



# FÁLKINN

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO

May-June 2008

ICCT FÁLKINN 48th Year Number 5

## ♪♪♪ Snorri Gala Fundraiser/ Concert – June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00PM ♪♪♪

Let's show Toronto what Icelandic Canadians are all about! Join us on Wednesday June 4<sup>th</sup> for a **Gala Concert at The Mod Club** on College Street in Toronto. This gala will raise money for the Toronto portion of the **SNORRI Iceland/Canada exchange program**, in cooperation with **Icelandair** and the ICCT. Featuring up and coming Toronto bands with an Icelandic/Canadian connection; **Lindy, Infighter, Mackenzie Kristjon and Sigrun Stella**. More details are being added daily, this is one event you won't want to miss!

**Lindy** [www.majormaker.com](http://www.majormaker.com) [www.lindymusic.com](http://www.lindymusic.com)

In addition to being a successful solo artist with the recently released **Suspension of Disbelief**, Lindy is also the front man for Major Maker. **Major Maker** took Canada by force last Summer when two new songs, **Rollercoaster** and **Talk To You**, were featured in national television campaigns for **Maynards Candy** and **Telus**, respectively. Now, with **Rollercoaster** blazing through both the indie and mainstream music scene, the Toronto indie-rockers follow-through with a hotly anticipated new EP entitled **People Carrier**.

**Infighter** <http://www.infighter.ca> <http://www.myspace.com/infighter>

Out of 450 bands playing at NXNE in 2007, **DOSE.CA** recommended **infighter** as one of 16 bands under the heading, "**Which NXNE Gigs Should You Attend?**". Fronted by lead singer **Simeon Ross**, **Infighter** is a five-piece alternative rock/post-punk revival band from Toronto. Formed in late 2005, their brand of sweeping indie rock is frequently compared to the sound of bands such as Interpol, Editors, Kaiser Chiefs, and The Killers and draws on the influences of post-punk bands like Joy Division, Echo and the Bunnymen, The Cure, Pulp, and The Smiths.

**Mackenzie Kristjon** <http://radio3.cbc.ca/bands/Deathstyle>

Deathstyle sounds like a combination of Neil Young and David Bowie. Icelandic Canadian Frontman Mackenzie Kristjón has been on tour throughout Canada, the US, and Europe. His debut recording is titled **Celebration**.

**Sigrun Stella** [www.myspace.com/sigrunstella1](http://www.myspace.com/sigrunstella1)

The up and coming Toronto artist Sigrun Stella, daughter of Haraldur Bessason and Margret Bjorgvinnisdottir, has been leaving heartfelt impressions with everyone who hears her music and live acoustic performance of *Joni Mitchell's 'A Case of You'* has left audiences clinging to the edge of their seats. Her soulful, folk infused R&B has often been compared to the late *Eva Cassidy*. Her contemporary influence combined with her traditional Icelandic upbringing has created a style to call her own with sultry vocals that shine through with a perfect amount of vibrato.

**A backdrop to the concert will be a mashup of films** by world renowned Icelandic/Canadian Directors, including **Sturla Gunnarsson** (<http://www.gunnarsson.ca>). There will also be a silent auction and amazing prizes.

♪♪♪ **Contact: Linda Theron at (416) 520-4378 [linda.theron@gmail.com](mailto:linda.theron@gmail.com)** ♪♪♪

**TICKETS:** (\$8 at the door or \$10 through PayPal on the ICCT website) The Mod Club 722 College Street, Toronto

## Come Celebrate - Nordic Fair 2008 June 27, 28 & 29<sup>th</sup>

Held outdoors at Mel Lastman Square, 5000 Yonge Street, North York, Ontario.

This is the first time that Toronto has hosted a Nordic Fair that celebrates and promotes the cultures, histories, traditions, and current life in the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Estonia. This truly historic event takes place in the Mel Lastman Square with space for pavilions, table displays, cultural activities and plenty of space so that the visitors can enjoy themselves. This fair is a wonderful event where people can reacquaint themselves with old friends and also enjoy the colourful Nordic cultures that they remember so well and can share with others in the pride and fun that makes it such an important part of their memories. There will be performances by

Lindy, Sigrun Stella and Michael, Storyteller Hildy Stollery and Singer Iris Krizmanic with a song about the Sagas.

