

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



FÁLKINN

ICCT FÁLKINN 50th Year No. 3

Mark Your Calendar!

- January 15th. INL 2010 Convention Early Bird Registration Opens
- January 4 –23 Come see Maja Ardal in *You Fancy Yourself*, a Dora award winning performance at Toronto's theatre Passe Muraille.
- January 27. Brothers. NFB Nordic Nights
- February 24. Quiet Storm. NFB Nordic Nights
- February 28. Annual Travel Show
- April 22—25 INL Annual Convention. Toronto

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2010 INL Convention Update

Leika, our official Mascot (and her owner, ICCT President Brian Eyolfson), are inviting you to join us in Toronto April 22 to 25 to participate in a virtual cornucopia of Icelandic events and programs at the 2010 Icelandic National League Convention, at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in downtown Toronto.

Highlights will include:

- Free tour of settlement areas of Kinmount and Hekkla on Thurs. April 22 for the first 45 people who book (possibility of adding another bus at a cost of approx. \$30/person for additional people)
- Opening Reception free to all Friday evening April 23, with Keynote Speaker Donald K. Johnson on our theme of "Icelanders Then and Now: Dynamic Progress" plus music by Lindy and Sigrun Stella (cash bar at 6, opening ceremonies at 7)
- Gala Dinner Saturday night featuring the Ambassadors, Music from Iceland and Silent Auction
- Luncheons featuring Snorri Program and Theatre Arts with Maja Ardal
- Sunday Brunch with Linda Lundstrom and her video fashions
- Art Show, Silent Auction and Vendors Friday and Saturday

Three choices of programming all day Friday and Saturday including:

- Exploration of the settlement areas in the east: Washington Island, Wisconsin, Kinmount and Hekkla in Ontario, Markland and Lockport in Nova Scotia, a walking tour of Icelandic Toronto, plus Falcons Gold
 - Films all day Friday and Saturday, including those of Sturla Gunnarsson, Guy Maddin and Hans Kristján Árnason (directors present), documentaries and features from Iceland
 - Icelandic North America today ... Language with Dr. Birna Bjarnadóttir, Memoir writing with Betty Jane Wylie, Knitting, Icelandic dogs, Film-making with Sturla Gunnarsson
 - Iceland today ... Energy with Oskar Sigvaldason, music and culture with Donald G. Gislason, Carbon Recycling with Friðrik Jónsson, Iceland Meltdown panel, Relationship with North America
 - Snorri and Jonas Thor Reunion dinners Thursday evening
 - Tours of Niagara Falls and various Toronto tours Sunday afternoon
- See full Conference agenda on page four.



Leika and ICCT President Brian Eyolfson would like to meet you at the INL Convention in Toronto!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Vendors: Thora Smaller
tsmaller@sympatico.ca
Art Show: Gudrun Girgis
Gudrun@on.aibn.com
Silent Auction: Phyllis Pollard
pjpollard@mac.com

Registration Opens
January 15th with EARLY BIRD PRICE of \$145; See enclosed registration form OR BOOK ON NET
<http://www.icct.info/>

HOTEL Bookings:
Courtyard by Marriott
1 -800-847-5075 Mention Icelandic Can. Club of Toronto for Special Rate \$159 single or double

Grýla and Her Jólasveinar Come to Riverdale Farm



Would it not be exciting if old Grýla could find time before Christmas to travel all the way from Iceland to Canada to tell us

her stories? Brenda Bjarnason, who is a special fan of Grýla and her 13 jólasveinar sons, told me once that she would even have Grýla and her

Christmas cat stay at her house for a few nights.

Brenda, apparently an extremely brave woman given Grýla's general disposition, also loves to tell stories of jólasveinar. This year, for the second year running, she therefore invited members of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto to meet at Riverdale Park Farm in the city to listen to folktales of this odd family from long ago Iceland. The kids and the grownups love Brenda's stories and so do the horses, the rooster and chicken, Dusty the donkey and all the other animals at the farm.

Over 30 people of all ages came out to listen and take part in telling the tales with Brenda. Even Santa Claus himself, a distant relative of the jólasveinar, saw fit to come for a visit and bring gifts to the children as they enjoyed hot chocolate after a leisurely walk at the animal farm.

