Langenburg and Churchbridge. Because the Logberg settlement was in such bad condition it was one of the first that the group turned to. Nelson Gerrard prepared a very nice marker so the cemetery can be recognized easily by anyone driving west from MacNutt past the cemetery.

The past year [2007] a lot of work was done and on almost the last day before winter the cemetery was seeded and packed to grass so that next spring there should be a carpet of grass rather than a forest of poplars, and easy access to the graves.

Most of the work has been done by a local volunteer committee led by Laurie Popp of MacNutt.

The history of Logberg is interesting in that the cemetery contains a 100 year old woman as well as a day old baby buried side by side. Even more significant is the fact that the Reeve of Churchbridge (RM created in 1913) Joe Einarsson, is also laid to rest there. Ten unmarked graves have been located and marked with crosses.

ICCT Member, Professor Joe Martin, is the grandson of Johannes and Sigurlaug Einarsson. He tells us:
"The Logberg settlement in eastern Saskatchewan was established in 1890 by Johannes Einarsson and Gisli Egilsson. I know more about Johannes because he was my Afi and although he died when I was only 13 I loved him very much.

Johannes and his wife Sigurlaug, their baby daughter Elina and Johannes' mother Ovida left Iceland in 1889 and went to the Icelandic settlement near Mountain North Dakota where Johannes birth mother, Ovida's sister was living. There Johannes met Gisli Egilsson who had come to North America at least a decade earlier, first settling in Gimli and then moving to North Dakota. In the fall of 1889 Johannes and Gisli took the train [the old Manitoba Northwestern – later the main CPR line to Edmonton from Winnipeg] as far as the end of steel, an English community called Churchbridge. An Icelandic settlement had already been established there in 1885 called Thingvalla.

In 1890 Johannes and Gisli came back with their families. In December 1890 the first Canadian born person in our family arrived with the birth of Jon Einarsson [who later became a lawyer, enlisted and sailed overseas with John Diefenbaker – we have pictures of them together) – Jon was killed at Passschaendaele.

The Einarsson farm became the centre of the Logberg settlement, which was smaller than the Thingvalla settlement. The store and post office [until 1927] were located at the farm and a Church was built on the property and a graveyard for the Logberg families – the Einarssons, the Egilssons, the Thorleifssons, the Andersons and the Thorarensens. The first pastor was the Reverend G. Guttormson.

Joe Einarsson was very active in both the local and provincial community. He established the first cooperative in what is now Saskatchewan, a creamery in Saltcoats, helped organize a school at Rothbury and was the first Reeve of the Rural Municipality of Churchbridge. On the broader scene I have pictures of him at the 1915 Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Convention, the first General Meeting of the delegates of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, the 1927 Convention of Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies, and the 1928 International Wheat Pool Conference.

Now the graveyard in which he is buried has been given new life. The next step is to establish a web site with information about those who are buried there. It is hoped there will also be a re-dedication ceremony coming up shortly."



WE GET LETTERS...

Hello to the Eye Doublesee Tee.

I'm sure you will all believe me when I tell you that I have managed to stay busy and productive here in Winnipeg in my retirement. When I arrived I was concerned about having the problem of becoming a stagnating hermit, with nothing to do but jigsaw puzzles, television, and single malt scotch.. So, I made a couple of calls (I'm sure it was not more than two) --- and problem solved! In fact, how did I ever manage to fit in a full time job??!!

One of my main activities here has been involved with the INL. I've fitted in a few visits to several communities that have INL chapters, and have met enough people to reinforce my belief that I am involved in something truly worthwhile, even though I, like many of you, often questioned the validity and the need of this organization. It's like the expression 'think outside the box'. There is great worth in communicating with folks all over who have organized a club only because they are of Icelandic descent. You've seen it in microcosm in Ontario, where the ICCT often shares picnics with the Ottawa Friends of Iceland. And now, the group that has started in London will also help you see that you have things in common with others, and then consider that we are actually 20 clubs altogether who share a lot. This is why I now really understand the value of the INL. →

One of our unfinished and long outstanding projects that I have helped to revive, is the effort to publish the INL History book. This was a project born in the mid 1990's, was worked on for a while, and somehow became dormant. At the 2004 convention, at the urging of Evelyn Thorvaldson (the late friend of all of us) and others, it was revived with renewed vigour. The History committee, under Gwen Mann of Calgary, and with financial support from the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club, has done almost all the research necessary to publish, and now we await financing before we proceed. Aside from the INL history, dating back to 1919, we have gathered the histories of all the chapter clubs, and that will be part of the history book, if we can get it published.

Grants are being pursued, but many organizations require that we have registered charity status. Simply being non profit is not enough. Still we persist and are looking. We also welcome financial support from clubs and individuals. If you are in a position to give, please send your cheque to the Icelandic National League, #103-94 First Av. Gimli, MB R0C 1B1, and tag your cheque 'History'

By the way, I don't want to discourage you from attending your Thorrablot on March 29, but I'm pretty sure that I'm going to be there.