Jonas Thor's group of Icelanders travelers will be attending on Friday afternoon, so please stop by to meet them!

### Friday, June 27th

1:00 pm *Fair parade/Opening Ceremonies*  
**2:00 pm Icelandic hour**  
3:00 pm *Swedish hour*  
4:00 pm *Danish hour*  
5:00 pm *Finnish hour*  
6:00 pm *Norwegian hour*  
7:00 pm *Estonian hour*  
8-10:00 pm *Fair Youth dance*

### Saturday, June 28th

10:00 am *Fair opens*  
11:00 am *Nygard Fashion show*  
12:00 pm *Swedish hour*  
1:00 pm *Danish hour*  
2:00 pm *Finnish*  
3:30 pm *Norwegian hour*  
4:00 pm *Estonian hour*  
**5:00 pm Icelandic hour**  
6:00pm *Finnish hour*  
8-10:00 pm *Fair Youth dance*

### Sunday, June 29th

10:00 am *Service in the square*  
12:00 pm *Swedish hour*  
1:00 pm *Danish hour*  
2:00 pm *Finnish hour*  
**3:00 pm Icelandic hour**  
4:00 pm *Estonian hour*  
5:00 pm *Norwegian hour*  
5:30 pm *Finnish hour*  
7:30 pm *Dancing in the square*



# FÁLKINN-THE FALCON

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

*Editors: Kara Schuster karaschuster@rogers.com  
Gail Einarson-McCleery icegem20@cs.com  
G. Tómas Gunnarsson tommigunnars@hotmail.com*

## ICCT Executive:

*President: Kara Schuster  
karaschuster@rogers.com  
905-302-9699*

*Vice-President: Brian Eyolfson  
brian.eyolfson@sympatico.ca*

*Treasurer: Lynne Thorkelsson  
1680 Scugog St.  
Port Perry, ON L9L 1E2  
lynron.futurepast@sympatico.ca*

*Membership: Holly Wirth  
wirthh@yahoo.com*

*Librarians: Margret Björgvinsdóttir  
maggatoronto@gmail.com  
Jon Thordarson  
thorco@aol.com*

*Phone Committee: Irene Gibson  
Email: gibso20@can.rogers.com*

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

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

*Youth Director: Brenda Bjarnason  
bbjarnason@rogers.com*

*Webmaster: Darla McKay  
demckay@pathcom.com*

*INL Vice President & Honorary  
Consul of Iceland in Toronto:  
Gail Einarson-McCleery.  
icegem20@cs.com*

*Directors at Large:  
Mel Johnson  
mljohnson@rogers.com,  
Heather Prinsloo  
dhprinsloo@rogers.com*

*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:

Gerry Einarsson, Ottawa

Tara Dawson & family - Thordis Gladstone & Cindy, Paul, Hailey, & Alanna Dawson, Aurora

Liz Mackenzie, Jerry Dewhirst & Terilyn & Cathleen Dewhirst, Toronto

Ardatth Finnbogason-Hill, Kerry & Tristin Hill, London

Adam Kalbfleisch & family - Tatiana Busic & Isadora Freyja Kalbfleisch

Stephan Goodman, Toronto

## Donations

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

Jared Amy

Tom Einarson (Dr. Thomas on Queen's Quay)

Gunnar Helgason, Hong Kong

Evie & Eric Sigvaldason, Burlington

Jon & Patricia Johnson, Toronto

Signy Stephenson, Knowlton QC

## ORDER OF CANADA

Sunday, August 13th was an auspicious day for the Icelandic Canadian community in Toronto. Ambassador Markús Örn Antonsson was in town to host a reception for recent recipients of the Order of Canada .

They included Donald K. Johnson, who waged a 12 year campaign to exempt stock donations to charity from capital gains taxes, and has also been very generous within the Icelandic community, Clara Holmfreður Stefanson (Will), an early childhood educator, who has done excellent work in establishing *Adventure Place* and in developing other programs for children at risk, Dr. Betty Jane Wylie, a prolific writer of books, plays and operas on many topics, including 'Beginnings', a book for widows and her iconic 'Letters to Icelanders'. Kara Schuster, President of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, presented each honoree with an Honorary Membership in the ICCT.