Fancy Yourself at the Theatre Passe Muraille

"It's easy to recommend You Fancy Yourself"
The Toronto Star

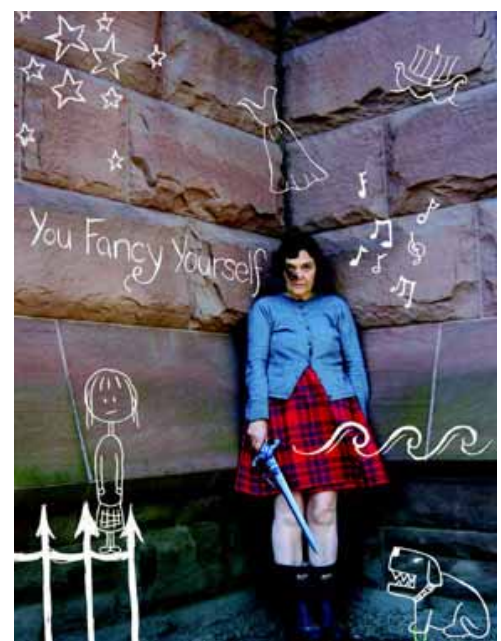
Don't miss your opportunity to experience this must see presentation with many glowing reviews. Come see Maja Ardal in *You Fancy Yourself*. The Dora award winning performance is coming back to Toronto's theatre Passe Muraille by popular demand. *You Fancy Yourself* is returning from a sold out tour in southern England for a knockout finale in its hometown.

Writer and performer Maja Ardal, who has just turned 60, creates one of the most convincing portrayals of a young child on stage. She plays Elsa, a loving and open child, who loves stories, has a fanciful

imagination but who desperately wants to be accepted by her peers. Maja, who now lives in Canada, based the work on her own experiences and creates a wonderfully evocative picture of childhood, friendships, family and playground politics.

Maja Ardal and *You Fancy Yourself* won the 2009 Dora Award for Outstanding Performance. *Maja will be our guest speaker at lunch on Saturday April 24th at the INL Convention.*

Shows run January 4 – 23
Contact aliceadal@hotmail.com
or 289.259.6924 for further information.



Nordic Nights at NFB

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

WEDNESDAY January 27th 7 p.m. Brothers



Brothers (Broidit) Director *Esa Illi* Finland 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.

WEDNESDAY February 24th 7 p.m. Quiet Storm
Quiet Storm will be preceded by a reception at 6:15

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

The Quiet Storm (Veðramót) Director *Gudny Halldorsdottir* Iceland 2007

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, Hera Hilmarsdottir takes acting honors. Picturesque lensing by Svein Krovel is the standout contribution in a solid tech package.



Wednesday March 31 7 p.m. For the Living and the Dead



For the Living and the Dead (Eläville ja kuolleille) Director *Kari Paljakka* Finland 2005

The death of a boy in an accident leaves his family grieving. Director Kari Paljakka gently follows the parents and a younger brother as they each cope in their own way during the year following the tragedy. Based on a true story.

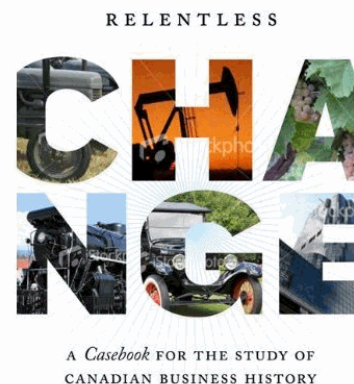
Talking with Joe Martin

Joe Martin, author of "Relentless Change: A Casebook for the Study of Canadian Business History" gave us a very informative overview of the book at our October 18 ICCT meeting. It contains thirteen case studies in various industries from the mid nineteenth to the twenty first century, and starts with a discussion of the origins of financial stability in Canada: the Bank Act of 1871. It also presents eight original tables that trace the evolution of the sixty largest Cana-

dian corporations between 1905 and 2005. Joe also updated us on his successful efforts to help recover the graveyard of his ancestors at Logberg Saskatchewan.

Joe will be part of a panel discussion on the Icelandic Financial Meltdown on Saturday, April 24th at the INL Convention.

Copies of the book can be ordered from
University of Toronto Press at
www.utpublishing.com



