

**THE OFFICIAL  
NEWSLETTER OF  
THE ICELANDIC  
CANADIAN CLUB  
OF TORONTO**



# FÁLKINN

FÁLKINN

ICCT FÁLKINN 50th Year No. 2

**Mark Your  
Calendar!**

- November 25th. Icelandic film "Country Wedding" at the NFB. Reception at 6:15pm
- November 29th Yuletide Brunch & Jolasveinar Stories
- February 24. Icelandic film "Quiet Storm"
- Mid February—Travel to Iceland Show

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**Join the ICCT as we celebrate the Christmas Season!**



We encourage children and children at heart to get into the spirit of Yuletide and dress up like your favourite Yuletide lad, lass or the Christmas cat. There will be prizes for the most convincing jolasveinar and the scariest cat, so practice your "hissing"!

Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> 2009  
1:30 pm Brunch at

**The Pear Tree Restaurant**  
507 Parliament Street, Toronto

Followed by a Walking Tour of  
Nearby **Riverdale Farm** &  
The Telling of Iceland's  
Jolasveinar Yuletide Tale

## Yuletide Brunch & Jolasveinar Storytelling

For Details contact Brenda Bjarnason @ 416-769-0707 or bbjarnason@rogers.com

### Reservation Form

Please reserve seat(s) at The Pear Tree Restaurant on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 1:30 pm:

Number of Adults: \_\_\_ Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children: \_\_\_ Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Cheque Enclosed: \$5.00 per person X \_\_\_ people      CHEQUE TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail cheque to: Lynne Thorkelsson, 1680 Scugog St, Port Perry, ON, L9L 1E2*

### 2010 Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto Membership

Please Check Appropriate Box:       New Membership       Renewal

Single \$25       Senior Single \$20

Family \$30       Senior Couple \$25

Donation to INL 2010 Convention

Cheque Enclosed      Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make payment to:  
Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto (or  
ICCT) PayPal see: <http://icct.info/>  
Or mail cheque to: Lynne Thorkelsson  
Treasurer ICCT, 1680 Scugog St.  
Port Perry, ON, L9L 1E2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address / City / Province / Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## ICCT Mourns the Passing of Bjarni (Tom) Bjarnason

BJARNI (TOM) BJARNASON  
March 24, 1925—August 18, 2009

Passed away in Windsor, Ontario after a short illness. Tom was the youngest of eight children of Guðmundur and Halldóra Bjarnason, who predeceased him, along with his siblings Ingibjorg, Halldor, Jon, Steinunn, Solveig and Dilla. He is survived by his sister Lara, various nieces and nephews as well as many great nieces and nephews along with many friends. He grew up in the West End of Winnipeg and attended Gordon Bell High School. After serving in the Second World War, Tom studied at the Winnipeg School of Art before heading to Detroit to further his studies at Meinzingers Art School. He began his art career doing illustrations in Toronto, working at an advertising agency drawing ad designs. It was around this time he got secondary work with various publishers including many Canadian magazines and Readers Digest. His work quickly got attention throughout the globe and in Canada. He got work in London, England, Stockholm and Germany. One of his biggest assignments in his long and illustrious career was with the Canadian Department of National Defence which hired him to travel to Germany to illustrate the activities of the Canadian Armed Forces. That work is still on display at the National War Museum in Ottawa. He also produced many of the First Day covers for Canada Post. In his latter years Tom's artwork turned experimental. He turned his attention to playing with computer parts and other materials to showcase how he could turn the simplest items into works of art.

Tom was always very proud of his Icelandic origins, and visited Iceland at the invitation of Aðalsteinn Ingólfsson, former Curator of the National Gallery of

Iceland, where he enjoyed meeting long lost relatives. He was a long time member of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto and we had many opportunities to enjoy his art and Tom himself. His life changed when he left Toronto to move to the small town of Port Hope, where he acquired a very large studio with commanding views over Lake Ontario, the Moira River, and the town's main street. The spaciousness enabled Tom to indulge in a bit of whimsy, 'for himself', as he put it. He started experimenting with very large works of mixed media, using three dimensional pieces as elements in the overall canvasses. When an art collector came to the studio to look at some of his airplane paintings to feature in the new NavCanada Head Office in Ottawa, she saw his new work and fell in love with it. Now some of these pieces form a mural in the entry hall at that building, and also grace their office in Toronto, as well as finding a home at the new Toronto Stock Exchange. Additionally, he had shows of his new work at the Art Gallery of Northumberland in Cobourg and in Toronto at Lanes Gallery. When Aðalsteinn came to visit him during