Tom Cochrane, singer and AIDS activist, was recently elevated to an Officer of the Order of Canada, but was unable to attend as he was overseas carrying on his work.



Left to Right: Marcus Orn Antonsson, Lynne Friessen - presenter, Betty Jane Wylie, Clara Stefanson, Don Johnson, Gail Einarson-McCleery - Hon. Consul, Oskar Sigvaldason - presenter, Jon Johnson - Consul General, Kara Schuster - ICCT President.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY JUNE 8TH, 2008, 2:00PM

SCANDINAVIAN CANADIAN CLUB, 91 Stormont Avenue, North York, (near Bathurst and Lawrence)

Please join us for coffee and snacks as we present our new Executive Slate and discuss our plans for the upcoming year. And then stay to see "ANCESTORS IN THE ATTIC II | Icelandic Horsemen" A group of Icelanders travel across Canada on horseback following the epic journey of their forebears, who fled Iceland during the depression of the late 1800s and search for the truth behind a 130-year-old mystery. Our very own Don Gislason is interviewed in this episode!

If you would like to become more involved in the ICCT, we have many Executive positions open: Secretary, VP and Marketing Director. Please contact Kara Schuster if you would like to volunteer or would like more information on how you can help the club!

## Icelandair Takes Off To Toronto in 2008

Icelandair commemorated its first flight from Toronto Pearson International today. With up to five flights weekly, this service marks the extension of Icelandair's service to Canada under the Open Skies agreement between the Canadian government and Iceland. Dignitaries such as Vic Toews, president of the Treasury Board, Ontario MPP Dr. Kuldip and Markús Örn Antonsson, Icelandic Ambassador to Canada, took part in the inaugural festivities, which involved greeting Iceland's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir. With service from both Toronto and Halifax, Icelandair looks forward to increased growth and other potential opportunities with current gateways and other municipalities as well. Lloyd McCoomb, president and CEO of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, said, "the GTAA is pleased to welcome Icelandair to Toronto. A new airline offers choice for the passengers that depend on Toronto Pearson and the fact that Icelandair offers a unique service for connections to Europe is very beneficial." ([www.icelandair.ca](http://www.icelandair.ca))



L-R: Kara, Kristina, Tomas, Jon, Don, Leona at the Icelandair launch



Icelandair's first flight to Toronto



L-R: Jon Johnson, Hjørleifur Sveinbjörnsson, Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Markús Örn Antonsson

## Cheryl Powder: Road Rash

Cheryl was born locally (Mississauga) in 1972 and is presently living in Elko, Nevada. This past year she has built a fledgling recording studio which has yet to introduce its label, but will do so in time for release of her debut album that is scheduled to be released later this year. In the meantime, she has started a *MySpace* blog where interested people can listen to some of her original compositions. In the past few years Cheryl has put together a Country Rock band which plays under the name ROAD RASH. The following profile is displayed in My Space at: <http://www.myspace.com/cherylpowdermusic>

ROAD RASH is a well established local Spring Creek band, comprised of experienced musicians and performers - Cheryl Powder (lead vocals, bass guitar, rhythm acoustic guitar), George Cothrun (drums), Ken Baeth (lead guitar), and Joel Utter (bass guitar and lead guitar). Cheryl has performed in various clubs and venues in Elko and the surrounding area for the past nine years as a single, duo and with a full band, and before that toured with a musical group in her native country of Canada for nine years. She sings most of the lead vocals, and all the band members also sing. The band is very musically versatile, and plays a good mix of rock, county and country/rock cover tunes and also a couple of originals which go over quite well with local audiences. The other musicians have also performed in various bands throughout the years. George Cothrun was the drummer and lead singer in the now defunct Spring Creek, Nevada 'Stormfront' band for ten years before joining Cheryl's band four years ago. Road Rash performs locally on the weekends (close to home), as all the members have "real jobs" during the week. Most of the performances are in the Spring Creek area (The Watering Hole, Spring Inn and Scoreboard) but they also occasionally perform in Wells, Carlin and Elko, Nevada. A debut album of original country/rock tunes mostly penned by Cheryl is set for release in the summer of 2008

Cheryl Powder is the granddaughter of Olafur Eggert Briem, and daughter of ICCT member John Briem.

