



Mark Your Calendar!

- Nordic Nights movies
27th of April
- Movie: Tales from the
Gimli hospital 26th of
April to 8th of May
- Movie: Seagulls laughter
3rd of May.
- INLofNA convention 28th
of April to May 1
- Kara Schuster Art Show
in May
- Dan Bjarnason
15th of May
- ICCT Kvinnahlaup
4th of June
- ICCT Picnic
17th of June
- Friends of Iceland in
Ottawa Picnic
18th of June
- Rick Lindal's Picnic
19th of June
- Bill Bourne concerts in
May and June

Inside this issue:

My endless love for Iceland	2
INLofNA report	2
Icelandic Talent	3
Icelandic News	3
Þorabrát 2011	4-8
Swimming back to Iceland	9
The Canadian Folk Shaman	10
Book Reviews	10
Classifieds	11
Movies	12

"And once we Were"

Photographic Art Show with Kara Schuster



In a remote region of Iceland lies a valley untouched by modern development. It is here that Kara Schuster uncovers nature's influence on a world that men left behind.

Djúpavík, a small fishing town, was home to a herring factory in the 1930s which was once Iceland's largest concrete building, which closed the doors on its history in 1954. The beauty of the surrounding mountainous landscape is echoed in the haunting remains of Djúpavík, a testament to the silent hand of time.

Kara Schuster will be featuring her photographs as part of the Scotiabank Contact



Photography Festival in Toronto during the month of May.

There will be an opening reception **MAY 12th, 7pm -10pm**

**Location: Thor Espresso Bar:
35 Bathurst Street, Toronto**

To RSVP please email
karaschuster@Rogers.com
www.karaschuster.com
www.thorespresso.com
www.scotiabankcontactphoto.com

Dan Bjarnason: "Triumph at Kapyong"

Sunday May 15 Gladstone Library (1 block west of Dufferin on Bloor) at 2:30 pm



ICCT presents former CBC-TV Reporter Dan Bjarnason, reading from his new book, "Triumph at Kapyong", the little known story of the Canadian soldiers who fought a pivotal battle at Kapyong during the Korean War. Members \$8, Non-members \$10, coffee & goodies to follow.
Info: gaileinarsonmccleery@gmail.com

Dan Bjarnason was a television news and documentary reporter for the National at the CBC for over 35 years. His world-wide assignments, including time as a foreign correspondent, allowed him to indulge his passion for military history and to visit dozens of battlefields from the Little Bighorn to the Falklands.

Dan's Icelandic connection is through his father, Carl Bjarnason, whose parents came from two different fishing villages in northern Iceland as children in the 1890's and settled in Brandon. Dan's mother's ancestors came over on the Mayflower.



Members of the 2nd Battalion PPCLI steady themselves during mortar firing, two months before Kapyong.

My endless love for Iceland

By Karen Wallington vice president of ICCT



I've been coming to Iceland for nearly fifteen years. I've toured, shopped and dined when the Canadian dollar was worth just 58 kronur and a hotdog cost 240 ISK. I've followed the rapid growing highs and overnight lows of the economy and the personal effect it has had and continues to have on all my Icelandic friends and locals alike.

But despite all the recent bad publicity Iceland has had between a corrupt banking system, an overthrown government and the ironic timing of Eyjafjallajökull, I still love Iceland.

INL/NA Report to Clubs - **Installment #3 –March 2011**

I'm back, and it's been a while since you've heard from me about the activities of the INL. That doesn't mean that we've not been busy. But, I have been thinking if you see too many of these reports, you'll treat them as spam. But, I'd prefer you to read them.

As always, I encourage you to check out our wonderful website. You can find out about our T-shirt design contest, get info about the upcoming convention in Edmonton, learn what local clubs are doing, find out about joining our Facebook page, - you name it it's there! Just google inl and the link's right there!

The News link includes the story and photos of the distribution of funds to the charity. Mæðrastyrksnefnd INL/NA again supported this Icelandic charity. The final amount sent was about \$11,000.00. Thanks to all who made contributions. We are working at finding advertisers for our 2012 INL calendar. If you have a business, or know of potential advertiser(s), please give some consideration to helping with this. We still have some full month ads to sell at \$350.00. Also, business card ads are available for \$75.00. If you can think of anyone interested, please ask them. If you can't do

that, send me e-mail particulars, and I'll make contact. The calendar is being produced in Minneapolis this time. Our Director Dianne O'Konski has pretty much completed all the input. The graphic design is in progress and the ad sales need to be completed. This is still our only fundraiser and this fact means it is a very important item.

Financial matters are high on the priority list these days. At the convention last year in Toronto, it was voted that a portion of the cost of the INL/NA portion of the convention, usually the Friday evening events and the AGM, should be carried by the INL, and not paid for by the host club. We're still not sure what this will cost the INL/NA, but there will assuredly be a new cost.

The fact is, unfortunately, that our budget forecasts a \$9000.00 deficit for 2011. So, we need to seriously think about revenue opportunities. Although we have some invested capital, I think everyone will agree that using it to cover an INL/NA budget shortfall is not a desirable way to use our capital. A run of deficits could see us broke in a decade.

