

THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF
THE ICELANDIC
CANADIAN CLUB
OF TORONTO



FÁLKINN

ICCT FÁLKINN 50th Year No. 7

Mark Your
Calendar!

- Thursday, June 17
Icelandic National Day Picnic
- Saturday June 19th
Friends of Ottawa Picnic, Aylmer, Quebec
- Saturday, June 19th
Kvennahlaup
- Saturday, June 26th
London Chapter Summer Picnic
- Saturday, June 26th
Nordic Singers
- Wednesday, Sep. 29th
Nordic Night Film Series Returns

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ICCT Icelandic National Day Picnic



Thursday, June 17
Dufferin Grove Park

Meet at 5:00 pm on the east side of the park, across from Dufferin Mall. North end of the park by the campfire. Bring your own food and drink or purchase food and drinks from the Farmer's Market which runs until 7pm. *The Farmer's Market is very popular – so come early before your favorites are sold out.*

For details on Farmer's Market see Dufferinpark.ca.

Kids Activities

Make your own Viking helmet and shield
Play Capture the Sheep,
Cool off in the Sprinkler,
Sing Song &
Adventure Playground
Bring chairs or blankets, and portable barbeque if desired



For more information please contact
maggatoronto@gmail.com

Please Note: The next edition of the FÁLKINN will arrive electronically via email. Watch for the subject heading **FÁLKINN**. Please contact gailleinarsonmccleery@gmail.com to confirm your email address.

This allows us to offer you more colour photos and an opportunity to receive your mail faster. For those without an email address, we will continue to offer traditional mail service.



ICCT Announces New and Returning Slate of Officers



President Heather Prinsloo
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ICCT Scholarship Recipient **Maja Sullivan**

Maja first stepped onto the stage at an I.N.L. of N.A. convention at the age of two in 1994. She appeared, along with other I.C.C.T. family members' children, modeling her mother's children's clothing line, BananaSkins (her father's childhood nickname, a corruption of his last name, Bjarnason).

Maja Sullivan proudly stepped back on stage at this April's I.N.L. of N.A. convention held in Toronto as the proud recipient of the 2010 I.C.C.T. Scholarship. Maja is graduating from Bishop Allen Academy this June with honours and has been accepted at Queen's University in Kingston. Her academic goals will focus on psychology with future plans as a child therapist. It is Maja's personal interest in connecting with and helping others through community work that has inspired her to focus her university studies in Sociology, Psychology and Philosophy.

Not only has Maja excelled academically, but she is an active volunteer at school, in her community and at church. This spring, Maja was awarded the Bishop Allen Academy HIPE Award (High Improvement Promotes Excellence) for philosophical and religious studies. Much of her community work and leadership role outside of school has been at Grace Church on-the-Hill where she has been an alter server for the past five years. Prior to that, she sang with the girl's choir. Recently she assisted with the children's Christmas pageant. Other community work includes helping at Pax Christi Chorale's concerts and fundraisers, Megan's Walk, Fast for Famine Relief, and the Princess Margaret 60km Walk for The Cure.

This year, Maja joined BASLO (Bishop Allen Student Leadership Organization) and is involved with organizing and leading various activities including spirit weeks, helping families in the community and fundraising. She is also her Student Council Grade Representative and Bishop

Allen cheerleader, where she uses her skills as a former gymnast, and competitive springboard and platform diver.

Maja has been an active member of I.C.C.T. over the years. Her involvement has included participating in plays with the Bifrost Lil' Folk Theatre Troupe and I.C.C.T. Children's Choir, Sharing our Traditions at Spadina Museum, performing the 2000 Millennium Gala at The Glen Gould Studio, and kitchen helper and server at Thorrablót. Most recently, Maja "shared her traditions" at her high school's multi-cultural day, where she made and served pannukotkur.

Along with her brother, Kaj, and parents, Michael Sullivan and Brenda Bjarnason, Maja has experienced many wonderful journeys exploring her Icelandic roots. They travelled to L'anse aux Meadows in 2000 to see the flotilla of knar ships sail into the historic site, west in 2005 to Islandin-gadagurinn in Gimli, and northeast to Iceland in 2007 where they drove the entire "ring road" during the winter!