his tour of Canada with the International Visits Program of the INL, he found Tom standing in a heap of all manner of junk, meticulously sorted – with a devilish grin on his face, he said 'I haven't a clue what I'm doing but I'm having such a good time doing it!' The new works, which incorporated aluminum rods, computer discs, nuts, bolts, interiors of computers and radios, seemed to be the embodiment of Tom's fascination with those elements of speed and flight ... each one had a sort of 'engine' which drove it into space and time ... aluminum rods extending into the air gathering space to themselves, seemed to be ascending or descending. Aðalsteinn said, 'all seem to be motorized, all seem to be able to take off ... they have an engine, which suggests rotation, things moving. It seems as if you can press a button and they'll start to go, to take off.' Now Tom himself has taken off, and probably continues his work in another venue.

*Some of Tom's work will be featured at the Icelandic National League Convention in Toronto April 22 to 25, 2010.*



## The Creative Life Boat: an Adventure with Blueberry Soup

Wilma's Wish Productions is a collective of filmmakers working under the theme of absolute faith in humanity and the uncompromising capability of communities to revive and produce positive change.

In November 2008 Wilma's Wish began the development of a documentary called "Blueberry Soup" that would investigate the type of creative work being

produced within Iceland in reflection of the current economic state.

Blueberry Soup explores the unique and devastating situation of a country in financial paralysis. The film looks at the impact it has on Iceland's cultural landscape and how the eclectic artists within represent the changing social environment. The Wilma's Wish Productions spent June in Iceland doing research

and development and also joined forces with Icelandic film production company Republik Films. In March of 2010 Wilma's Wish and Republik with start their three month filmic adventure into the documentation of a nation pulling itself out of turbulent waters with creativity and positive strength.

WEBSITE:

[www.wilmaswish.com](http://www.wilmaswish.com)

BLOG:

[wilmaswish.blogspot.com](http://wilmaswish.blogspot.com)



*We wish to express heartfelt thanks to all who showed us kindness and friendship upon the passing of Haraldur Bessason, former Professor of the Department of Icelandic at The University of Manitoba and President of The University of Akureyri. Your good will and condolences meant a lot to us.*

*On behalf of Haraldur's family,  
Margrét Björgvinsdóttir*

## Buy A Window to Your Past by Guðrun Girgis

To all of you, who in the year 2000 generously supported and helped fund the Kinmount project in honouring the memory of our ancestors who arrived in 1874 and the children who remain in un-marked graves.

Our memorial "In the Presence of a Soul" was chosen by the Ontario Heritage Trust to be the first official Icelandic heritage site in Ontario. Along with this distinction we were given 6 heritage plaques to accompany the memorial, free of charge. We were fortunate because today, organizations like ours have to carry the total cost. These plaques invite people traveling on five different roads in the area to visit the site.

Your generosity also included two flagpoles that proudly fly the Canadian and Icelandic flags and

printing of the Icelandic Memorial brochure. We are grateful to the Planning & Economic Development Committee of Kinmount, for the beautiful landscaping and impeccable up-keep of our site within the Heritage Park.

The Austin Sawmill is being restored to its original state and is located in the Heritage Park on the banks of Burnt River. This sawmill is a significant historic site since it is witness to the land and the trees worked by our pioneers. It is possible that in the future along with this restoration will be the opportunity for future representation of the Icelandic immigrants within its walls.

Sponsors of individual windows will have their names prominently displayed in the viewing gallery. All others making any contribution to this project

will be recognized by having their names placed on one of the leaves of the Giving Tree in the viewing gallery. There are 20 windows in the Mill and 14 have already been sponsored. The remaining 6 windows are as follows:

Four windows at \$1,000.00 ea.

One window at \$ 750.00 ea.

One window at \$ 500.00 ea.

Individuals, families, businesses or service clubs wishing to purchase a window please contact:

Yvette Brauer at 705-488-2282

Or Diane Austin at 705-488-2635

## Nordic Nights at NFB

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25th 7 p.m. Country Wedding  
*Country Wedding will be preceded by a reception at 6:15*



*'Country Wedding (Sveita Brúðkaup) Director Valdis Óskarsdóttir (95 mins.)*  
 Ingibjorg, the bride and Bardi, the groom, have decided to get married after living together for three years. The ceremony is to be held in a small church, an hour's drive from Reykjavik. Ingibjorg wants to keep to the tradition of not letting the groom see the bride dressed in white until at the ceremony. Therefore, Ingibjorg, Bardi and the guests drive off in two buses with champagne and a wedding cake. No one knows exactly where this country church is located except for Bardi, who gets directions from the priest over the phone.