So, the convention will be asking for ideas on our finances. Decisions will need to be made on increased membership dues; perhaps the cost to clubs for the calendar needs to be

raised; is there an operable fundraiser idea out there?: can we try harder sell more INL/NA history books?

Some good news on membership: The Icelandic River Heritage Sites group in Riverton, MB has joined as an Affiliate member, and we've had some encouraging feedback from groups elsewhere- e.g. California & Chicago.

Once again we have committed half of our interest income from invested capital to the Snorri Program. This program, which originated with our sister organization, INL/Iceland, is an extremely successful program in terms of strengthening the ties between us and Iceland.

The board will meet again on March 19th. Those who manage to attend in person will have the pleasure to adjourn to the Arborg Thorrablot - one of the best there is.

The locals tend to chuckle modestly at my answer at first but then it's usually followed with a thoughtful pause before drawing the same conclusion that yes, they are in fact proud of their eccentricities - which of course they have every reason to.



The convention is getting close, and I for one, am looking forward to it. A great chance that comes once a year to see old friends and to make new friends. And, this time, to visit the miracle that is Markerville.

Besta kveðja vinir mínir

Garry Oddleifson
Your correspondent

Kristín M. Jakobsdóttir



holds a Masters Degree from Yale University School of Music and a Certificate Diploma from Sweelinck Conservatorium in Amsterdam. She spent almost seven years in Hong Kong from 1991 as a freelance musician and teacher, including

playing with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra for a full year, before moving back to her native Iceland in 1998. As a freelance bassoonist Kristin plays regularly with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, the Iceland Opera Orchestra, Reykjavík Chamber Orchestra and is active in the local chamber music scene. In 2003 she formed her own chamber group, a wind octet, which has since performed regularly and commissioned several new works. In 2007 Kristin received a

six month stipend from the State of Iceland to perform and record Icelandic music for solo bassoon. kmjoll@ismennt.is

Sverrir Guðjónsson



started his solo career as a singer at the early age of seven, releasing two popular records as a boy soprano. He studied and worked in London as a counter tenor, specializing in early

and contemporary music. Leading composers have written music especially for his voice, which he has premiered and recorded with various ensembles. In 1999 the well known international record company "Opus III" in Paris released his solo CD "Epitaph", where he performs traditional Icelandic music with early instruments. "Epitaph" was chosen one of the CDs of that year, in Gramophone Magazine (Jan.2000).

He performed the leading part in a new opera "Shadow Play" based on the story "The Shadow" by Hans Christian Andersen, which will be recorded for a CD.

"The Shadow Play" was nominated for the major Nordic Music Prize 2007. With the male ensemble "Voices Thules" the release of "The Office for Saint Thorlak" from an Icelandic manuscript ca. 1400 is a major milestone, with 3 cds and one dvd in a specially designed art book, which got the Music Prize of 2006.

In February 2009 he released a 7 year project, STURLUNGA - Battle of Iceland, dreams and forboding of the battle at Örlygsstaðir 1238, from Sturlunga Saga, nominated for the Nordic Music Prize in 2009. artcentrum@centrum.is

Kristín and **Sverrir** will be in Toronto in June, and will be performing (Lífsins Tré, or Trees of Life, and Híbýli Vindanna or Home of the Winds), 19th of June at Rick Lindal's picnic.

News from Iceland

57.7% said no to ICESAVE

(Reuters) - Iceland faces more economic uncertainty and a drawn-out European court case after its voters rejected for a second time a plan to repay \$5 billion to Britain and the Netherlands from a bank crash.

The British and Dutch governments voiced disappointment with the result of Saturday's referendum, Iceland's Finance Minister Steingrímur Sigfússon said that a dispute with Britain and the Netherlands over repaying debts would take at least a year to solve in court, he also said that Iceland was going to pay at least one third of the Icesave debt this year despite the "No" and upcoming court case.

President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson said that it is most important that the nation got a chance to give their vote, and should unite under the results.

Harpa Concert & Conference Center has a grand opening in Reykjavik May 4-6 with concerts by the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy.

The grand opening festivities follow May 13-15 with an open house and gala concerts on the 14th. Built in collaboration with

renowned visual artist Ólafur Eliasson, The 300,000 square foot Harpa has a glass façade made up of cubes that change color with the light of the day. Harpa also boasts four halls, an 1,800-seat auditorium and an ample meeting space. www.harpa.is

Landsdomur

High Court is preparing to try former Prime Minister Geir H. Haarde for negligence in the banking crash. The Landsdomur is a specially appointed group of legal professionals convened especially to try current or recently elected officials. The constitution dictates that there always be a Landsdomur available; but this is the first time in the history of the Republic of Iceland that its members have been called together.

The Landsdomur High Court, which has been specially assembled to try the former PM, granted the prosecutor's wish to see Haarde's work emails and hopes to receive thousands of pages which Haarde sent and received while in office.

The first spring lamb in Iceland born the 6th of April, a Sure Sign of Spring (Reprinted with permission from Iceland Review) Spring has arrived at the farm Laxamýri in Sudur-Thingeyjarsýsla county in northeast Iceland where lambing has begun.

The little ewe was named Lokka after her mother, the seven-year-old Gullinlokka, which is one of the farm's oldest ewes and who has probably given birth to her last lamb, *ruv.is* reports.

