

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER



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LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB EXECUTIVE

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Secretary	Marg Finnson	Ph. 289-9827
Treasurer	Shelley McReynolds	Ph. 281-2600
Membership	Gwen Mann	Ph. 242-9714
Past President	Ron Goodman	Ph. 932-4331

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 15, 2007,	Vikingur Olafsson,
May 6, 2007	Family Fun Day
June 16, 2007	Markerville Picnic

SUMARDAGURINN FYRSTI Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club

Family Fun Day at the Scan Centre

Round up the children and grandchildren and join us at the Scandinavian Centre for a day of family fun. Come help celebrate the first day of summer Icelandic holiday.

Date:	Sunday, May 6, 2007	
Time:	2:00 p.m. doors open	
	2:30 p.m. entertainment	
	5:00 p.m. dinner (hamburgers & hot dogs, cake and ice cream and drinks, etc.)	
Tickets:	Adults	\$10.00
	Child under 12	\$ 5.00
	Family (immediate)	\$30.00

This is a very casual day with the whole family participating – we plan to have:

A clown Magician & juggler
Face painting and craft table
Story telling and more

For tickets or information phone
Morning - Carol or Linda 284-2610
Tiffany 276-7053;
Fayon 271-0772 (eve)

Ticket deadline is April 30/07



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Brent Grisdale

I met with Atli Ásmundsson from the Icelandic Consulate in Winnipeg and we discussed the upcoming INL Convention in Winnipeg and he included his enthusiasm for the 2008 INL Convention that Calgary will host. The club will send an invitation to the Governor General of Canada requesting her to attend the Icelandic National League Convention in Calgary in 2008 as the Keynote Speaker for the Opening Ceremonies.

The LEIC has obtained our Directors Insurance through Volunteer Canada that also includes a wide variety of resource material available as a member to Volunteer Canada.

The Julian Thorsteinson - Speakers Series was an intriguing topic of the role and challenges of a translator. Julian Thorsteinson is a Vancouver-based writer, editor and translator and her lecture on the subject was very interesting which included time to interact with Julian afterwards. In addition I look forward to attending the Vikingur Olafsson Concert.

Iris Torfason held an informal evening to introduce some of the club members to the new candidates for the Snorri program, Beth McReynolds and Brandur Leach. My wife, Tiffany and I were invited to attend. Thanks, Iris for being such a gracious hostess and such a caring person.

Congratulations, Iris, on being selected as the Fjallkona for Alberta this coming June. You are very deserving of this honour.

I look forward to my first INL convention in Winnipeg this month. I am sure I will learn a lot about my Icelandic heritage while there.

See you at the Family Fun Day on May 6.

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER

Vikingur Olafsson Concert
Christ Church, 3602 – 8th Street SW
7:30 pm, Sunday, April 15, 2007

*Featuring Rising Stars from
New York's Juilliard School*
Vikingur Olafsson, pianist
Karen Ouzounian, cellist

- Admission: **\$10. for adults,**
\$5. for seniors and students.
- Reception: **light refreshments after the concert.**
- Street parking. **Tickets available at door only.**

The organizers of this concert gratefully acknowledge the donation of the use of a Steinway piano by Irene Besse Keyboards Ltd. for this event.



**Karen and Vikingur
North American Tour**

Thanks to Helene Goodman for organizing this tour and also to Beverly Anderson and their committee.

Of course, Vikings have a reputation for roaming the world, gathering the best from every country, and Vikingur Olafsson maintains the tradition. This talented 23-year-old Icelandic concert pianist has teamed up with 22-year-old Toronto-born Armenian-Canadian cellist, Karen Ouzounian, for a two-week tour of North America organized by the International Visits Program of the Icelandic National League. Both Vikingur and Karen are

in Masters Programs at Juilliard School of Music in New York.

The tour brings the award-winning young musicians to smaller centres as well as to cities across Canada and the northern United States. The duo will perform at 10 venues beginning April 10. In May, Vikingur will do a solo concert in Ottawa.

The INL of North America, established in 1918 with a head office in Gimli, MB, plays a leading role in supporting an appreciation of literature and culture among people of Icelandic descent in North America. The International Visits Program facilitates exchange visits between Iceland and North America. The upcoming concert tour is intended to showcase Icelandic and Canadian talent to music lovers of all backgrounds.

Vikingur made his debut with the Icelandic Symphony orchestra when he was 16. He has given solo recitals in Iceland, Spain, France and the USA. After graduating from the Reykjavik College of Music he moved to Juilliard in 2002. A dedicated collaborator, he has worked closely with Karen for many years.