A Casebook FOR THE STUDY OF
CANADIAN BUSINESS HISTORY

JOE MARTIN

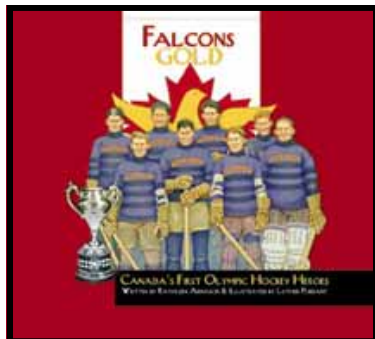
INL of N.A. 2010 Convention Agenda

| Time | Track 1 | Track 2 | Track 3—Film |
|--|--|----------------------------|--|
| April 22, Thursday | Full Day Tour 7:45 am—6 pm | | |
| April 23, Friday | | | |
| 9:15am—10:00am | Intro to Eastern Settlements including Washington Island | Icelandic Knitting | My Winnipeg |
| 10:15am—11:00 am | Hekkla Settlement | Learn Icelandic | |
| 11:15am—12:00 pm | Kinmount Settlement | Icelandic Genealogy | Short Films by Terril Calder incl. "Canned Meat" |
| 1:45 pm—2:30 pm | Markland & Lockeport | Iceland Alternative Energy | Angels of the Universe |
| 2:45 pm—3:30 pm | Falcon's Gold Hockey | Recycling in Iceland | |
| 3:45 pm —4:30 pm | Tour: Hockey Hall of Fame | Walking Tour: Ice. Toronto | From Turf Cottage... |
| 6:00 pm—10 pm | Opening Ceremonies & Keynote Address "Icelanders Then and Now: Dynamic Change" | | |
| April 24, Saturday | | | |
| 9:15am—10:00am | INL Annual General Meeting | Icelandic Sheepdogs | Seagull's Laughter |
| 10:15am—11:00 am | | Icelandic Knitting | |
| 11:15am—12:00 pm | | Young Performers | Short Films incl. Kinmount |
| 1:45 pm—2:30 pm | Icelandic N.A. Relations | Financial Meltdown Panel | T.B.A. Icelandic Movie |
| 2:45 pm—3:30 pm | Interpreting Beowulf | Memoir Writing | |
| 3:45 pm —4:30 pm | Lögberg-Heimskringla and The Icelandic Connection | Icelandic Culture & Music | Beowulf & Grendel |
| 6:00 pm—10 pm | Gala Dinner featuring Ambassadors and Music from Iceland | | |
| April 25, Sunday | | | |
| 10:00 am—12:00 pm | Fashion Brunch with Linda Lundstrum | | |
| 1:00 pm—5:00 pm | Niagara Falls and Toronto Tours | | |
| Please Note: topics and times are subject to change. Full details on speakers at www.inlofna.org or http://icct.info/ | | | |

ICELANDERS THEN AND NOW: DYNAMIC CHANGE

2010 Icelandic National League Convention

Toronto April 22 - 25



Explore the history of Canada's first Olympic Hockey Team from Winnipeg. Followed by a tour of the Hockey Hall of Fame



Learn to knit these traditional Icelandic sweaters in miniature

Mjög gott: Learning Icelandic in Toronto

Jimmy Steele, a twenty-eight year old Toronto high school teacher does not have a drop of Icelandic blood in him. Yet, once a week for the past year and a half, he has been a contagiously enthusiastic student of the language in a class of twelve composed chiefly of persons of Icelandic descent.

He explains it this way. "At a summer party about two years ago, a dear friend was telling me about her experience on the Snórri program and about the wonderful Icelandic classes she was taking through the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto. I was intrigued and decided to sign up for the Fall 2008 session."

Despite the fact that for most people Icelandic is one of the most difficult languages to learn, Steele loves "the challenges of the complexity of the grammar and syntax." As a teacher of international languages

(French, Spanish, Portuguese and German), he admits to a definite passion for learning them. At the same time, he is quick to credit the support of his teachers and classmates. "My first teacher was the wonderful Margrét "Magga" Björgvinsdottir. Her enthusiasm for her homeland and the language was an incredible motivation. Every new piece of information came with a smile; every correction, with an encouraging word. It was a perfect learning environment."

An apt pupil, Steele was eager to try out his new language skills on a trip to Iceland last summer. To his delight, there was always a warm response of "Frábært" or something similar when he explained that "Ég er frá Kanada og ég er íslenskunemandi."

The dynamic actor/teacher, Edda Kristinsson, has been another source of

inspiration this past autumn. Role playing visits to restaurants and stores was often the vehicle used with him and his fellow students to increase their useful vocabulary and practical language skills. Learning while having fun, he describes every class as "an absolute joy."

There is a social and cultural dimension to classes which Steele also enjoys. From the weekly "kaffi tími" mid-way through each two hour session to celebrations for *jól* in December and *bolladagur* (Bun Day) in February, he has come to feel part of a "special community."

Like most of the other students, he looks forward to developing "strong conversational and writing skills within the next two or three years." Unlike them, however, he has a long term goal. After more study both here and possibly in Iceland,

he has high hopes. "Who knows? Maybe I will be able to learn enough to teach a beginner level class at my high school in a year or two." Meanwhile his reaction to what he is learning here now couldn't be more positive. "I love it all!"