Another sure sign of spring came many weeks ago when the first golden plover was spotted in the Westman Islands on February 25, which is unusually early so it might have been a case of a bird which stayed the entire winter rather than having migrated, *ruv.is* reports.

A beloved Icelandic poem by Páll Ólafsson says: "The golden plover has come to sing away the snow," but that was not the case with the Westman Islands bird as the country saw some heavy dumps of snow in March.

But on the last weekend of March more golden plovers were spotted in the capital region so now it appears that the migratory bird and spring have arrived for sure.

Marketing the darkness

Sif Gunnarsdóttir, Director of the Mayor's office in Reykjavik says that the darkness that surrounds Icelanders in the winter can be an attraction for tourists.

They have a plan for "marketing the darkness", and even the Christmas cat.

The Mayor of Reykjavik, Jón Gnarr, wants the fattest cat in Iceland to be shown in the zoo (Húsdúragarðurinn) in December as the Christmas cat. He also mentioned that CNN nominated Reykjavik as one of the 10 best Christmas cities in the world in 2010.

The Penis Museum

in Húsavík has finally got it's masterpiece, a penis from Páll Arason, who just passed away, 96 years old. He had donated his jewels to the museum 14 years ago. He was a traveller and naturalist, and is believed to be the first to drive over "Ódāhraun" in 1945. The museum now has "penises" from all Icelandic mammals.

The museum has been nominated as one of the ten weirdest museums in the world by the British Telegraph.

Þorrablót 2011

The Toronto Icelandic club celebrated a very fun and festive Þorrablót this year, with new families in attendance and many new events in the spotlight. First acknowledgements go out to the amazing Icelandic feast prepared by our club members, and for **Arden Jackson** and **Meredith MacFarquhar** for organizing the delicious appetisers, main course and desserts!



Stop grinning, and give me your eye.....

by eating svid (sheep's head), hakarl (rotten shark) and Hrútsþungar (Ram's testicles). (See the experiments on next page)



**Þórður:
Can I have more?**

In last place was **Ingmar Mah**, who commented throughout the agonizing two minute process that he really wanted to "savour" the flavours and experience.

Thanks to our Vice president **Karen Wallington** for bringing this speciality back from Iceland just for our Þorrablót.

The evening was made even more exciting with the addition of our Viking Challenges, where members could test their strength (and stomachs)



Where are you from?

Some great memories were made when a few daring members decided to take the ultimate Viking Challenge and eat an entire testicle in record time. **Þórður** took the challenge to heart and completed it before all other competitors, claiming that it wasn't very fair since he is a born and raised Icelander who has done this before.



**Ingmar Mah;
Hurray, I have 3 now.....**



Arina enjoys the game

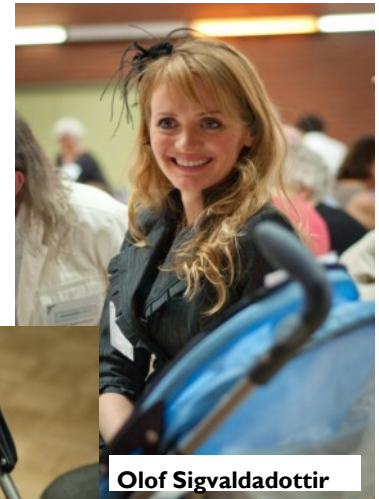
ICCT Scholarship winner **David MacFarquhar** was not in attendance, but sent his aunt to accept on his behalf. Meredith told a wonderful story about David's ingenuity in imparting Icelandic knowledge upon his classmates when he, unbeknownst to his school, served up his version of Hrútsþungar, to everyone's horror. David substituted the actual thing for some seaside scallops doused in pepper, but none were brave enough to take a taste. We welcome David's creativity and energy to the ICCT next year when he begins his studies in Ontario.

The final Viking challenge was Freya's ball toss, which was a huge hit with the kids as it involved some serious hand-eye coordination to accurately fling the tennis balls around the ladder. Hours later, the kids were still perfecting their skills



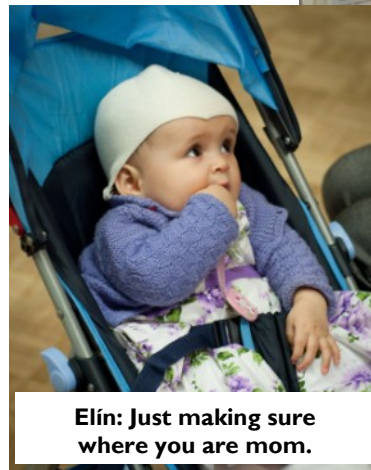
Meredith MacFarquhar

In attendance was **Olöf Sigvaldadóttir**, Attache to the Icelandic Ambassador, who gave a poignant speech about the current economic climate in Iceland and challenges the country continues to face.



Olof Sigvaldadottir

She also reflected on how events such as Þorrablót are our way of connecting and preserving the Icelandic heritage, something more profound for her as her beautiful nine month old daughter **Elin** was in attendance.



Elin: Just making sure where you are mom.



Karen and Heather
 "We hunted the rams ourselves..."