Maja's many fond childhood memories of I.C.C.T. activities will be with her for life, and she hopes one day to share these memories with her own children. Baking is a passion for Maja and she has already acquired the skills to make pönnukökur, vinarterta and "half moon cookies". She will pass on the tradition of putting your shoe in the window at Yuletide...and of course, there will be stories to tell and to pass on – the tales of "How Thor Got His Hammer" and "The Giant's Bride"...and recounting the mischief of her brother "Sausage Swiper" and her own Jolasveinar character, "Candle Beggar", the child of that ogress, her mother – Gryla!

WELCOME TO
Our Newest Member!
Audunn Hafsteinsson

Nova Scotia's Icelandic Past

By Marshall Burgess

At the INL of NA conference, Marshall Burgess gave a talk on the Markland/Lockeport settlement in Nova Scotia. Here is a summary of the historical material of this area that, for a time, was nearly forgotten.

In 1990 Mrs. Belmore, a retired schoolteacher who lived in Caribou Gold Mines, wrote a book on that community and in her research discovered information on Markland which was a long forgotten settlement lying further inland between Caribou Gold Mines and Mooseland. She included a chapter on Markland in her book. As a result The Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia was incorporated as a society under the Nova Scotia *Societies Act* on July 24, 1998. Dolly Belmore was elected the first Chair. She held this position until she passed away in January 2008 at the age of 93.

Glenda Belmore was elected Vice Chair, J. Marshall Burgess, QC, was elected Secretary. Bev Redden was elected Treasurer. The object and purpose of the Society was listed as "to educate the public about Nova Scotia's Icelandic past."

Markland/Lockeport – Historical Information

1867: In 1869 the Dominion of Canada prepared a report to attract new immigrants to Canada. Premier William Annand of Nova Scotia (1867 to 1875) had information prepared on Nova Scotia and Immigration Agents were sent to Europe to attract immigrants. Jóhannes Arngrímsson (aka John Anderson) from Akureyri was one of these agents. The Premier was from the Musquodoboit Valley. Caribou and Tangier were declared gold districts in 1870. Nova Scotia needed settlers to work in these mines.

1875: In the fall of 1875 James VanBuskirk, Deputy Crown Surveyor for Halifax County, and Malcolm McLogan surveyed 36 one hundred acre blocks of land (3,600 acres) in the Mooseland/Caribou Gold Mines area for Icelandic immi-

grants who applied to come to live in Nova Scotia. The pioneer settlers were brought over to work in the gold mines and/or supply foods and services for the gold mine operations which were just being developed. In 1876 land/houses were also purchased in East Green Harbour just outside the Town of Lockeport on the South Shore of Nova Scotia for the new Icelandic settlers who wanted to fish and work there.

The Settlers: The first group of settlers to arrive in the spring of 1875 were 19 families who came from the failed Icelandic settlement at Kinmount, ON. They named their new community "Markland". Jón Rögnvaldsson prepared a census in February 1878. Ninety-eight persons are listed. This census was updated in February 1879 with 49 more people added. His census was updated in 1880 and 40 residents in Lockeport are listed along with 10 single men. In 1881 a provincial census was taken in the two communities (38 in Lockeport; 121 in Markland). Philip Cartaret Hill became Premier from 1875-1878. More Icelandic settlers applied to immigrate. The Dominion Immigration Agent, Rev. Edwin Clay, filed immigration reports each year. When Simon Holmes became Premier (1878-1882), the Province shut down entertaining any more applications from Icelandic immigrants.

Settlement Agreements: In 1876 the immigrants signed a Settlement Agreement with the Province of Nova Scotia. The settlers were given 100 acres of land. They had to clear two acres of land each year. A log house along with a stove and tools was provided by the Government as well as basic food and supplies for one year. If they stayed for five years and met all of the terms and conditions, a Crown Grant would be issued. In 1881, 20 Crown grants were issued.

Life: Until their homes were built, the first settlers stayed in a communal house, "Iceland House" which was situated on the road heading towards Moose River Gold Mines. A

school was built and run by the Government. Alexander Wilson, "Old Cracknell", a Scotsman was hired as a teacher (1876-1879). In 1880 the Icelanders petitioned for a grant for 100 acres of land to build a church, but this grant was never issued. Rev. Charles Cossman and Rev. D. Luther Roth, Lutheran ministers from Lunenburg, came twice a year to Markland to administer to their spiritual needs.