Karen, whose Bachelor of Music is from Juilliard, has also studied in Britain, Holland, Italy, and in Banff, and Orford Arts Centre in Canada. She has performed across North America and Europe and will join the East Coast Chamber Orchestra for its 2007 season.

Talent and hard work brings its own reward, but both Vikingur and Karen have been internationally recognized. A scholarship student at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Karen received Juilliard's Grunin Prize and Presidential Distinction Award. In 2004, Vikingur won both the Icelandic Music Awards as "Iceland's Brightest Prospect in Classical Music" and the American-Scandinavian Society Cultural Grant in 2006, he won the Carl Roeder prize in piano from Juilliard. His most recent accolade came when he was chosen "Performer of the year" at the 2007 Icelandic music awards.

The duo will perform a repertoire of classical music, including that of composers Debussy, Chopin, Ligeti, and Beethoven.

This tour is being sponsored by **Landsbanki, the Foreign Ministry of Iceland and the donors to the Cultural Exchange Fund of the Canada-Iceland Foundation.** They are visiting the following cities on this tour:

St. Paul, Winnipeg, Gimli, Foam Lake, Calgary, Edmonton, Seattle, Vancouver, London, Toronto

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER

ICELANDIC PICNIC – MARKERVILLE – ÍSLENDINGAMÓT

Saturday, JUNE 16, 2007

- 12:00 noon – Family Program, Races
2:00 pm – Community Church Celebration
3:00 pm - Program: Crowning of the
Fjallkona
5:00 pm - Pot Luck Supper -
All guests are to bring a salad or
dessert

12:00 NOON– Meet at the Markerville sports grounds. **The Annual June 17th celebration will begin as usual with races, games and tug-of-war at the picnic grounds promptly at 12 noon -** Family entertainment, the coffee pot will be on. People can dress as Vikings and have their picture taken.

1:30 pm Ice cream.

2:00 pm Church Centennial Celebration.
Markerville Community Church invites you to join them in celebrating their 100th Anniversary

3:00 pm Program, crowning of the Fjallkona, Iris Torfason. See the next issue for her biography. Congratulations, Iris.

5:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner. The Edmonton and Calgary Clubs each bring a turkey and a ham. Please bring a salad or a dessert for the banquet table, and then join in the fun. We will be using the newly renovated Fensala Hall.

Many people drive out on Friday, Camp at the grounds for the weekend or take the bus:-

CALGARY BUS TO MARKERVILLE

SCHEDULE: Saturday, June 16, 2007

- 10:00 Load north east corner, Deerfoot Mall shopping centre, NE corner
10:15 Leave for Markerville
11:30-45 Arrive in Markerville at the picnic grounds
6:30 Depart for Calgary
8:00 Arrive in Calgary

The bus company will provide sandwiches, treats, juice and water to have on the bus. Please call or email Gwen Mann if you wish to ride to Markerville on the bus. – 403 – 242 9714 or lgmann@shaw.ca Please call Gwen for more information. There is no charge for the bus.

Stephansson House Provincial Historic Sites

The 2007 Poetry at Stephan's House special event is set for Sunday June 24th. We are considering the possibility of doing workshops on Saturday and the public event on Sunday.

For more information – please contact:

Olga Fowler

ph. (780) 427-1787 fax (780) 422-4288

Website:

Stephansson House www.cd.gov.ab.ca/sh

CALGARY CHAPTER ALBERTA ASSOCIATION ON GERONTOLOGY

is pleased to announce the

“2007 Outstanding Calgary Seniors’ Awards”

All Calgarians and Calgary organizations are invited to nominate an “Outstanding Calgary Senior”.

Awarded to Calgary seniors (65+) based upon accomplishments achieved after reaching the age of 65 years. All nominations will be reviewed by a panel of seniors in the following categories:

- ▶ Active Living
- ▶ Caregiving
- ▶ Volunteerism
- ▶ Arts
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ General

**Nominations are to be submitted by Friday,
April 27, 2007.**

Applications can be made by mail, or
Fax (287-3143).

Mailing Address:

Calgary Chapter Alberta Association of
Gerontology
Outstanding Calgary Seniors’ Awards
PO Box 46011, RPO Inglewood,
Calgary, AB T2G 5H7

For further details and/or to obtain a nomination form contact CCAAG at (403) 618-2227 or visit www.ccaag.com

Awards will be presented in the Atrium of the Municipal Building, (City Hall) during the Seniors Resource Fair on Saturday, June 9, 2007 at 1:30pm

Our club is one of the sponsors of this award

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER

Introducing our Snorri candidates for 2007

Brandur Hallson Leach

By Aldis Hallson

Brandur will celebrate his 23rd birthday in Iceland. He is graduating from Computer Engineering from the University of Calgary in May. He is hoping to go on to Europe after the Snorri trip and will return in the Fall to look for a job. He did his 16 month internship program in Waterloo at Research in Motion and enjoyed the computer business. He is hoping to eventually participate in some of his own business ventures.