By
Margaret Britnell
Van Hamme



Many thanks to all of our members who generously donated to the Icelandic Christmas fund. To date the Club has sent \$1000.00 to families in Iceland

*Thanks to
Anna & Bruce Crawford &
Don & Norma (Johnson)
Young
For your donations*

*CONVENTION
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Dorothy Purchase
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Heidi & Garry
Williams*

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

Experience Iceland Without the Jet Lag

This year our Icelandic Camp has moved forward into the age of technology and global connectedness. We have created a new website to promote our camp. This year's camp will run from July 25, 2010 to July 30th, 2010 start and end times to be announced later. It will be at the same location as years past, the lovely Camp Veselka.

Our camp is located roughly 85 km north of Winnipeg, Manitoba situated along the shores of the beautiful Lake Winnipeg. There you will find a top notch dining hall, recreational facility, playground, soccer and baseball fields plus six camper's cabins. All together we are able to have 70 campers experience Icelandic Camp for themselves.

At camp it is our mission to promote and teach the Icelandic heritage and all the pride and honor that comes along with it. In past camps we have run saga classes, crafts, Icelandic music, culture classes and as always Icelandic Language classes. As of last year we took the Icelandic language classes to the next level by introducing a computerized cue card lesson. This program is called Byki. We were able to click on a cue card and have the computer read either the English or Icelandic to the kids and then have them repeat it or translate it. We found that the campers preferred this style of learning to any other style offered in recent years.

Our camp has been around for over 30 years and has seen as many as 80 campers a year. Thanks to the efforts of many Icelandic clubs and their members, in 2009 32 campers were able to learn about their heritage and even walked away from camp able to carry on a small conversation completely in Icelandic.

As the director and president for the 2010 Icelandic Camp I am looking to take the camp to another

level. This year we have introduced a new name and new logo for camp. Along with our new logo we are releasing a line of clothing with the new logo for sale in January 2010. Our website offers you PDF version of our 2010 Registration Forms, a chance to meet the camp staff and stay updated to the activities going on.

I strongly encourage all Icelandic organizations, Icelandic National League of North America clubs and any proud Icelanders and Icelandic Canadians to help build this camp up to its former glory and preserve the Icelandic pride in our youth.

Cheers,
Brad Hirst
Icelandic Camp 2010
President and Director
204-485-5455



Meet new friends and experience camp on the shores of Lake Winnipeg
See our new site at
Icelandiccamp2010@gmail.com
or email
www.icelandiccamp2010.com

ICCT Grants and Scholarships

SNORRI UPDATE:

Snorri Plus deadline January 29. Early Bird discount Jan 20.

Snorri Program deadline January 7.

Snorri Plus is now offering better prices than ever. Example: Double occupancy (per person for 2 weeks) with a private bathroom in August 2010: *CAD 2,830* (3,250 CAD 2009). For more details go to: <http://www.snorri.is/info-snorri-plus.htm>

Icelandic Language and Cultural Camp Grant:

The ICCT has established a grant of \$500 to be awarded to a child of Icelandic descent between the ages of 8 and 15 for the purpose of attending the Icelandic Language and Cultural Camp at Camp Veselka (The parent/guardian of the child must be a member of the ICCT).

Scholarships: An ICCT Scholarship award of \$1,000.00 is available to be awarded to a student of Icelandic descent: This scholarship is offered to a student who is in or about to enter post secondary education or training. The applicant or applicant's family must be a member in good standing of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto.

Snorri Grant: Grants are available to people of Icelandic descent participating in the Snorri Program in 2010. 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. The applicant or applicant's family must be a member in good standing of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto.

For details on any of the above listed programs, please contact Club President Brian Eyolfson or see our website for details and application forms.

New Icelandic Immigrants Seeking Employment

Employment Classifieds

As we all know, many Icelanders are suffering due to the financial meltdown of last year and are moving to other countries. Some have arrived in Toronto and are looking for work. Perhaps you can give them some advice on how to find the right job. We have started a Classified section to let them tell you about themselves.

Investment/Retail Banking

29 year old with B.Sc. degree from Reykjavik University and five years industry experience seeking employment. Contact: Andri Gudmundsson e-mail: andrielar@gmail.com for further information.

Programmer/ PC Repair & Maintenance

Visual Basic programmer with experience in PC maintenance seeks employment. (Also 9 years experience New Construction Ironworker. Will accept general labour employment) Contact: Oddur at 647 984 7695.

Electrical /General Labour Seeking employment as general labourer with electrical experience. Contact: Othinn Gunnar MacFarlane at 416 822 7648

INL Celebrates 90 Years With a New Publication By Ron Goodman, 2nd V.P. INL of N.A.