~ ICELANDIC NATIONAL DAY PICNIC ~

~ SEE LAST PAGE FOR DETAILS ~

## The Icelandic Canadian Club Of Toronto Scholarship

Each year, the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto presents a \$1000 scholarship to one of our young members. This year, we had two excellent candidates and the Committee decided to award them both a scholarship. Congratulations to both *Ellen Rose Denny* and *Christina Johnson* for their outstanding accomplishments.

As they are both heavily involved in the arts, neither of them were able to come to Thorrablot to receive their awards as they were performing elsewhere! Ellen had asked her cousin Eileen McCurdy to accept for her, and Christina's mother, Fiona Johnson, was there to accept on her behalf

### ELLEN DENNY

Ellen Denny is a member of the Johnson family, whom you may remember have had family reunions at our last two Thorrablots. Her great grandparents, Guthjon Jonsson and Oddney Einarsdottir and Helgi Jonsson and Asta Johannesdottir all settled in Winnipeg. Ellen's mother Marion Johnson is a writer who lives in London, Ontario.

Ellen's interests include community theatre (10+ shows), dance and voice lessons. She has also been involved in a social justice club, the 30 hr. Famine Committee, and a peer mentor program.

This summer she will be starring in "Wuthering Heights" at the London Fringe Theatre Festival, which has been written and co-produced by her mother.

She is currently completing her Grade XI studies in London Central Secondary School and plans to enter university next fall to take a degree in either theatre, or drama and music. She has one acceptance already and is waiting for results of auditions at two other schools.

In her essay, Ellen says, "Being of Icelandic descent is definitely something to brag about. It is rare and unique, and it ensures you a wealth of extended family both in Canada and on the island itself."

### CHRISTINA JOHNSON

Christina Johnson's ancestors were some of the very first settlers who came to Kinmount, ON and later settled in Gimli, MB. Her grandmother Sybil Clapperton was part of the Bergman family.

Christina is also an artistic young woman, who founded a Dance Club and was a member of the Mississauga Youth Theatre, where she followed her passion for dancing, acting and singing. Since then she has written, produced and directed her own play. She acted as an orientation week leader, and is currently a member of two competitive dance teams. Another activity was volunteering for three years at Peel Lunch and After School Program.

She completed high school at Cawthra Park Secondary School in Mississauga. Academically, she scored excellent marks in her first year in the Faculty of Science at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and will be continuing in this course next fall."

In her essay, Christina writes, "When my grandparents invited me to Thorrablot dinner the first time, I was very excited. In only one night, I learned so much about what seemed like eight billion different aspects of Icelandic culture; it was like an Icelandic overload!"

## INL of NA Calendar for 2010

Each year the Icelandic National League of North America creates a themed calendar to sell as a fundraising venture. The 2010 calendar's theme is that of visual art – such as printmaking, drawings, photographs of sculptures, carvings, and the like. These calendars are distributed across North America to the Club Chapters who, in turn, sell them to their members and the public as an INL fundraiser.

For the 2010 calendar, visual artists are invited to submit a maximum of three visual art 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 2010 committee will be accepting images from October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. More information about this project can be found on the INL of NA website or by contacting Julianna Bjornson at :

[jbjornson@shaw.ca](mailto:jbjornson@shaw.ca) or (604-542-0834).

## THE RAGNAR AND MARION JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Alys Richards, this year's recipient of the Ragnar and Marion Johnson Memorial Scholarship. Alys is a student in Opera Performance at the University of British Columbia. She is an accomplished young lady who is one of the co-founders of OneChild, an organization to fight child sex tourism and child prostitutions in third world countries.

She has volunteered at many Thorrablots and is proud of her Icelandic heritage. In her essay she says "Being Icelandic is also about being proud of having one's heritage connected to such a small and interesting country and wanting to know more about it. I believe that my grandparents and mother could not have done a better job of raising me to be proud of my Icelandic heritage."