The evening ended with a few last rushes to the Silent Auction, where this year members were enticed by bidding on items through a "Secret" ballot. Once you found your item of choice from the

many excellent donated items you could take a risk and put your bid into a sealed envelope. Highlights included a striking image by photographer **Kara Schuster** and two tickets from **Icelandair** which brought in excellent revenue for the club's scholarship programs.

*Thanks to photographer **Derek Prinsloo***



David Hansen with drinks for everyone



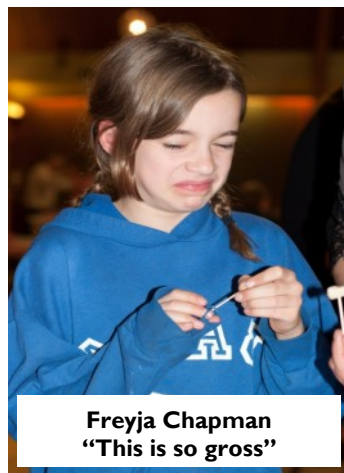
Lauren Gonder is happy at Þorablót

Special thanks go out to the members who donated their food, items for the silent auction and those who volunteered throughout the evening, and we can't wait to see everyone again next year!

----- The Viking Challenge -----



Hronn Haraldsson
 Queen of the Viking Challenge
 "More Shark please....."



Freyja Chapman
 "This is so gross"



Sam Doulis
 "Thanks for dinner, I'm full"



Stephanie Hung and Hlynur Grétarsson
 "Just think of green grass, sheep, and....."



Reynir Sæmundsson
 "I think I have one too many"



Heather Prinsloo
 "It tastes like....."

Þorrablót 2011

Kitchen Heroes and Silent Auction

Thanks to photographer Arden Jackson



David, Arden, Hart and Meredith



David and Dave, "Juicy Lamb Steak anyone?"



Ísak and Brynjar



Stefan and Ross



**Who wants "Pönnukökur með rjóma?"
Raina, Gudrun, Jill, Heather**



Fun with Phyllis at the silent auction

Balls of Honour

By Arden Jackson, Thorrablot Convenor, Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto

The idea of a Viking Challenge featuring Hrótsþungar (Rams' Testicles) for our Thorrablot happened quite spontaneously by email conversation between members of The Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto Executive. We were offered the 'opportunity' to receive an abundance of fresh testicles. It caught us off guard. At first it seemed like a risky idea, and yet the majority of our executive agreed it was, well, a daunting and interesting challenge...yes....a challenge. We joked, we laughed, we hesitated, we questioned, we acknowledged that we would be considered strange, however, we concluded that we loved the idea of serving them at our Thorrablot. After all, we had our membership to think of. We were entertaining a group of people who love all things Icelandic and we suspected that it would be embraced.

And so, the somehow wonderful and yet disconcerting idea became an engaging fundraising concept. We knew it was traditionally served at Thorri events in Iceland, yet we wondered if we could pull it off here. Our fearless President, Heather Prinsloo agreed to cook them and supply the Brennivin for taste testing too. And so it became 'Heather's Viking Challenge'. For a toonie a guest would have a taste, picture taken and given the virtual 'Balls of Honour' award. The research and investigation began into cooking and preparing them. When it was discovered they must be cooked and soured for six weeks in whey, the process stalled. The Icelanders in the group suggested, and the Thorri Team agreed, that the prepared testes be picked up by our Vice President, Karen Wallington in Iceland. We also acquired a freshly smoked and split Svið (Lamb's Head) from Forsyth Farms in Warton, Ontario, and concluded that we were truly excited.

Saturday, April 9 arrived, and so did Karen with freshly prepared jars of Hrótsþungar as well as Hakarl (Rotted Shark), and Hardfiskur. In the kitchen we opened the jars and laid out the Hrótsþungar. They were white like eggs, and like soft cheese. As I prepared to slice them I felt a few people working with me getting a bit squeamish. I asked the men to leave the room, and took to the task. Thirty three adventurous souls bought tickets for the Viking Challenge to taste the strange fare. Four brave men also ate whole Hrótsþungar while facing the crowd. The evening was fun also for fifteen children throwing balls in a ladder game on stage we called 'Freya's Fling'. Over two hundred people enjoyed all the other great traditional and local food and drinks like Icelandic Beer and passionately bid on a bounty of auction items, and all while music accompanied them played on a grand piano! Our ancestors would have been proud! We were proud too, and declared the 'Balls of Honour' challenge to be a new tradition in our Icelandic Canadian inspired event in Toronto.



Þorrablót 2011 More photos



Brian and Karen



Andri, Hanna, and her sister



Lucy and Hal

SWIMMING BACK TO ICELAND

Story and travel offer by Linda Lundstrom

Amazing! The fish in the lake at Thingvellir, the site of the oldest democratic parliament in the world, instinctively gather at the place where the mouth of the stream was originally located before it was rerouted by the Icelandic tribes that would meet there.

Hundreds of years later the fish are still drawn back to the part of the shore which was blocked off. Instead of the present location where the water flows into the lake, fishermen know to go to the spot where there are only memories, buried deep in the genetic code of the fish.

How do I know this? When Geologist Kristinn Gudjonson graciously escorted my mother, Olavia Johnson (nee Adalsteinsdottir), my sister Christine and myself to Thingvellir, he told us a lot about the history of the place. He also mentioned about the fish. Years later, it's the behaviour of the fish in the lake at Thingvellir that has stuck with me the most.