As Voltaire states in his Philosophical *Dictionary* "What would constitute useful history? That which should teach us our duties and our rights, without appearing to teach them." The recently published History of the Icelandic National League (INL) provides an interesting overview of the INL during the ninety years since its formation. The idea of developing a history of the INL and its associated groups was conceived to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the League, but this effort proved much more complex and the work languished until 2005.

With access to improved computer technology and financial assistance from the Leif Eriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary, the development of the history book was reinvigorated. Much of the early material is from the Timarit, ably translated by Joel Fridfinnson* with assistance by staff from the University of

Manitoba Department of Icelandic. The histories of the various associated groups were updated, historic pictures were selected and a large group of volunteers headed by Gwen Mann of Calgary assembled the material, proof read and reread the manuscript and finally the book of the history of the INL was ready for publication.

This tome is a riveting account of the early struggles of the Icelanders to become established in their new land, and how the organization of the INL was a focal point to their need to be recognized and contribute to their new environment. The stories of the expansion with the establishment of clubs and chapters as the Icelandic settlers spread across Western Canada and the North Western United States are included. Readers can identify with their own

experiences within their local Icelandic group.

This publication will provide hours of interesting reading and form the basis for many recollections and tales from the "good old times". Copies of the INL History may be obtained from the INL office or your local club. Price: \$5.00
* Joel is currently studying in Iceland on a Government of Iceland scholarship.

WELCOME

TO

Our Newest
Members

Murray Boyce

Brandur Olafsson

Terril Calder

Valdimar Brandsson

All of Toronto

Earl & Betty

Lambert from

Orillia



Accordion Player
Sought

We would like to add an Icelandic flavor to our convention by having an accordionist accompany the Procession of dignitaries at our Opening Ceremonies. To volunteer, please contact Kara at karaschuster@rogers.com

Icelandic National League of North America

1919-2009

Þjóðrekniðfélag Íslendinga Vesturheim

Only \$5.00!

ICCT

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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.

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Iceland Express and UniGlobe Connect Manitoba & Europe

Hello everyone, I am happy to tell you that in collaboration with Iceland Express and UNIGLOBE Geo Travel in Western Canada I have planned guided tours to Iceland next summer.

This tour will include return flight to Winnipeg, accommodation, all transportation, breakfast every morning, five day tour around the island (everything included) and guide. The first will start June 12 and we will offer those through, June, July, August and September.

NOTE: You can stay additional days if you wish. Further information re prices and bookings will be posted in early January.

But feel free to write jonas.thor1@gmail.com if you want more information. I will conclude by saying that there also will be regular tour from Iceland to Canada next summer.

All the best,
Jonas Thor

Iceland Express

December 23, 2009 - Iceland Express will start flying between Iceland and Winnipeg in Manitoba next summer. The airline will fly twice a week from the beginning of June, on Wednesdays and Saturdays. With the addition of Winnipeg, the airline's destinations will increase to 27 - a historic high.

A joint partnership with the Go Travel Flights, a Canadian company, has been signed to sell seats between Winnipeg and London. Apart from London, Iceland Express offers connecting flights from Winnipeg to Copenhagen, as well as other Iceland Express destinations throughout Europe.

Iceland Express CEO Matthias Imsland said: "We are very excited to open this route that connects Iceland to the old Icelandic commu-

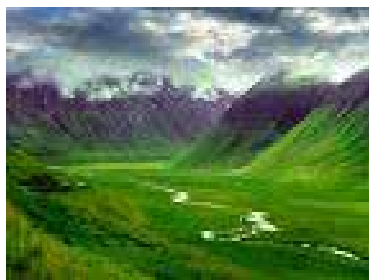
nity in Canada. This has been in our plans for some time and brings new traveling opportunities to Icelanders on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as giving Canadians and others the chance to visit Iceland in an easy and economical manner. We consider Winnipeg a key part of our North-American expansion."

Winnipeg Airports Authority CEO, Barry Rempel added: "I'm pleased to witness one of the first benefits of the recently signed open skies agreement between the EU and Canada. A new low cost scheduled carrier is joining forces with previously announced Go Travel to provide greater options and consumer benefits to our community, including improved frequency.

Contact: Iceland Express
354 896 7822

Iceland Travel Show

Sunday, February 28th at 2:30 p.m.



Come and get the latest news, prices, brochures and have all your travel questions answered. Hear first hand from people who have traveled to Iceland in the past year and see all their beautiful pictures. This event is not to be missed if you are looking to plan your next adventure to Iceland.

Swansea Town Hall - 95 Lavinia Avenue
(west of High Park in Swansea/Bloor West Village)