Brandur is an excellent skier and swimmer. He enjoys tennis, squash and scuba diving and is committed to his fitness routine. He loves his music and has made efforts to see his favourite bands.

Brandur has been very aware of his Icelandic side of the family. His family met his grandparents (Afi - Kenneth Hallgrimur Hallson) every year for a week in Gimli where he enjoyed the lake environment as well as his visits to the Icelandic museum and Tergesen's store. His ancestors come from the Skagafjordur area and the Westfjords of Iceland.



**Beth McReynolds and Brandur Hallson Leach
With Brent and Tiffany Grisdale
Picture courtesy of Karl Torfason**

Dear club members:

*I've received word that the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary will be sponsoring me with a scholarship for the Snorri Program this June/July. I would like to thank all the members of the club for their contribution in supporting me through what I'm sure will be a very valuable life experience.
Thanks!! Brandur Leach*

Beth McReynolds

By Shelley McReynolds

Beth is 20 years old. She is completing her third year of Environmental Engineering at the University of Guelph.

Beth is an avid golfer, skier and hiker. She enjoys Netball and has played on the Alberta Provincial team. She has achieved her Grade 8 in piano and continues to play in the summers when she is home.

Beth was 4 when the family joined the club. The Christmas parties and Markerville picnics have always been a special part of each year and an opportunity to celebrate her heritage. Beth's Amma is Irene (Sveinfridur Margaret Thorvaldson) Wright.

2008 INL CONVENTION

Plans are coming along very nicely for the 2008 INL Convention to be held at the Westin Hotel here in Calgary April 24 – 27/08. For the Silent Auction, Don Herman and Alda Sigvaldason have consented to look after the Auction and Peter Peterson has agreed to be in charge of the collection of donations for the auction. To donate any items phone Peter at 403 697-8901

MEMBERSHIP

By Gwen Mann

Please welcome:

Janet Peterson

Victoria Bjarnason from Bassano

I have ordered Lögberg-Heimskringla subscriptions for 178 families that have renewed their membership for 2007. If you have paid your membership and are not receiving the paper, please contact me. If membership fees are due from your family, a note is included in this newsletter. **Gwen Mann 242 9714** If you have any questions regarding membership, please send me an email: lgmann@shaw.ca.

LIBRARY

By Christine Stuart-Smith

If you have overdue books in your home, please just bring them to the Scan Centre, no questions asked, no fines due! **And please keep using the library.**

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER

2007 INL Honourary Member Nominee

Carol Blyth

By Gwen Mann

Carol Gudridur Blyth full blooded Icelander, was raised in Piney, Manitoba, daughter of Skafti Valdimar Eyford and Andrea Holmfridur Anderson. She attended the University of Manitoba, graduating with a Bachelor of Home Economics.



Carol has been a member of the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary for many years. She has been involved in many aspects of the Club, the most significant being President, Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Scan Centre Representative, INL Representative

Photo credit Gwen Mann

and Program Chair for the 2008 INL Convention. Everything that Carol does is with the greatest care and attention.

The membership works well with her because of her friendliness and appreciation of their contributions. Whenever Carol represented our Club she did so with the utmost grace and dignity.

Carol has made many other contributions to our society. She along with her husband, Bill Blyth who originates from Esterhazy, Saskatchewan have raised 3 sons and a daughter, who have successful careers in Medicine and Law.

Carol had a successful career and later served on many Boards dealing with Seniors issues.

It is with great pleasure that the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary nominates Carol Blyth for Honourary membership in the Icelandic National League of North America.

Care and Concern March 2007

By Iris Torfason

At our most recent meeting we discussed an important but often neglected topic. We all agree that a friendly reminder of having or putting ones house in order so to speak was appropriate at this time of year. Here is a list of some of the things that we thought were important;

- 1) A current valid will
- 2) A power of attorney in case of sudden death or an incapacitating illness making one incapable of functioning
- 3) Funeral arrangements can be made with the Calgary Memorial Society or any other organization you desire where you can make such arrangements
 - a) Funeral
 - b) Burial
 - c) Cremation
 - d) Disbursement of ashes
- 4) Designation of prized possessions or heirlooms

If anyone is interested we could make arrangements to meet with a representative from the Calgary Memorial Society or any other organization you desire – contact **Iris @ 256-2038**