Note: All film screenings will be held at the NFB  
 150 John St., Toronto  
 All films with English subtitles

\$8.00 members/seniors/students \$10 general public

DECEMBER—No Screening

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27th 7 p.m. Brothers

### *Brothers/Broidit (2003)*

The lives of two brothers 15 years and worlds apart intertwine in this intense drama by Esa Illi. Younger brother Joni lives in Estonia enjoying country life with his girlfriend but is terminally ill with leukemia. Upon finding out about his brother's illness, Sami sees it as his duty to convince the reluctant Joni to return to Finland for treatment. At the same time, the seemingly successful Sami has to also deal with problems in his own life.

FEBRUARY 24th 7 p.m. Quiet Storm

### *Quiet Storm (Vedramót Director Gudny Halldorsdóttir*

Selma drops out of law school to join b.f. Bloffi and his best pal at Vedramot, a group home for emotionally disturbed young offenders. Manipulative Disa encourages the other detainees to challenge rules and fatalities ensue for which Bloffi is blamed. As the perfect bad seed, Hilmarsdóttir takes acting honors. Picturesque lensing by Svein Krovel is the standout contribution in a solid tech package.



## Adventure of a Lifetime

**SNORRI PROGRAM** (Ages 18-28) June 12-July 23, 2010

**Deadline:** January 7, 2010

Since 1999, The Snorri Program has offered young people of Icelandic descent an opportunity to participate in a six week diverse program in Iceland, strengthening the bond between Iceland and North America. Participants stay with their Icelandic relatives during a three week family and 'work' period; study the language and experience Iceland's fantastic nature. **Deadline:** January 7, 2010

**SNORRI PLUS** (Ages 30+) August 19-September 1, 2010

**Deadline:** January 29, 2010

Since September 2003, the Snorri Foundation has accepted 78 individuals to participate in a two week cultural program; an 'in-depth' program with lectures, travel, visiting relatives, work colleagues and so much more!

For information contact: [www.snorri.is](http://www.snorri.is) or email [astasol@snorri.is](mailto:astasol@snorri.is)



## Former Jolasveinar Swaps Sausage For Sporran

Former Yuletide lad, Ladle Licker (a.k.a. Kaj Sullivan), has exchanged his Icelandic woolly wear and sausage for a Scottish kilt and sporran.

After many years of playing saxophone and flute in Toronto's Humberside Collegiate band and orchestra, Kaj auditioned for the Queens University's marching band. He is one of six flute players in the 120 strong marching band, which includes a drum and bag pipe corps. They play at Queen's sporting events in Kingston and also at "away" games. Their striking red tartan kilts, and red and green jackets will make them easy to see in this year's Santa Claus parade on November 15th in downtown Toronto. They have also been invited to play in Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade in March 2010. They are currently

fundraising for this trip. Anyone who wishes to purchase an "instant kilt" wrap around towel (Queens red tartan and sporran printed on a beach towel) for \$20.00, or CD recording of the Queens University marching band for \$10.00, can contact Brenda Bjarnason at 416-604-0660 or bbjar-

nason@rogers.com.

*Kaj is in first year arts at Queen's University and is studying political science, international development and Japanese.*

*Kaj balances his academic studies with a strong interest and talent in music. He plays the saxophone, flute, clarinet and electric base.*



## News From Our London Chapter

On Sunday, November 1st, Kara Schuster and Gail Einarson-McCleery, accompanied by a new immigrant from Iceland, architect Reynir Sæmundsson, travelled to London to visit members of the chapter and local organizers, Nancy Johnson and Ardath Finnbogason Hill. The presentation of the upcoming INL agenda (April 22-25,

2010) sparked an enthusiastic response from both guests and members in attendance. The coordination of this major event, with Kara and the various committees, is a huge undertaking and it is certainly being shaped into an exciting package. Afterward, we enjoyed the vinarterta and ponokukur contributed by members.

We also met Jim Saunders, a graduate student in journalism, who has a new website in English with news from Iceland. He has just posted the first audio interview with a British couple living in Iceland, and working for the soil conservation department. To visit Jim's site see Iceland News at [www.icelandnews.is](http://www.icelandnews.is)



Thanks to:  
Heida Bjork  
Sturludottir

And WELCOME to:  
Heida Bjork  
Sturludottir  
Toronto  
And  
Jimmy Steele  
Toronto



Please contact us if you would like the FÁLKINN delivered to your email account.