The Exodus: After the Crown grants were issued, the settlers decided to leave. Life was difficult and the pioneer settlers saw no future living on these lands. They sold their lots for what few dollars they could get and moved west to North Dakota, Gimli and other places. In 1884, the Government passed an Act to escheat any lands that were abandoned and not sold. One family (Huskilson) stayed in Lockeport. Several Icelandic girls married local men and stayed in Musquodoboit/Lockeport areas.

Log Cabins: The houses remained standing until the 1920s and '30s. Trappers in the area have provided descriptions of the original houses which were approximately 16 by 20 feet, and each had a waterloo stove. Today all that remains are holes in the ground where the foundations were located, stonewalls that were built when the lands were cleared and the near by dug wells. No one has lived at Markland since the Icelanders left in 1881-1882. A few hunting camps are located on the pioneer Ice-lander's lots.

Reprinted with permission from Lögberg-Heimskringla

The Nordic Singers

Sat. June 26 7:30
Danish Lutheran Church
72 Finch Ave. West

tickets from Pastor Elizabeth
416 222-2494
elizabeth.arendt@gmail.com

INL 2012 Calendar to Feature Fauna and Flora of Iceland

Call for Photos from Iceland

The Icelandic National League of North America calendar for 2012 is being worked on now and will feature pictures of plants and animals from Iceland. Please note that due to the layout of the calendar, horizontal pictures work best.

Attention Photographers

Project: We invite you to submit your best images for the 2012 Icelandic National League of NA Calendar. Submissions under the umbrella of Fauna and Flora of Iceland and the photos should be taken in Iceland.

This special project is open to all the members of the Icelandic National League.

Important Dates: We will be accepting images now and until the

Deadline October 1, 2010.

Technical Information: High quality images either scanned from 35 mm slides or high-resolution digital images. These ideally should be better than 2000 x1500 pixel digital images or the equivalent quality scanner images. In other words, digital photos should be taken (AND SENT) at the highest resolution possible, and photos scanned (AND SENT) at the highest resolution possible. Your picture will be rejected if it does not conform to publishing quality!!

Slides: On right hand side have an arrow indicating 'top'. Please note that slides will not be returned. Smaller **email images** may be sent for viewing, but large quality pictures **MUST** be available.

REQUIRED INFORMATION:

Name of photographer:
Location and date (month and year) that the picture was taken:
Name of the hosting INL of NA Member Club: Senders name, contact information (phone, e-mail, and website), where you live, and the name of the INL chapter you are representing.

Send slides and required information to:

Dianne O'Konski
17404 Ithaca Lane
Lakeville, MN, USA, 55044

Email digital images and required information to
deokonski@charter.net.

ICCT Awards Snorri Grants to Three Students

This year, the ICCT has awarded Snorri grants to three exceptional young students of Icelandic descent. Jesse Beatson is currently studying International Relations at the University of Toronto and he intends to pursue a career in International Humanitarian Law. Jodi Amy is a new graduate of the University of Waterloo with an Honours degree in Economics and a specialization in International Trade. Teal Johannson-Knox is currently enrolled at the University of Guelph-Humber Campus in Toronto where she will finish her BAA in Media Studies and diploma in Journalism in 2012. These three students shared their thoughts and experiences with us through essays submitted as part of the Grant process.

"I think a big part of being Canadian is celebrating the cultures and background we come from. I hope to be able to learn more about Icelandic heritage and keep it alive" says Amy. Of the Snorri program, Amy comments: "I think the Snorri program is an amazing way for young people to connect with such a unique heritage and I am really looking forward to the opportunity. I am hoping that I will gain a deeper understanding of Icelandic culture and will be able to share

it with others and make it a larger part of my life".

Johannson-Knox, in her Snorri application, wrote: "Above all I want to be immersed in the culture of Iceland – the music, the people, the customs, the nature, nightlife and food the country has to offer. I want to explore the country outside of Reykjavik, see a glacier, waterfalls, and most of all the Icelandic horses. I've been waiting to go for five years now".