Apparently, the original stream was not conveniently located. Maybe the noise interfered with the speeches of the leaders who gathered to discuss territorial issues and share stories. Maybe it was simply prone to overflowing and flooding the encampment. Perhaps it was moved in an effort to increase the size of the area where the meetings were held. Maybe they simply wanted a better spot to bathe.

I was curious what could possibly have caused this interference with the natural flow of the water through this beautiful valley. I also felt respect for the determination of the fish who would not give up trying to swim upstream, even though the stream was not there.

My grandfather Adalsteinn, left his home near Husavik when he was just a child. The volcanoes were erupting and people were leaving for Canada under tragic circumstances. They were relocated to a harsh and unfamiliar country. He and my grandmother met in Canada and raised their family of 13 children in the Interlake area of Manitoba. Icelandic was the only language spoken in their home. They did not choose to leave Iceland, they had to in order for others to survive, leaving behind family and friends. Apparently, the strongest people were the ones who went, because they would have the greatest chance of making the journey.

Like the fish at Thingvellir, perhaps this is why the original waves of Icelandic immigrants to Canada kept speaking Icelandic. Maybe this is why they kept making the same foods, year after year, as though locked in a culinary time capsule. They kept protecting the memo-

ries of their lives in Iceland. Were they planning to go back...to where they knew they came from?

Is this why Icelanders in Canada feel this pull back to our source?

Maybe this is why when I am in Iceland, there is a sense of deep knowing, that this is where I am from.

On June 16, I will return again, but this time I will bring a group from Canada to share the experience. For 9 days we will see the many unique landscapes forged by molten lava and understand how this land of fire and ice, has formed the character of the people. We will bathe in mineral-rich, healing waters which come directly from the earth and we will join Icelanders in the celebration of their Independence. While we are there, the bars never close, the sun never sets and the party never ends. We will ride Icelandic ponies in fields of golden grasses and complete our stay by spending 2 endless days at an inn in the countryside where we will feast on authentic Icelandic hospitality.

And yes, we will also visit Thingvellir. Perhaps you would like to join me. Bring a journal and make a saga of your journey back to your source.



If you are interested in joining Linda, go to <http://lindalundstromworks.com/travel-with-linda/>

You can also contact her by Email: info@lindalundstromworks.com

Bill Bourne

The Canadian Folk Shaman

Raised in a musical family in rural Alberta, Bill's musical education began at 2 years of age when he would sleep behind the piano at country dances where his parent's band

would perform.

Since 1990, Bill Bourne has been nominated for 8 Juno Awards and has won 3 Juno's.

The road, both paved and metaphysical, runs through all his music. He has seen more of this country and several others than most of us ever will. You can hear it in his music, steeped in Cajun, Celtic, World Beat, Flamenco, funk - and a lot of blues.

Deep poetic roots include Bill's great grandfather, Icelandic poet Stephan G. Stephanson known as the "Poet of the Rockies"

Concerts in Ontario this summer

May 13 - Hamilton, ON - The Pearl Company - with String Bone

May 18 - Kitchener, ON -The Boathouse -

with String Bone

May 20 - Peterborough, ON - The Gilmour

Music Hall - with String Bone

MAY 21 - OTTAWA, ON -

Westboro House Concerts -

with String Bone

May 22 - Picton, ON - The

Acoustic Grill - with String

Bone

May 25 - Oakville, ON -The

Moonshine Cafe - String Bone

May 27 - London, ON - The

London Music Club - with

String Bone

May 28 - Toronto, ON -The

Silver Dollar - with String

Bone

May 29 - Brantford, ON -The

Station Coffee House - with String Bone

June 3 - Orangeville, ON -Daryl Neudorf

studio session

June 4 - Oshawa, ON (tentative)

Vistit his website www.billbourne.com



Book Reviews....

The Vikings Return

is a new History Book about the Icelandic Immigration to Canada 1870-1920, by Dr. **Marian C. McKenna**. This volume takes a new look from a Canadian perspective at the so-called "Great Emigration" - referring to the departure from Iceland between 1870 and 1920 of over 20,000 people; representing almost 30% of the nation's entire population. Over these decades, the majority of emigrants went to Canada, The book traces the roots of discontent in the homeland, the origins of the first tentative immigrating groups, and the beginnings of a mass emigration. This modern saga, embracing some fifty years of many of the most fateful, stirring events in Iceland's tumultuous history, deserves a re-telling for not only those of pioneering immigrants whose labors have helped to build the Canada and the US we know today.

Triumph at Kapyong

by **Dan Bjarnason**.

April 24th, 1951, was a lonely, moon-lit night in Korea. On a godforsaken hill, a few hundred surrounded Canadian soldiers waited for the fight of their lives to begin. Soon, Chinese communist troops in their thousands, swarmed around them, plunging straight towards the Korean capital, Seoul. These Canadians were all that blocked the way. Outnumbered and outgunned, this people's army of amateurs beat off some of the toughest troops on earth. This battle that's become a legend takes its name from a nearby peanut-sized village: Kapyong. It's become a mythic Canadian story, except this is mythology that is real.