Garry Oddleifson,
President, Icelandic National League

HECLA ISLAND'S THORA GROWS UP



Sylvia Sigurdson's second book has arrived. Recently launched in her ancestral home on Hecla Island, this sequel to *Thora's Island Home* weaves the continuing story of Thora Jonsdottir, who emigrated from Iceland in 1931 as a twelve year old girl to live with her aunt and uncle on Lake Winnipeg's Hecla Island.

Thora takes you with her through a life threatening storm on Lake Winnipeg, heartbreaks and triumphs up to, and during one of the darkest periods in Canada's history, the depression and World War II.

Sylvia Sigurdson invites you to follow the evolving life of a remarkable immigrant girl into maturity, womanhood and love.

**NOW
AVAILABLE**

- *Salamandras Gesta Hver on Hecla Island*
- *Torgasars at Gimli*
- *or Icelandic Goods by Brandon* www.icelandic-goods.com



Please contact Elaine Sigurdson for more details or to purchase a copy
905-842-6413 esigurdson@cogeco.ca

Núna (Now) Coming to Winnipeg again May 7 - 11

This multi-disciplinary art convergence between Iceland and Canada returns to Manitoba May 7 -11.

Last April, over 30 artists from Iceland and Canada met and explored creative bridges between the two places through music, dance, visual art, film, literature and theatre.

Participating artists included Ólöf Arnalds, The Weakerthans, Ásdís Sif Gunnarsdóttir, 2boys.tv, Guy Maddin, Freya Olafson, Ragnar Kjartansson, and many more.

This year promises to once again showcase art and art-making of all kinds from both Icelandic and Canadian communities.

www.nunanow.ca

NEWS FROM ICELAND

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

Agreement on Free Trade

David Emerson, Minister of International Trade from Canada, Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade from Iceland, Rita Kieber-Beck, Minister of Foreign Affairs from Liechtenstein, Annelene Svíngen, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry from Norway, and Doris Leuthard, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs from Switzerland recently signed a free-trade agreement on behalf of Iceland between the EFTA countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and [Liechtenstein](#)) and. It will take effect once validated by EFTA and Canada.

The agreement includes that tariffs of Icelandic products for export like seafood and agricultural products, outdoor clothing and fishing equipment, will be abolished. In return, Canada will give Iceland free access to local industrial products and certain agricultural products.

According to an announcement from the Foreign Ministry, the agreement will enable Icelandic companies to more easily penetrate the Canadian market.

A Brand New Groom

A new Icelandic film, *Brúdguminn* (The Groom), by Baltasar Kormákur premiered at Háskólabíó cinema in [Reykjavík](#) late January.

The film, a tragicomedy, partly based on the play Ivanov by Anton Chekhov, had the audience in tears when they weren't laughing. The lead is played by Hilmir Snær Guðnason, who also starred in Baltasar Kormákur's [101 Reykjavík](#) (2000).

Ice(land) Cold

Iceland got even a little cooler in the beginning of February, when the frost dropped below -30°C in Iceland's highlands, west of [Vatnajökull](#) glacier.. It measured -30.3°C in Veidivatnahraun, near [Þórisvatn](#) lake. The Icelandic record is -38°C.

In rural areas in south and west Iceland the frost measured around -20°C last weekend.

The winter 1917-1918 is often referred to as "the Great Winter of Frost" when temperatures dropped to a record low of -38°C in [Möðrudalur](#) valley, in the North-Eastern part of Iceland, on January 21, 1918. In [Reykjavík](#) the frost measured -24.5°C the same winter.

A Whole Lot of Hot Water

A new record for usage of hot water was set in Reykjavík and suburbs early in February, as the temperatures sank well below normal. Reykjavík Energy Utilities distributed 15.200 tons of hot water per hour, which equals 4.3 square meters each second.

To save water some of the outdoor swimming pools were closed for a day or two. According to Reykjavík Energy Utilities, that should not give any reason for worries, as a new water source from Hellisheiðarvirkjun, will be connected soon.

Icelandic Airwaves

This year's Iceland Airwaves music festival will as usual take place in [Reykjavík](#) during the third weekend of October, October 15 to 19. As it is the first year of direct Icelandic flights from Toronto, enjoying the festival has never been easier for Torontonians. Check out:

www.icelandairwaves.com

Icelandair Takes Off from Toronto in 2008

Icelandair is pleased to announce service from Toronto commencing May 2, 2008. Icelandair's short 5-hour flight will depart up to five times weekly from Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) to Keflavik International Airport (KEF). These flights will serve both the Icelandic community of the Toronto area and the growing number of business and leisure travellers interested in the unique island destination. Passengers will also be able to connect to Icelandair's numerous flights to mainland Europe destinations including London, Paris, Copenhagen, Oslo, Frankfurt and more.

Dedicated to providing the best service for its customers, Icelandair will welcome Torontonians with a new upgraded fleet featuring next-generation seat-back entertainment centres and luxurious leather seating throughout the 757 aircrafts.