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# BIRGITTA GUDLAUG (GUTTORMSON) RUSSELL GILLIS (Feb. 20, 1914 – Feb. 3, 2008)



by Don Gislason

Birgitta was born in Winnipeg Beach, Manitoba to Einar & Holmfrídur (Freda) Johannesson Guttormson. She was the eldest of ten children. Her paternal grandparents, Guttormur Thorsteinsson & Birgitta María Jósefsdóttir, of Krossavík farm, North Múlasýsla district, left Iceland in 1893 from the east coast port of Seyðisfjörður. A very harsh winter and an April blizzard had severely reduced economic well-being in their area. With nine of their ten children aboard, they sailed on the *SS Lake Huron* directly to Quebec City, arriving August 11<sup>th</sup>. Her father Einar was three years old and the youngest in the family. Their ticket destination was Winnipeg city, and then north by boat to Gimli, along the shores of Lake Winnipeg. After three years they bought land at Husavick.

Birgitta's parents and their young family later moved to rural Poplar Park near Libau, MB where she grew up. She went to a one-room country school ~ braving prairie winters and, as is remembered by relatives "...confronting a wild lynx on the way to school and surviving runaway horses on the hayfield." She left home at the age of 15 to attend the remarkable private school *Jon Bjarnason Academy* in Winnipeg, staying with her aunt and grandmother. After graduating from Business College there she lived in the city until the age of 23 when she moved to Toronto for better career opportunities with The Canadian Underwriters Association.

In 1941 she married *Roy Kitchener Russell* of Toronto. The couple settled in the east end of the city where they raised their four children. Due to her interest in youth and education she volunteered for leadership roles in her local Norway Home & School Assoc. as well as the Boy Scouts. Later on she worked in real estate for ten years. Her husband passed away in April, 1970. She later became reacquainted with *Sigfus Gillis*, a former boyfriend of Icelandic descent whom she had left behind in Winnipeg. He had remained single and moved west to Vancouver. After a whirlwind courtship they were married in 1972. Sigfus always maintained that... "she looked like Sonja Henie." He passed away in 1981.

Although she was geographically far removed from the community of her youth, she was proud of her heritage and was a founding member of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto, as well as past president. Her support and dedication was recognized by an honorary membership and a citation from the Icelandic National League of North America. Also, in later years she traveled with two of her sisters to Iceland.

Birgitta was a resident at Centennial Place Long Term Care Centre in Millbrook, ON. She had lost her sight but remained intellectually astute and interested in all things, right into her 94<sup>th</sup> year! She was predeceased by her sister Asdis and brothers Hinrik, Frederick & Sæmundur and her daughter Signy (Ed Griggs) of Campbellford, and is survived by sisters Helga, Roberta & Eileen and brothers Clifford and Jonas. She also leaves her sons, Kitchener of Newmarket, Steve (Kathy) of Scarborough, Rick (Connie) of Whitby and eleven grandchildren - Scott, Craig, Tricia, Chris, Anneli, James, Becky, Stephanie, Kitch, Christopher and Kelly, and seven great-grandchildren - Emily, Edie, Mikaela, Devin, Sean, Daniel and Liam. She is remembered for her loving personality, as a wonderful story-teller, her sense of style, liveliness, generosity in thought and deed, and by all as a *shining spirit*. Birgitta was laid to rest in St. John's Norway cemetery, Toronto.

## ICCT 2008 Snorri Participants

The Snorri Program is an opportunity for young people (18-28) of Icelandic origin living in Canada and the United States of America, to discover the country, culture, nature and language of their ancestors, and to create or strengthen bonds with relatives living in Iceland. The Snorri Program offers an exciting six-week adventure starting in mid June to the end of July.