Jesse Beatson wrote about the influence of stories as told by his Amma: "What is interesting, though, is that as I've gotten older and I've had a chance to study our family genealogy on my own, I've realized that my Amma Joan's stories are



New Graduate Jodi Amy will be participating in this year's Snorri Program.

not as farfetched and whimsical as I recently believed. In fact, according to genealogical record, there appears to be a direct family connection to fascinating historical characters such as Gudridur Thorbjarnardottir, an explorer and adventurer of the first order, and Snorri Thorfinnsson, considered the first ethnic European to be born in the Americas. Amma Joan always made me feel special to be related to such wonderful, alluring figures. It gave me encouragement that one day I too would accomplish something grand, or live a life of adventure and daring, and that I might add my own biography to the rich tapestry of family lore that has accumulated over the years...that I might weave my own narrative into that long golden braid of Icelandic stories".

The ICCT is proud to support this new generation of Canadians as they embark on a new journey to the land of their heritage. We hope that the memories and friends they make in Iceland will help them in their future careers as well as their personal lives and relationships. Gangi þér vel and Góða ferð!



\$30 Film Membership for 4 Icelandic Films!

Wednesday
Film Dates

Sept 29 Iceland
Oct 27 Finland
Nov 24 Iceland
Dec 29 Finland
Jan 26 Iceland
Feb 23 Finland
Mar 30 Iceland
Apr 27 Finland

Nordic Nights Return!

In partnership with the Consulate of Finland and the Consulate of Iceland in Toronto, The Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto presents the 2010/2011 Nordic Nights Film Series.

New this year is an ICCT Nordic Nights Membership! The Icelandic Film Advanced Membership is \$30 (\$7.50 per film) for four Icelandic films and is available for purchase now. It includes viewing of the Finnish films for free. The membership will be available until September 29, 2010 only. Individual ticket price will be \$10 at the door.

We are planning to expand this program across the country via the INL of NA clubs, starting with Hans Kristjan Anderson's film: *From Turf Cottage to the Cover of TIME: The Dramatic Life of Holger Cahill*. This is the

documentary story of the man who is credited with changing the centre of the art world from Paris to New York. Cahill masqueraded as someone from Minnesota but was actually Icelandic. Anderson's film has not had a commercial release in Toronto, so this is a unique opportunity to see it.

The team is working hard to organize the series, and looks forward to sharing the films with you. If you have suggestions of films we have not yet shown, or favourites you would like to see repeated, please email Gail Einarson-McCleery (see address below).

All Icelandic films will be preceded by a reception at 6pm followed by film screening at 7pm.

info: gaileinarsonmccleery@gmail.com

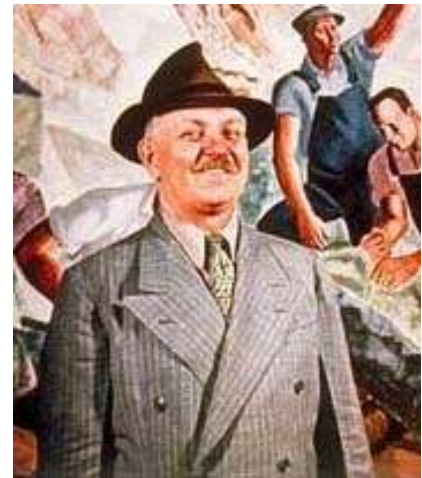


Illustration of Holger Cahill as he appeared on the cover of TIME Magazine on the September 5th, 1938 issue.

NEW ICCT NORDIC NIGHTS Film Membership

\$30 for 4 Icelandic Films!
(includes free Finnish films)

Please confirm your commitment to the film program by mailing your cheque for \$30 to:

Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto
Note: Nordic Nights
Treasurer: Lynne Thorkelsson
1680 Scugog St.
Port Perry, ON L9L 1E2

Author Christina Sunley on Icelandic Book Tour

Christina Sunley, author of *The Tricking of Freya*, is off to Iceland to promote the Icelandic translation of her 2009 novel. Partially set in Gimli, Manitoba, the novel centers on Freya, the grand daughter of a famous Icelandic poet, who searches out her Icelandic heritage. Sunley's visit is courtesy of the International Visits program of the Icelandic National League of North America with help from the

Icelandic National League of Iceland. It is rare that a book written in North America gets translated into Icelandic.