Enjoy fast delivery and colour content.

Contact:  
[jdoulis@gmail.com](mailto:jdoulis@gmail.com)

## 2010 INL Convention Update

Plans are well underway now for the 2010 INL Convention, which is being held at the Courtyard by Marriott on Yonge Street, just north of College.

The theme of the convention is “Icelanders: Then and Now” and it will start in the eastern North American settlement areas with a Field Trip to Kinmount and Hekkla on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and move on to the accomplishments of modern day Icelanders. There will be 3 streams of programming to choose from Friday and Saturday, including

- Settlement stories of Washington Island, Michigan and Markland, Nova Scotia
- Falcons Gold Hockey team and tour of Hockey Hall of Fame to see their artifacts
- Knitting the Icelandic way
- Film Workshop with Sturla Gunnarsson
- Art Show (see article below)
- Alternate Energy in Iceland, and Green Energy
- Films – all day Friday and Saturday

- The Icelandic language
- A Writer’s Panel, headed up by Betty Jane Wylie
- The Icelandic financial meltdown (the “Kreppa”)
- Young performers showcase
- Genealogy
- Icelandic dogs (starring President Brian’s “Leika”)
- Relationship between Iceland and North America, “Why are we still interested?”
- “What my Icelandic roots mean to me”
- The Snorri and Snorri Plus programs
- Saturday luncheon featuring theatre arts with Maja Ardal
- Reports from INL Committees and INL AGM
- University of Manitoba Department of Icelandic
- Silent Auction. Contact Phyllis pjpollard@mac.com
- Vendor tables

Honoured guests include our Icelandic Ambassadors to Canada, Sigriður Þórðardóttir and (we hope) the Ambassador to the U.S., Hjalmar Hannesson and the

Consul General from Winnipeg, Atli Ásmundsson, as well as others from Iceland and across N.A.

The Opening Ceremonies are on Friday night the 23rd, and will be open to all, with featured speaker Donald K. Johnson, presentations of honorary memberships and entertainment by our own Lindy and Sigrun Stella.

The Gala Dinner will be on Saturday night and in addition to Ambassadorial speeches, will highlight entertainers from Iceland, and a singalong segment.

Sunday will be a special treat, with a brunch and fashion show by Linda Lundstrom.

Early Bird Registration starts in January. For updates go to <http://icct.info/>. For questions contact Gail or email [inl2010toronto@live.ca](mailto:inl2010toronto@live.ca). Vendors please contact Thora at [tsmaller@sympatico.ca](mailto:tsmaller@sympatico.ca)

## Calling All Artists

We are inviting Artists of Icelandic descent to exhibit their works of art at the INL Convention, to be held at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Toronto, April 22 – 25, 2010. We welcome all forms of artistry, such as fashion, pottery,

photography, knitting, paintings, sculpture and more.

Please submit photos of your work, size, medium, description and a short profile of yourself. All work will be considered, but due to space restrictions, a panel will de-

cide on works to be on display while pictures of all other works will be exhibited on a large screen TV during the convention.

Please send your jpg photos and information to: Gudrun Girgis at [gudrun@on.aibn.com](mailto:gudrun@on.aibn.com)

## Jonas Thor Tour to Iceland

Last June, a number of ICCT members went to Iceland on a tour organized by Jonas Thor. This year, he is doing it again.

### Toronto-Reykjavik

June 18 - 29, 2010

\$2735.00 CAD/person plus taxes

**Highlights:** Thingvellir, Gullfoss, Geysir, Glacier Lagoon, Vopnafjörður, Lake Myvatn, Godafoss, Akureyri, Hofsos, Reykholt and Reykjavik.

Contact Lisa Gleed at Uniglobe for other cities and information.

1-800-661-2454 ext 869 or email [LGleed@gea.ca](mailto:LGleed@gea.ca)

## Two I.C.C.T. Members Win Design Awards

### **WILLIAM HURST, ARCHITECT S WINS 2009 TORONTO URBAN DESIGN AWARD**

I.C.C.T. member, Bill Hurst, was honoured in September with a 2009 Toronto Urban Design Award in the “building in context, private, mid-rise” category. He won the highest Award of Excellence for the architectural renovation and design of the “Academy Lane and Beach House Lofts” at 1842 and 1852 Queen Street East in Toronto.

The jury’s comment were as follows: “The architecture is authentic and has deftly introduced some very decent housing above the retail stores on the ground level – an ideal situation for a mixed-use building of this kind. The building extends flush to the street, which makes for a development that is firmly engaged with the public realm. The roof gardens are a real bonus, as they make use of an important opportunity to increase the project’s sustainability quotient.”