**The ICCT would like to congratulate Tara Dawson, Eileen McCurdy and Marc Whiteway for being accepted into the Snorri program this summer. This is a "once in a lifetime" opportunity and we wish them well in their travels. We hope they have the time of their lives, and bring back great stories to share with us!**

## From the President,

It has been a busy few months, and our club members have been apart of some great things. Thorrablot was a great success, lots of great food, Lindy and Sally performed for a captivated crowd, and we were even able to celebrate earth hour - we ate by the glow of flashlights! Many of us headed out to the Iceland Naturally celebrations to taste some modern Icelandic cooking and celebrated the Launch of Icelandair. In March, Holly R, Gail, Holly W, Garry from Ottawa joined me and some snowy weather at the 89th INL Convention in Calgary. The Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary put on a great program with presentations by Nelson Gerrard, Jonas Thor, Dr. Roger Gibbons, Einar K. Gudfinnsson and entertainment by Bogomil font of the Sugarcubes. And for those who wanted to be a little more hands on, Holly Ralph hosted web seminars, and Margret Gepport hosted a lovely knitting room! For more info on the INL Convention, please visit [www.inlofna.org](http://www.inlofna.org). Toronto will be hosting the 2010 Convention, and we are looking for volunteers. Please contact me if you would like to help out. 905-302-9699 [karaschuster@rogers.com](mailto:karaschuster@rogers.com)



Above: Gail Einarson McCleery speaking by lantern light during our celebration of earth hour



Left: Kara, Markus, Gail and Nelson at the 89th INL Convention in Calgary

Right: Lindy and Sally performing at Thorrablot

Below: Bogomil Font and Petur Ben at Broken City in Calgary



Right: Arden, Meredith and Margret at the Bier Market during the Taste Of Iceland



## Icelandic arts frenzy in Toronto adapted from LÖGBERG HEIMSKRINGLA

March was an exciting month in Toronto as the city took part in the Iceland Naturally promotion and the launch of Icelandair's upcoming flights to Toronto. Things kicked off on March 10th with a performance by Magni, the Icelandic finalist of the Rockstar: Supernova contest. Magni, whose recordings top the charts in Iceland, played again on the 12th; both performances took place at the Esplanade Bier Market. Other musical extravaganzas included shows from Icelandic acts such as Ghostdigital and Ólafur Arnalds, both of whom played at the Drake on the 12th and 13th of March. The jam-packed week included Icelandic films at the Cumberland Theatre, glorious Icelandic meals cooked by master Icelandic foodman Hákon Örvarsson, a dance program by Winnipeg's Freya Olafson and innovative performance art from 2boys.tv.

All of this activity came courtesy of A Taste of Iceland, the promotional festival which has held similar frenzies in cities across North America over the past six years. Upcoming Tastes of Iceland will be held later this summer in Boston. While all of the Toronto activity is nothing more than a fond memory now, the Icelandic Love Corporation display will be in place for some time, and itself warrants a visit to the Drake. The ILC's exhibition is called *As The Sun Rises*, and features both artistic photographs and narrative video productions. All of these works provide viewers with an eccentric and comedic look at Icelandic landscapes. The Icelandic Love Corporation is also known for their woolen creations. Their knitted artworks are much beloved by the well-known Icelandic songstress Björk, and the exhibition features a series of photographs of the famous fashionista clad in the ILC's creations. These photographs were taken by the Icelandic photographer Bernhard Ingimundarson. Don't hesitate to run down to any of the events, or proceed more slowly, but still with purpose, to the Drake Hotel for a gander at the Icelandic Love Corporation's fascinating work. (Until June 2nd) More information on A Taste of Iceland and the events can be found at [www.icelandnaturally.com](http://www.icelandnaturally.com)

# NEWS FROM ICELAND

## **Warming Iceland plans for a different future Melting ice has helped power dams, but downsides include more rain**

Iceland's natural attributes include the world-famous Blue Lagoon hot springs. Known for its cold climes, the country is seeing a warming pattern that has pros and cons.

Bob Strong / Reuters, updated 10:12 a.m. ET, Thurs., April. 10, 2008

REYKJAVIK, Iceland - If any country can claim to be pitched on the global warming front line, it may be the North Atlantic island nation of Iceland. On a purely physical level, this land of icecaps and volcanoes and home to 300,000 people is undergoing a rapid transformation as its glaciers melt and weather patterns change dramatically. But global warming is also having a profound effect on Iceland economically — and in many ways the effects have actually been beneficial. Warmer weather has been a boon to Iceland's hydroelectric industry, which is producing more energy than before as melting glaciers feed its rivers. Climate change, stoked by human use of fossil fuels, has also focused attention on Iceland's energy innovations and created demand for its ideas and expertise in fields such as geothermal energy and fuel technology. Scientists from Africa to the Americas are exploring what Icelandic universities and energy researchers are up to. And foreign companies are teaming up with the small island's firms. Two-thirds of electricity in Iceland is already derived from renewable sources — its plentiful rivers and waterfalls and the geothermal heat that warms 90 percent of Iceland's houses.