We also felt that there were several who would appreciate a ride and several who could give rides to the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary functions. Please contact **Iris @ 256-2038** if you would like a ride. Iris needs your name and where you live in the city and the committee will try to match drivers with the person needing a ride. If you can give a ride please contact **Iris @ 256-2038** she'll need your address and what area you could service. She and her committee will try to match. Welcome back to our snowbirds and "holidayers", Lloyd and Gwen Mann, Ted and Marg Grisdale, Victor and Marilyn Laxdal and Gerry and Sandi Pyper. Hope all of you had a wonderful time and welcomes all who have been away on holidays, Lucky Folks

It's a *****

Nathan James born to Keith and Lisa Yasinko Tuesday, March 20 at 11:43am in Edmonton, AB, weighing in at 9lbs 8oz. everyone is fine. **Ed and Lois Yasinko** are the proud grandparents of yet another grandson.

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER

Our condolences are sent out to **Wendy and Bruce Eggertson** – Wendy's father Norm Poulin passed away in Comox B.C and to Megan and Curran Eggertson on the passing of their grandfather, Norm Poulin.

We send our condolences to **Lynn Brooks** who lost her mother in Toronto to a massive heart attack on Feb. 12 of this year.

CASINO REPORT

By **Ron Goodman**

The Club held a very successful casino on February 18 and 19th at the Deerfoot Inn in south east Calgary. This event is the major fund raising activity of our club and accounts for over 90% of its funds. The Deerfoot Inn is a new modern facility and is much more luxurious than the Big Four casino where some of our previous events have been held. Added to this year's event was the fact that Sunday, February 18th was Chinese New Years and the halls of the Deerfoot Inn filled with Dragons and Dogs as well as pigs (this is the year of the pig (Ding Hai.)). Since the profits for the casino are averaged over all casinos in the city on a quarterly



basis, we do not know how much money will be available for our future activities. Thanks to all who helped with the casino and to

Milt Brandson for his

dedication to filling out all the forms and organizing volunteer staff to work at the casino.

Applications have been made for the use of casino funds for the following activities and **they have been approved:**

Travel to Convention \$ 14,000

Thirteen members of the Club executive will travel to Winnipeg, Manitoba to participate in the 88th convention of the Icelandic national League of North America. Remember next year's convention (2008) will be in Calgary.

DLP Projector and Wireless Link \$ 2,800

A new DLP projector for use at club events and a wireless link will connect the output of a computer to the sound system in the Viking Hall. This will

allow the use of more complex presentations for our speaker's series and other club events.

Vikingur Concert \$ 1,300

Costs associated with the rental of the hall, the piano rental and tuning and the preparation of publicity material allows us to keep the costs of this concert to \$ 10 for adults and \$ 5.00 for senior and students.

Costs associated for many of our recurring annual events have been approved on an annual basis until the year 2100. These events include:

Sumardagurinn Fyrsti

Subsidy \$ 10 for Senior and Youth

Senior Whist

Subsidy due to senior participation

Markerville Bus Tour

Subsidy due to senior participation

Fall Feast

Subsidy of \$ 10 for Seniors and Youth

Christmas in Markerville

Subsidy of \$ 10 for Seniors and Youth

Christmas Party

Subsidy of \$ 10 for Seniors and Youth

Speakers Series

Cultural Event

Snorri Program

Annual Scholarship(s)

The Club is grateful to Ron Goodman who diligently fills out and submits all the applications that the Alberta Gaming and License Commission requires. Thanks so much for continuing on with this, Ron.

INL of NA CALENDAR FOR 2009

Each year the Icelandic National League of North America prints a calendar from a chosen theme. These calendars are then distributed across North America for sale to the Chapters who in turn sell them to the members and the public. **For 2009, artists are invited to submit up to three painting images.** Submissions will be in an open category, up to the discretion of the artist. This special project is open to all visual artists of Icelandic descent. The committee will be accepting images from **September 1st to September 29th, 2007.**

More information about this project can be found on the INL of NA web site or by contacting your Chapter President. You can also contact the following people for more information:

Gwen Mann – 403 – 242 9714 – lgmann@shaw.ca

Patricia Peacock - patpeacock@shaw.ca

Julianna Bjornson – jbjornson@shaw.ca

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER

BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR 2007 HONOURARY MEMBERS

Thora and David Fisher

Thora Eirikson is a third generation Icelandic Canadian born to (Groa) Gudmundina Goodmandson and Eirikur Gudjon Eirikson, both of whose parents had immigrated to North America in the late eighteen hundreds. Thora is the third child of her late parents and was born on the family farm at Markerville, Alberta on June 25, 1926. She was raised in the rural community attending primary and junior high school at Heckla and high school at both Innisfail and Red Deer where she graduated.