While researching her novel, Sunley spent time as writer-in-residence at Klaustrið (The Monastery), a stone farmhouse in a remote area, near where her grandfather had lived. The *Tricking of Freya* is Sunley's first full length novel. Sunley admits she is an "unknown" author in Iceland.

Please help us to spread the word about her great book and excellent presentations. She is a very charming woman whom everyone will enjoy meeting. *Lögberg-Heimskringla* writes *The Tricking of Freya* has an authenticity that is breathtaking. The places, the people, the history, the mythology, are real, vital, alive, dynamic." The tour is sponsored by the Icelandic National League of North America.

Celebrating 85 Years!

All three of these octogenarians have been very active in the club. Stella and Gigi were both born in Iceland; Stella joined the club just after its inception, and Gigi joined a little later when she moved here from Montreal. Irene's Icelandic origins come from the Helgason family in Arnes. Between them, they have worked on all of the club's activities, including the posts of president, treasurer, Thorrablot convenor and much more. They are always available to help and the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto sends our congratulations to all of them!



Irene Gibson, Gigi Friðriksson and Stella Hansen all turn 85 in June

Graham Smith Shares His Thoughts on Camp

My name is Graham Smith, and I am one quarter Icelandic on my Mom's side. My great Grandmother was Icelandic but was born in Manitoba. My great Grandfather moved from Iceland to the Keewatin, Ontario area. Much of my Great Grandmother's family lived in Manitoba.

I would like to go to the Icelandic culture and language camp in Gimli because I feel I have always had family in the Interlake area and have been very interested in Icelandic history and culture. I traveled to Iceland with my family in 2006. Although I experienced plenty of Icelandic language and traditions, I found that I didn't

learn as much of the Icelandic language as I'd hoped.

I hope that by going to the camp, I will learn some basic Icelandic and further my understanding of the history and culture of the Icelanders in Canada. In addition, I would like to explore and understand the area that my ancestors lived in, and learn its history and stories. I was hoping to stay the weekend after the camp ended and attend the *Islendingagurinn*. (If I do really well at the camp, I may be able to pronounce it by the time I get there!)

Graham is the 2010 Recipient of the ICCT Icelandic Camp Grant and will head off to Gimli this summer.



Jon Danielsson of the London School of Economics Reports to ICCT Group

A special guest at the AGM of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto on May 17th was Jon Danielsson, Reader in Finance at the London School of Economics. Jon was in town to give a paper on the global financial crisis at the Field Institute of the University of Toronto and was gracious enough to fill us in also on the Icelandic financial meltdown.

His overview of Iceland's situation, beginning at the turn of the

century when it was the poorest nation in Europe, through the WWII and post war period, then continuing during the high-flying late 90s until the financial meltdown in 2008, right up to the present day, was precise and understandable. He clearly outlined how a nation of 320,000 people attracted attention on the world financial stage and "rode the bubble" until it burst. The audience truly appreciated his frankness and occasional touches of humour. He likened

those without banking experience who took over the banks in the late 90s to a teenager getting the keys to a luxury car. In responding to many questions, including the settling of the IceSave dispute and the EU application, he reiterated that there were no clear answers.

We were so pleased that despite airline strikes and volcanoes, he was actually able to get here. We are grateful to him for his compelling presentation.

ICCT Thanks the Following For Their Generous Support...

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Author of *Relentless Change, a
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L. Thorkelsson
Larry Thorsteinson
Margaret and Doug Van
Hamme
Karen Wallington
Joan Waterous
Betty Jane Wylie
Don & Norma Young

Friends of Iceland Annual Picnic



Saturday
June 19
3 pm to 7 pm

at the home of
Allan Johnson &
Joanne DiCosimo
21 Chemin Castelbeau
Aylmer, Quebec
As is our tradition,
we will have a pot-
luck dinner. Please
bring something to
share with your Ice-
landic friends. Bring
your own drinks and
a lawn chair
(or be prepared to
stand all afternoon)

We look forward to
seeing you there.
Contact: allanmil-
ler@pobox.com
if you have any ques-
tions.