As part of their promotional efforts, Icelandair is looking to employ a few locals with Icelandic heritage to help spread the word about Iceland. If you are interested in becoming involved, send an e-mail to Melissa Andretta, Marketing Manager - The Americas at melissa@icelandair.is.

Due to the popularity of this summer's flights, passengers are urged to book early to get the best possible airfares and package prices. Intro fares are now available for booking at www.icelandair.ca, by calling (877) 435-7930 or by contacting your local travel agent.

CALL FOR ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, SUPPORTERS AND VENDORS FOR NORDIC FEST JUNE 27 - 29, 2008

We will be joining with the other Nordic and Baltic communities for a big festival in June (Friday June 27 - Sunday June 29) at Mel Lastman Square in North York. All events in the Square will be free. There will be entertainment, food for sale, tables/tents for vendors and supporters. There are also halls available for ticketed events.

Let us know if you would like to take part in this ground-breaking event. If you have music or art to offer, please contact Gail Einarson-McCleery to arrange to have a cd of your work mailed for review. If you would like to be a vendor or supporter, please contact Gail at icegem20@cs.com, 416 762-8627. The sooner the better in order to make room for you. Planning has begun and there will be an hour each day for Icelandic entertainment!

Film of the Month - March:

Presented by The National Film Board , Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, Icelandic Consulate and Icelandic Film Center

Wednesday, March 26th, 7:30pm

The National Film Board, 150 John Street, Toronto
Admission: \$6 for NFB members, seniors, students,
\$8 others.

A series of recent Icelandic short films with English subtitles will be shown. They are:

Farmer John's World 5:00 Icelandic with English subtitles
Director: Una Lorenzen

An atmospheric film, based on illustrations and ideas of an Icelandic 18th Century farmer. The manuscripts and this film provide an insight into his view of the world at large. Besides building a new atmosphere around Icelandic manuscripts, the film provides glimpses into parts of history, true or not true.

Anna 2007 14 mins.

Director: Helena Stefansdottir

Cast: Katherine Baldwin, Hilmir Snaer Gudnason
Anna has serious tourette's syndrome; she imitates other people's movements. Simple tasks like going to the grocery store can be extremely difficult.

Family Reunion (Góðir gestir) Icelandic with English subtitles 2006 19 mins.

Director: Isold Uggadottir Cast Adalbjorg Thóra Arnadóttir, Amy Lewis, Hanna Maria Karlsdóttir, Gretar Snær Hjartason
New York lesbian Katrin is returning to her native Iceland for her grandfather's 70th birthday. Her family in Reykjavik unwittingly engages her in discussions about marriage, children and her future - while she sneaks in phone calls to her girlfriend in New York. But all is not what it seems in this family.

In addition we will show three films from the Icelandic Canadian film community in Winnipeg. They are:

Odilon Redon English 5.5 mins.

Director: Guy Maddin,

Keller, an old sub-aquatic locomotive engineer, and his son Caelum witness a train collision and rescue from its wreckage Berenice, an orphaned pre-adolescent girl-snail. Keller and Caelum adopt Berenice as a member of their family. Keller even names his beloved steam engine after his "daughter".

When Berenice reaches puberty, both Keller and Caelum fall in love with her, becoming romantic rivals. A disturbed Berenice runs away to marry a Zeppelin pilot, only to be kidnapped by her adoptive father. Keller is blinded in a train mishap. Caelum loses his head and turns into a flower. Berenice turns into a cactus. →

Film of the Month - April:

Presented by the Finnish Consulate and the National Film Board.

Wednesday, April 30th, 7:30pm: free @ NFB Frozen Land/Paha maa

Finnish with English subtitles

Drama, Aku Louhimies, Finland 2005

2 hours 10 minutes

A counterfeit 500 euro note works its way to the lives of ordinary people in Helsinki with sad results. Leo Tolstoy's short story *Faux Billet* (The Forged Note) is the inspiration for the film where hope, luck, and happiness are only fleeting.

Frozen Land received a total 9 Finnish National Film Awards or Jussi-awards, including Best Film, Best Director, and Best Script

For more information please call 416 964 0066 or

e-mail toronto@finland.ca

DAYS TO REMEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 17th :London Chapter Event Betty Jane Wylie will be doing a reading from one of her books. Please join them at 2:00pm, First St. Andrew's United Church, Corner of Queen and Waterloo in London, Call Nancy Johnson (519-657-3994) for details

Feb 24th: Travel Show (see pg 1)

March 10-16th: Taste of Iceland (see pg 2)

March 26th: Icelandic Short Films (see page 8)

March 29th: Thorrablot: (see pg 1)

May 27th: Snorri Fundraising Gala @ the Gladstone Hotel. More details to come...

Odin's Shield Maiden: English 4.5 mins.

Director: Guy Maddin

The shield maiden of Gimli yearns for the drowned fisherman Mundi while her acolytes in mourning aid her in this fact-based account of a tragic accident.

The Hypothesis 3.19 mins. English

Co-produced and directed by Icelandic Canadian filmmakers Caelum Vatnsdal and Simon Hughes
A very imaginative science project surprises everyone.