For more information, see [www.toronto.ca/tuda/index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/tuda/index.htm).

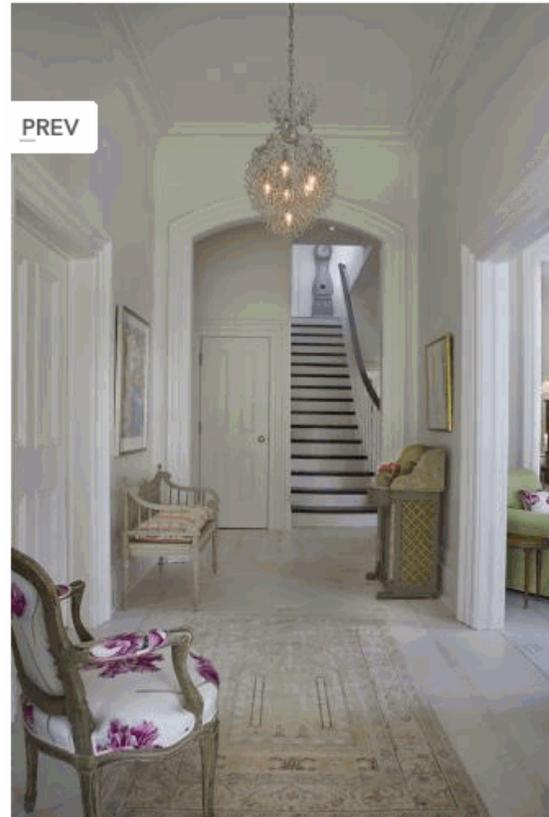


Academy Lane and Beach House Lofts  
Queen Street East, Toronto

### **BRENDA BJARNASON WINS 2009 ARIDO AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

I.C.C.T. member, Brenda Bjarnason of Bjarnason + Associates Interiors won the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario’s highest honour in September. Her project, “Stratford Cottage”, won the Award of Excellence in the private residence category.

The challenge was to renovate this former bed-and-breakfast, with its meandering rooms and stairs, into a home for a retired couple. The result of the design process includes a significantly altered main floor layout with greatly improved use of space and design features that are sensitive to the client’s needs. Formerly situated in the kitchen, the original staircase to the second floor bedrooms was removed and a new staircase incorporated into the large dining room. A belvedere over this main staircase and a skylight over the rear staircase leading to the basement bring natural light to interior spaces. The new plans include a main-floor library, main-floor master suite, and a suite for a future caregiver. The renovation features numerous barrier free elements, as well as many new ecologically sensitive finishes and



Award Winning Stratford Cottage

sustainable materials. Bright, light spaces with accents of fresh colours are a primary feature of the design. To summarize the judges’ comments, this Stratford cottage exemplifies “universal design, beautifully done - elegant!”

This is Brenda’s third ARIDO award - the other two were in the corporate office category. More information about “Stratford Cottage” can be found at [www.arido.ca/awards\\_of\\_excellence.php](http://www.arido.ca/awards_of_excellence.php). Click “2009 Awards”, follow the links and click on the box containing the first photograph of the Awards of Excellence winners. This photo is the first of four of the Stratford cottage by Brenda Bjarnason.

# ICCT

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

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## Fál kinn-The Fal con

*Fálkinn is the newsletter of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto and is published 6—8 times a year.  
Editors: Jody Doulis jdoulis@gmail.com, Gail Einarson-McCleery gailleinarsonmccleery@gmail.com and  
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## 2010 INL Calendars Are Now Available!

The 2010 INL calendar features excellent photographs of beautiful and thought-provoking works by Western Icelandic Artisans. Amongst the works included are a quilt by Erla MacCaulay, sculpture by Gudrun Girgis, photography by Merrill Albert, and glass art by Ione Thorkelsson along with other pieces in wood, fabric, porcelain and other media. Those who have seen the 2010 calendar have declared it the most beautiful INL calendar so far. These will make great Christmas gifts.



INL 2010 Icelandic Artisan Calendar

**New Lower Price  
Includes Mailing!**

Please select the Number of Calendars:	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Calendar	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Calendars	\$19.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Calendars	\$28.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Calendars	\$37.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Calendars	\$42.00

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque Enclosed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward cheque to::

Lynne Thorkelsson, Treasurer ICCT, 1680 Scugog St., Port Perry ON , L9L 1E2