### **Planning for a different future**

Some observers say forward-thinking comes naturally on an island where climate change can already be seen in thawing ice and balmy winters. "People are already now planning for a future that will be different from the past," said Tomas Johannesson, a geophysicist at the Icelandic Meteorological Office. "We are in an unusual situation that many of the changes that are happening are maybe more beneficial than for the worse," he added. The increase in waterflow in the island's rivers, because of melting glaciers, is one example. "If you compare the hydrological data about how much energy is in the water for the last 60 years, and then the last 20 years, you see that there is an increase," said Thorstein Hilmarrson of the national power company Landsvirkjun. This extra energy is needed in an economy driven partly by power-intensive industries such as aluminum smelting. But Icelanders know that climate change is not a simple economic equation. "If something serious happens to other nations, this can easily have an effect here. So people are not exactly welcoming these changes," Johannesson said. Carol van Voorst, U.S. ambassador to Iceland, has made the promotion of energy ventures in Iceland part of her mission. "We're on the ground, we know the players, and we can be helpful in making the links and connections," she said. "You quickly notice how creatively Iceland is using its natural resources," she said.

### **Deep-drilling project to start**

Among the initiatives that have caught her attention are a deep-drilling project to harness underground energy, technology to convert carbon dioxide into fuel and hydrogen-powered rental cars, which went into use in Reykjavik last year. The Iceland Deep Drilling Project, a multinational venture including Landsvirkjun, will start drilling a hole this year between 2.5 and 3 miles deep to learn about "supercritical hydrous fluid" at temperatures of between 750 and 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit. It might take decades to learn how to harness the energy, but it could radically change the way power is generated. Iceland is also pushing hard to become the first nation to break free from the constraints of fossil fuel — this year, the first hydrogen-equipped commercial ship was due to start sailing around Reykjavik. Iceland hopes to convert its entire transport system to hydrogen by 2050. The flip side of this innovation, however, is concern. Last October, Nordic nations, including Iceland, sounded the alarm about a quickening melt of Arctic ice and said the thaw might soon prove irreversible because of global warming. The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says temperatures are rising more rapidly in the Arctic because darker water and land soak up more heat than reflective ice and snow. Nonetheless, even with higher temperatures, it could take centuries for Iceland's glaciers to melt, the national energy company says. The Vatnajökull glacier in south-east Iceland is Europe's largest and is big enough to cover all of Iceland with 160 feet of water.

### **Capital flooded this winter**

There are more immediate signs of climate change, though, and these are worrying Iceland's residents. This winter, Reykjavik experienced double-digit swings in temperature, as the normally subzero conditions suddenly turned balmy. The capital was flooded. "I don't think it's even a question," said Asta Gísladóttir, asked whether the freak weather was caused by global warming. "We're so close to the North Pole," the 36-year-old hotel worker said. "It's just in our backyard." Gísladóttir recalled winters during her childhood in the village of Siglufjörður, on the island's north, as very different. Then there was snow from November to April. Now, it is mostly rain. Geophysicist Johannesson, who has studied climate change since the early 1990s, said the evidence was not just anecdotal. "What we see here is an overall warming from a rather cold 19th century," he said. "As a general rule, this is sufficient for us to have many significant changes in the environment." *Copyright 2008 Reuters.*

## **Canadian Fashion Icon Manages To Keep Her Company Alive**

Irene Seiberling, Canwest News Service, Published: Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Like the phoenix rising out of the ashes, Canadian fashion icon Linda Lundstrom has once again emerged from the brink of ruin and is back in business.