Ice Fishing in Gimli is an 8-volume image/text montage bookwork by Winnipeg artist/writer Rob Kovitz. Set in and around a strange small town and a large frozen lake in the uncharted center of Canada, it's an epic citation saga of desire, ambition, weather and landscape ..."

Settled in 1875 by Icelandic emigrés, Gimli is located on the south-western shore of Lake Winnipeg and is currently the sole location for the distilling of Crown Royal whiskey.

Ice Fishing in Gimli was the 2010 Artists' Book of the Moment (ABotM), an open competition for artists' books presented by the Art Gallery of York University.

The Fifth Dimension a book of poetry, original and in translation from Icelandic, was released last summer. This book is authored by Arborg area farmer **David Gislason** and published by Kind Publishing, at the University of Manitoba. As **Dr. Birna Bjarnadóttir** indicates in her preface, this book has much to offer. From his own personal experience, to early settlement times in the Icelandic settlements, the poems of *The Fifth Dimension* are a reflection of their culture in the new world. The final section, some of Iceland's finest poetry, here in English translation, opens a window on the beauty concealed therein.

Icevisions, by **Klaus Kretzer**, husband of Regina, the Skaftafell National Park superintendent, it contains, in medium large format, a most magnificent collection of ice photographs, all centred on Jokulsarlon, the iceberg lake to the east of Skaftafell. <http://www.thebookaboutice.com/index.html>

Stories of Selkirk's Pioneers and Their Heritage

has kept its author, **Kenneth Howard**, spellbound for the eight years it has taken him to research and write it.

The self-published 506-page book, now in its second printing, has found its way into hands from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, and several states in the US, simply by word of mouth.

While the book's setting is Selkirk, locals with an interest in their own Icelandic heritage will find much informative reading here. Twenty-seven of the 100 families featured in the book immigrated from Iceland in the late 1800s into the early 1900s.

Howard conducted hundreds of interviews over the eight years of working on the book. Howard also collected the approximately 250 photos contained in the book from the interviewees, with photos of pioneers dating as far back as the late 1800s.

Lost in War - The Brave Life and Mysterious Death of a Canadian Airman,

by **James T. Watt**, is a story of the life of his first cousin, Hinrik Guttormson, a young Icelandic-Canadian boy who was born and raised in Poplar Park, Manitoba,

More than four years of research, family interviews and dogged detective work have produced this non-fiction book, a labour of love for author James Watt for Hinrik Guttormson, the twenty year old Air Gunner who was killed over Germany in March of 1945.

Hinrik impressed upon a young Jim Watt the idea that heroes wore blue.

APRIL 28 TO MAY 1, 2011 INL OF NA CONVENTION INFORMATION UPDATE

Katrín Júlíusdóttir, Iceland's Ministry of Industry is coming!

This promises to be a very interesting Convention. Highlights include:

Thursday 7:45 AM Markerville Bus Tour... very popular so you should register early. Bus to return by 4:30 PM.
Thursday 7:00 PM Welcome Reception is a must! Solli Sigurdson and Larry Soper will entertain while you meet and greet new and old friends.

Friday Opening Ceremonies 7:00 PM features a keynote speech by Atli Ásmundsson and entertainment by P.J. Buchan, vocalist, and will be followed by a Reception.

Friday's daytime lineup includes:
Markerville Club presentation
The Snorri Program and the Icelandic Camp Luncheon Speaker: Bill Valgardson, Logberg-Heimskringla
Pall Stefansson, Iceland Review, one of Iceland's best photographers
Nelson Gerrard, historian and genealogist

"Future of INL of NA: Mission Impossible?"
Saturday morning INL of NA Annual

General Meeting
Luncheon Speaker: Donald K. Johnson, OC, Iceland's financial future
Bjarni Tryggvasson, our Icelandic Canadian Astronaut who traveled to outer space will enlighten us in the afternoon
Saturday night Gala dinner, featuring Katrín

Júlíusdóttir and entertainment by Aura
Sunday Presentation by Gisli Pálsson on Arctic Explorer Vilhjalmar Stefansson in conjunction with Vilhjalmar's granddaughters Rosie Albert & Georgina Stefansson who reside in Inuvik. Ends 11 a.m.

On Site Hotel Accommodation:
The Fantasyland Hotel
(800) 737-3783 INL Convention Rate
The West Edmonton Mall Inn
(780) 444-9378 INL Convention Rate
Off Site Hotel options when the above are full.

The Executive Royal Inn West
(780) 484-6000

The Holiday Inn Express West
(780) 483-4001

The Courtyard Marriott West
(780) 638-6070

The Hilton Garden Inn West
(780) 443-2233

The Best Western Westwood Inn
(780) 483-7700

The Comfort Inn West
(780) 484-4415

ICCT Kvannahlaup 2011

Kvannahlaup, the Icelandic Women's Walk, is a 22 year old tradition in Iceland that has been expanded to Icelandic communities in North America in recent years. Women of Icelandic descent, and those who have connections to them or want to support them are encouraged to come out and walk for exercise and

companionship.
Join us on **Saturday, June 4th, at 10 a.m.** Walk or run with friends on a 5 km route through scenic High Park. We will meet just inside the park gates near the parking lot on Bloor Street at High Park Avenue. Get off the Bloor subway at High Park station and head south along High Park to the gate.