Thora is a registered nurse graduating from the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary in 1949. That year she met David Scott Fisher on a blind date. They married June 30, 1950 at Central United Church in Calgary and have resided here ever since.

David was born in Calgary. He had a career with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

They reared 4 children; Bill, Diane, Robert and Don each of them are professionally successful. Thora has had a successful career as a nurse and a homemaker. Now David and Thora have time to dote on their grandchildren and families. Both David and Thora enjoy their association with the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club.



David and Thora Fisher
Photo courtesy Margaret Grisdale



Photo courtesy Gwen Mann
JONINA (NINA) (EINARSSON) SMITH

Nina Smith is a well-known artist. She is the granddaughter of pioneers who settled in the Lögberg district, near Churchbridge SK in 1889. Nina was raised in Regina. She was only 8 years old when her teacher recommended that she have art lessons. After her school years, Nina took a job as teller of the Royal Bank of Canada. It was there she met Charles Smith who she married in 1954. After her marriage she started to give art lessons in her home and continued to do so wherever they lived. Nina attended the Banff School of Fine Arts for one or two-month intervals from 1957 to 1970, selling some of her art to raise funds for her courses. There she met artists from all over the world.

In 1964, Charles was transferred to Edmonton. In 1968, they came to Calgary. When Charles retired in 1974 a major change in their lifestyle occurred. They spent time in Arizona and in Calgary. In 1993 they moved back to Canada on a permanent basis. Charles died in 2003.

Nina still teaches art and travels, as she has done for 53 years, teaching art classes. Jokingly, she says "Have brush, will travel". She has taught in many states as well as Canada. Although she has studied all art forms, she enjoys painting on porcelain the most. There is always a sense of excitement as one waits to see what will come out of the kiln. Nina believes strongly that an artist must enjoy what they do in order to do it well. If you don't, she says, "You have lost something of yourself".

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER

THE TRANSLATOR: A DIFFICULT ROLE

By Ron Goodman

Julian Thorsteinson, an internationally renowned translator and editor of translation, presented the fourth talk in the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary speaker's series on her work experiences. She highlighted how difficult it was to translate not only the differences in language but also the differences in culture which influence the capture of the essence of a work during translation. Ideally, the role of the translator should be invisible, but this is not realistic since both background and philosophy of the translator will influence the translation either consciously or subconsciously.



Margret Geppert, Christine Stuart-Smith with the guest speaker, Julian Thorsteinson Photo credit karl Torfasson

In the translation of literature, features such as puns or culturally unique activities are extremely difficult to render in a second language without the use of extensive footnotes which makes the reading of the translation difficult and disturbs the flow of the material. In addition to the role of the translator, Julian discussed her experience as an editor of translations which is a second step in the preparation for publishing. The role of the translation editor is to ensure continuity and that the translated text represents the original material. The whole process of translation is very complex and subject to many nuances, most of which are not apparent to the reader of the translation. While it is desirable that the translator be invisible in the translation, the translator is an intellectual contributor to the value of the translated text and their contribution should be recognised as should be the translation editor. Following the presentation, there was a broad ranging discussion which continued while refreshments were served.

This very interesting talk was followed by a preview of the soon to be released DVD entitled "Rhythms of Life". This DVD shows the development of three pieces of land art near Akureyri by the Australian artist Andrew Rogers.

211 Newsletter - March 2007

Submitted by Carol Blyth

<http://www.211calgary.ca/pdf/March%207%20211%20Newsletter%20.pdf>

For those of you who have not yet heard of **211**, it is an information and referral line for community, social, government and health services. Trained specialists answer the calls, and have access to information on over **5000 programs and services** in Calgary and area! As human service professionals and members of the community, this line provides valuable information on services such as: financial assistance, food programs, accessing shelters, where to find counselling/support groups, services for new immigrants, where to donate clothing or furniture items, what social/recreational programs have subsidies available for your children etc.

211 is a partnership between Distress Centre Calgary, the United Way of Calgary and Area, and the City of Calgary.

In February, the **211** Initiative was honoured to receive the United Way Spirits of Gold? Together We Can? Award. This award recognizes long term focused community initiatives, developed through the collaboration and partnership of community agencies, community groups, governments, businesses, and/or individuals, that aim to address the root causes of social problems in Calgary and area.

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB WEBSITE

Please check our website: www.leiccalgary.org or www.leic.ca to view the clubs' news and activities. Please let us know what you think and how it can be improved.

Phone Peter at 697-8901

See you next time!
Margaret Grisdale
Editor – grisdale7018@shaw.ca