"Guess what? I got my miracle," a clearly jubilant Lundstrom said in a telephone interview from Toronto. Only two months ago, the founder of one of Canada's best-known fashion brands admitted it would take just that "a miracle" to keep her state-of-the-art Toronto-based clothing design and manufacturing operation from shutting down.

Eleventh Floor Apparel Ltd., a Canadian company owned and operated by a private investment fund, has provided that miracle. Eleventh Floor Apparel Ltd. now owns the rights to the Lundstrom name, assets and East York Lundstrom manufacturing plant. Lundstrom remains in the role of chief creative officer, and will now focus solely on designing her seasonal collections. The 56-year-old designer said "it's almost like it was my baby. I've given up my baby for adoption. But I have unlimited visiting rights. So I'm not directly responsible for its health and future. But I go to work everyday in the same building, so I can keep an eye on it. And that connection with my manufacturing company is something that's really important to me."

Her factory is already back in operation. "Today was the first official day," Lundstrom said. "We had cutters back on Monday. And we had sewers back today. And more sewers will be coming back." While Eleventh Floor Apparel Ltd. is gradually calling back many of the approximately 100 former Linda Lundstrom Inc. employees, Lundstrom said she will now be working with a smaller team. Lundstrom's spring/summer 2008 collection is already being shipped to retailers across North America and the U.K.

## Nordic Fair: Help Needed

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 a volunteer, please contact Gail at icegem20@cs.com, 416-762-8627. The sooner the better in order to make room for you.

## ICCT NATIONAL DAY PICNIC

When: June 22, 2008.

Where: Rick Lindal's place in Grafton, Ontario

Time: Come any time after 12pm

Summer is almost here, and plans are underway for another great celebration. This summer, please join us on Saturday, June 22nd in honouring Iceland's Independence Day, otherwise known as National Day or **Þjóðhátíðardagurinn**. We will be having a grand picnic at Rick Lindal's beautiful property, outside Grafton, just a short hour's drive east of Toronto.

We thought it would be more fun to have pot luck this year so please bring something to share with everybody. There will be a barbecue and people can bring their own item to grill if they wish. There will also be hot dogs and hamburgers provided.

There is room to pitch a tent for camping if people want to stay over night.

What to bring: food, drinks, sun screen, games, musical instruments, chairs, blankets, good spirits, a swimsuit and towel as there is a pool, hot tub and sauna.

**If you have any questions, please contact Rick at (905) 349-2642. This is a Rain or Shine event!**

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.

Need a ride? Have space in your car and can offer a ride?

**Please contact Brian and he will try to help you make the arrangements.**

**brian.eyolfson@sympatico.ca 416-762-9452**

## Doors Open Ontario 2008 features Icelandic Memorial in Kinmount

Each year thousands of Ontarians explore heritage sites throughout the province, learning about local history and architecture. On September 7, *Doors Open Ontario* spotlights Kinmount and other notable sites in the area of Kawartha Lakes. This is what they wrote on page 39 in *The Doors Open Ontario 2008 tourist magazine*, which is available at Tourist Information Centres throughout the province:

### Icelandic Memorial Station Street, Kinmount

Situated on a provincial heritage site, adjacent to the Kinmount railway station and near the blacksmith shop, this stunning sculpted-stone monument is dedicated to Canada's first Icelandic settlers, who arrived in the area in 1874, and commemorates the hardships and suffering they experienced. (Kinmount was the first *large* Icelandic group settlement)

The sculptor, Gudrun Sigursteinsdottir Girgis and historian, Don Gislason will be on hand to meet the public and hope to see some of you there.

Doors Open Ontario, an initiative of Ontario Heritage Trust is supported by many sponsors and partners – including, The Globe and Mail, the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, The Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Culture.

## DAYS TO REMEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 4: Snorri Fundraising Gala, 9:00pm @ The Mod Club , 722 College Street (see pg 1)**

**June 8: AGM, 2:00pm @ the Scandinavian Canadian Club, 91 Stormont Avenue, North York (see pg 3)**

**June 22nd: National Day Picnic (see left)**

**June 27,28,29th: Nordic Fair @ Mel Lastman Square, 5000 Yonge Street, North York (see pg 1)**

**Sept 7th: Doors Open Kinmount (see above)**