Registration is \$20.00 which includes the official Kvannahlaup T-shirt from Iceland.

Any proceeds will be donated to the ICCT.
To register, contact: Phyllis 416 987-0738

Phyllis Pollard pjpollard@mac.com
Kara Schuster karaschuster@rogers.com

ICCT Library

The ICCT Library will be open for members to select, borrow and return books this fall, on an experimental basis, on the following Saturday dates and times:
Saturdays, Sept 17th, Sept 24th, and Oct 1, 2011 between the hours of 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

The library is located on the second floor of the Scandinavian Club House Building, 93 Stormont Ave., North York ON, M5N 2C3, which is 1 block south of Lawrence Ave. W. and 1/2 block east of Bathurst St. Parking is available in front of the building.

Many of the books available have been translated into English and include such classics as Njal's Saga, Laxdaela Saga, Egil's Saga, as well as books by famous Icelandic Canadian authors such as Stephan G. Stephansson, Vilhjalmar Stefansson and Guttormur J. Guttormsson.
Members of the Library Committee will be available on the above mentioned times and dates.

Margret Bjorgvinsdottir
Email: maggatoronto@gmail.com
Ph: (416) 536-5450

Jon Thordarson
Email: thorco@aol.com
Ph: (416) 751-8747

Midsummer In Iceland

Join fashion icon **Linda Lundström** on a unique trip to Iceland, June 16 to 24,

Info and contact on the trip:
lindalundstromworks.com/travel-with-linda
info@lindalundstromworks.com

Read about Linda's inspiration for her trip at lcct.info

New T-shirt for INLOFNA

Andrew Saur, Minnesota, won the contest.



They will be available at the Edmonton convention, you can order yours from Gail and she will bring it back for you... small, medium,

large, xtra large..... no kids tshirts.

Contact: gaileinarsonmccleery@gmail.com

INDEPENDENCE DAY

PICNICS:

Friends of Iceland in Ottawa

...their Annual Picnic, and you are invited.
Saturday, June 18, 2011, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
at the home of Arthur & Neomy Peterson on the St. Lawrence.

Potluck dinner.

Please bring something to share.

Bring your own drinks.

Aso – Please bring a lawnchair.

Contact: thesigurdsons@sympatico.ca

Rick Lindal Annual Picnic

Members of the ICCT are warmly welcomed to the home of **Rick Lindal** at **481 Clouston Rd, Grafton** on June 19th in celebration of the Icelandic National Holiday.

The picnic starts at 1 PM

Picnic guests will be given pönnukökur með rjóma as well as 'fjallagrasamjólk' made from fjallagrös which were picked in Iceland last year. Otherwise, guests are encouraged to bring something for the BBQ or for the hláðborð. Rick will be making a large rice salad and chicken/turkey burgers as usual for anyone who may be hungry.

In the afternoon, Sverrir Guðjónsson (counter tenor) and Kristín Mjöll Jakobsdóttir (bassoon player) will perform two sets of songs Lífsins Tré and Híbyli Vindanna,

Contact: 905 396-2052

ricklindal@xplornet.com

London Picnic

Plans are afoot for the musicians, **Kristín** and **Sverrir** to play at a London picnic ... Info. lockwood.nancy@gmail.com

Toronto Picnic

Friday June 17, More info. to follow

Concert in Ottawa

Icelander **Sigurður Flosason**, jazz alto sax, is in town, and plays at the National Arts Centre with a group at 7:30 pm April 30th

FÁLKINN-THE FALCON

website: icct.info

Fálkinn is the newsletter of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto and is published 6—8 times a year.
 Editors: Gail Einarson-McCleery galeinarsonmccleery@gmail.com and Oddur S. Karlsson oddursk@amanko.ca

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Heather Prinsloo
dhprinsloo@gmail.com
 647 349 4610

Past President:

Brian Eyolfson
brian.eyolfson@sympatico.ca

V. President:

Karen Helena Wallington
karenhelena@icct.info

Media Coord:

Kara Schuster
karaschuster@rogers.com

Treasurer:

Lynne Thorkelsson
mlynnet@gmail.com
 905 985 0433
 1680 Scugog St.
 Port Perry, ON, L9L 1E2

Secretary:

Angie Bjornson
angiebjornson@rogers.com

Thorrablot Convenor:

Arden Jackson
arden@ardendesign.com

Membership:

Holly Wirth
wirthh@yahoo.com
 647 342 2744

Librarians:

Margret Björgvinsdóttir
maggatoronto@gmail.com
 Jon Thordarson
thorco@aol.com

Outreach:

Don Gislason
ericgislason@rogers.com

Mailing Director:

Ellen Gilmore
jgilmore@sympatico.ca

Merchandising:

Thora Smaller
tsmaller@sympatico.ca

Youth Director:

Brenda Bjarnason
bbjarnason@rogers.com

Newsletter Editors:

Oddur S. Karlsson
oddursk@amanko.ca
 Gail Einarson-McCleery

Webmaster:

Karen Helena Wallington
karehelena@icct.com

Directors at Large:

Mel Johnson
mljohnson@rogers.com
 Jill Tomasson-Goodwin
jtomasso@uwaterloo.ca
 Phyllis Pollard
ppollard@mac.com

Kinmount Icesto Co-ordinator:

Gudrun Girgis
gudrun@on.aibn.com

Regional Director, INLoF NA

Gerry Einarsson
einargk@rogers.com

Honorary Consul General,

Toronto:

Jon Johnson
jjohnson@goodmans.ca

Honorary Consul,

Toronto & INL of NA President:

Gail Einarson-McCleery
galeinarsonmccleery@gmail.com

Nordic Nights Movies
 National Film Board, 150 John Street, Wed. April 27, 6 pm reception 7 pm film
 \$8 ICCT members, seniors and students, \$10 others

The Johnson Twins of Lonely Lake

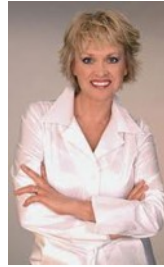
Twins Olavia and Fjola Adalsteinsdóttir were born 30 minutes apart in the Interlake area of Manitoba in 1915. Their names were anglicized to Olive and Violet and the family took on Johnson as their surname.

Film-maker Jon Einarsson Gustafson was commissioned on the occasion of the 80th birthday of the Johnson Twins to create a permanent record of their lives.

Interviewed by Tinna Gretarsdóttir in Icelandic, the twins reveal their humour and unique insights into their Icelandic/Canadian heritage. English subtitles are provided.

The Johnson Twins of Lonely Lake both passed away in their 94th year.
Introduction by Fashion Icon,

Linda Lundstrom



Tales from the Gimli Hospital



REFRAMED pairs Maddin's breakthrough film with live performance of a newly commissioned work by Winnipeg composer **Matthew Patton**, featuring ethereal music performed by members of **Iceland's amiina and mum**, live narration, and a ground-breaking visual-soundscape created by the Aono Jikken Ensemble.

April 30 8 pm, Guy Maddin in attendance...

The Seagulls Laughter

Friends of Iceland in Ottawa are having a Movie and Popcorn Night, **Tuesday, May 3, 2011, 7:30 p.m.** at the Ambassador's Residence 390 Cloverdale Road, Rockcliffe. Part of the Donald K. Johnson Icelandic Film Screening series of INL/NA

Did you know?

On the 11th of March, 1984. Around 11 pm, 5 km east of Stórhöfði on Heimaey, the fishing boat Hellisey VE 503 rolled over. The emergency raft was unreleasable. Three out of five fishermen were able to climb up on the upended keel of the boat, but it sank about 45 minutes later. The air temperature was -2° C, the sea was as cold as 6° C, and wind speed was 65 km/h. One of the remaining three men died almost as soon as he got into water. The two others, Guðlaugur Friðþórsson, steersman, then 22 years old, and Hjörtur R. Jónsson, captain, 25 years, swam side by side and tried to keep talking. Very soon Guðlaugur understood that he was alone. In water that cold he had to die in 20 or 30 minutes, but he swam about 6 hours to survive. Guðlaugur was dressed in jeans, shirt and sweater, with nothing on his feet. He knew that low body heat leads to mental confusion, irregular heartbeat and death. The steersman talked all the time with birds

Horizons

A documentary film on world-renowned Icelandic sculptor **Steinnunn Þórarinsdóttir's** work, which explores the human condition, and its production. Her exhibition **BORDERS** is on display in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza in New York from March 24 through September 30, 2011. The installation features twenty-six androgynous, life-size sculptures, thirteen aluminum and thirteen cast iron, which extend throughout the park from First to Second Avenue on East 47th Street. **BORDERS** will be the park's largest exhibition to date and the first exhibition to incorporate the entire park.



Also in cinema from April 26 to May 8, National Arts Centre, 53 Elgin Street, Ottawa

Released in 1988 to critical acclaim, *Tales from the Gimli Hospital* has become a true cult hit. A dreamlike, elliptical film, it explores the jealousy and madness of two men who share a hospital room;

They are friends until their relationship is challenged by the revelation of their darkest secrets. Tales of creeping pestilence, unconsummated passions, reckless envy, and necrophilia climax in a deadly battle.

PLEASE RSVP to thesigurdsons@sympatico.ca

Post-war provincial Iceland: around 1950, Freyja, who'd been a plump teen, returns from America, a widow with a 20-inch waist, seven suitcases of dresses, and a list of who ever wronged or slighted her.

around him in order to keep his wits. When Guðlaugur finally reached land, his ordeal did not end: he was against a cliff and had to go back into the sea. He swam again, this time along the cliffs. When he finally climbed out to the shore, he realized that he was on a broad lava field. Since he was barefoot, he lost a good deal of blood because of the sharp volcanic glass. In a tub full of water for sheep, he broke the inch-thick ice with his fist and drank. He had to go 2 km in wet clothes until he reached a settlement on the 12th of March at 6:55 am. Doctors were unable to find Guðlaugur's pulse when they examined him at the hospital. His temperature was too low to be registered by the usual medical thermometer. However, he survived in good health.

A startling fact was discovered by the researchers from the University of Iceland: Guðlaugur's fat is almost like seal fat. It is more solid and two or three times thicker than normal human fat.