ICCT Kvennahlaup 2010 June 19th

Kvennahlaup, Icelandic Women's Walk, is a 20 year old tradition in Iceland that in recent years has been held in Icelandic communities across North America. Women of Icelandic descent, and those who have connections to or want to support them, are encouraged to come out and walk for exercise and companionship.

Come and join us on

Saturday, June 19th, at 10 a.m. Walk or run with friends on a 5 km route through scenic High Park. We will meet at the gates on Bloor Street at High Park Avenue. Get off the Bloor subway at High Park station, turn right (south) and walk towards the lake, we will meet just inside the gates of the park.

Registration is \$20.00
Any proceeds will be donated to the ICCT.



To register, contact
Phyllis Pollard 416 987-
0738 pjpollard@mac.com
or Kara Schuster kara-schuster@rogers.com



Fál kinn-The Fal con

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News From Iceland

The Best Party Wins

Iceland's "The Best Party," founded by comedian Jon Gnarr, has won Reykjavík's municipal election, topping many incumbent parties, polls indicate.

The Best Party won 34.7 percent of the vote with only 660 votes separating the Best Party and the Independence Party, which earned five seats on the council with 33.6 percent of votes. The Social Democrats earned three seats on the council and the Left-Greens one.

Specific pledges from The Best Party call for "sustainable transparency, a new polar bear for the Reykjavík zoo and free towels at all hot springs. "We can promise more than the others, because we will in no way keep these promises," Gnarr said. "Nobody needs to be frightened of the Best Party because it's the best. And we only want what is best -- if we didn't, we'd be called the Worst

Party or the Bad Party."

The party also called for a "drug-free" parliament by 2020 and a Disneyland at the airport.

The Best Party, which was established just six months ago, has won over voters apparently because of their lack of trust in government in the wake of the country's 2008 banking collapse.

Iceland Hour—Open for Business

On June 3 at 9am the Icelandic Government convinced a nation to come together in a one hour online invitation to rest of the world to visit Iceland

In a world first, the entire nation of Iceland gathered together online to show the world their



country is open for business, open for excitement and open to inspire the world. Backed by the Government of Iceland, the 320,000 inhabitants of the world's most northern nation went online and sent messages about what they love most about Iceland to friends around the globe. The results are posted on www.inspiredbyiceland.com to give the rest of the world the chance to look at and see the response to the challenge. Many famous Icelandic stars and other luminaries (the president and minister of Tourism) have posted messages and videos about how now is the time to visit Iceland.

The new site allows you to send e-cards and video to friends, listen to Icelandic music and offers you the opportunity to tell your own story. Take a moment to add your voice. Tell the world how Iceland has inspired you.

London Chapter Independence Day Picnic June 26

You are invited to a celebratory pot luck picnic on Saturday June 26th 4pm- evening at the home of Nancy Johnson. This is our first event since the inspiring and hugely successful INL Convention in Toronto in April. We thought it timely to continue the celebration of our shared heritage with a summer picnic. There are so many stories and experiences to share and each time we have gathered over the past 3 years we have enjoyed and appreciated the interesting Western Icelanders (and those interested in Iceland!) who live in London and surrounding areas...with each gathering we meet new friends.

Iceland has been in the world's eye view for the past

few years in an intense way as her people experience the extremes of economic collapse, volcanic eruptions and the resulting fallout in both ash and world reaction. It seems so important to remember them and talk about the positive aspects of that beautiful tiny country and our own connection to the people and our family sagas. Please come to country potluck picnic with your own stories .A time to relax and enjoy the beautiful country setting.

Bless, Ardath and Nancy
DIRECTIONS:
12569 Boston Drive. Take Fanshawe Park Road heading west, Road name changes to Egremont, drive due west past Won-

derland Road, Hyde Park Road, and Denfield Road. Drive past the gates of Westhaven Golf Course. Road takes a gentle curve. In middle of curve is a left hand turn. This is Boston Drive. Can only turn left as golf course is on the right.

Turn left. Go a short distance (maybe half a km) and first house on the left is home of Nancy and family.

There will be a blue emergency vehicle sign with number 12569. It's a longish drive so head up to house. There is room for lots of cars.

Please RSVP to:
nancyjohnson@hotmail.com
Or ardath@rogers.com