



Brúin Chapter, Selkirk

Icelandic National League



Newsletter

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117th Sumardagurinn Fyrsti

Spring 2010

Design/Layout: Kathy Dahlin

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Selkirk Brúin Chapter has had another busy year. Last April, our Sumardagurinn Fyrsti was very successful and we all had a good time. Also in April, we were invited to The Betel Home Foundation Volunteer Tea.

In May, eleven of our members attended a wonderful Icelandic National League Convention held in Gimli. It was such a fantastic time.

In June, we had our windup for the summer at Jane and Walter's Restaurant in Sandy Hook. On a separate evening, Brad Hirst presented two Lord Selkirk Comprehensive high school scholarships to a boy and girl of Icelandic descent, for this year in memory of Esther Erickson and Mac Dryden. The scholarship recipients were Amanda Hygaard and Lyle Bjornson.

The last week in July, The Icelandic Language and Cultural Camp was held. Brad Hirst was in charge of the camp and he did an incredible job. Brad managed to double the enrollment from the previous year. Lorraine and Bob Hirst did the cooking and maintenance at the camp. We are very proud of you, Brad!

In October the Brúin Chapter hosted the Betel residents monthly birthday party. We sang for all the residents, served cake and visited with them. This is always a pleasure. We also resumed our monthly meetings for the winter in October.

In November we had a bake sale at Selkirk's Festival of Trees. This was a very successful fundraiser for our scholarships.

The winter months were spent preparing for our Sumardagurinn Fyrsti. This is our 117th year holding the concert. We were also preparing for the upcoming Icelandic National League of North America convention in Toronto.

I am very proud to say we had two new members join our club in the last year. Wanda Brandson from Lundar and Patsy Zdrill of West St. Paul have joined us. Welcome both of you, we are so happy to have you. We are always looking for new members and would like to add you to our list. We always have a lot of fun.

I hope you really enjoy the concert and coffee.

Maria Bear

President, Selkirk Brúin Chapter

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The annual membership fee is \$20 and new members are always welcome. We will happily accept new members at Sumardagurinn Fyrsti, just ask the ticket sales ladies to direct you to Laura Bear. Meetings take place the second Monday of the month at Chapter member's homes. The next meeting is at 7:30pm, May 10th at the home of Heather and Johann Schreiner. 131 Limousin Avenue, Lockport, phone 757-4952 for directions. Come out and join us as a guest to see if you would like to become a regular member.

CLUB EXECUTIVE ARE CURRENTLY:

President - Maria Bear
Vice-President - Heather Schreiner
Secretary - Lorraine Hirst
Treasurer - Laura Bear
Past-President - Brad Hirst

TRAVEL TALK

Gott kvold (Good evening)!

Last August I finally went on my first trip to Iceland! My daughter-in-law's Amma owns Marlin Travel in Selkirk and they organized a tour for August called "The Wonders of Iceland." This was a perfect time for me, being a teacher. My husband and my sister weren't able to go with me, but I wouldn't have to be alone. My son's mother- and grandmother-in-law and many more people from Selkirk and area would be part of this group. I was very excited!

I had an amazing trip! There were 50 people in our tour group and I made many new friends. It was 8 days and only covered the south part of Iceland, but WOW! It was so well organized and planned. There were times when I could experience things by myself, with another person, with a small group, with a large group and with the whole group.

International flights are an experience on their own, and I was sure thankful I had the support of friends to get me over this hurdle. As soon as the plane was over Iceland I was in awe! The view with the dramatic contrasting landscapes and terrain was almost unbelievable.

Our trip started and ended in Reykjavik, and we were there for their Culture Festival. What an amazing event as hundreds of additional people celebrated in the streets. Our tour guide gave us great educational and enlightening information about the country, the people and places we went to. We traveled to all of the tourist destinations of the Golden Circle: Thingvellir National Park (where the European and North American continental plates meet), Skaftafell, waterfalls, black sand beaches, and saw volcanic rock, glaciers, mud pots... so many places and interesting things. The local Icelanders we met were incredibly and genuinely helpful and thoughtful. We also stayed for 2 nights at a quaint inn at Vik (the area currently experiencing a volcanic eruption). I ate, saw and experienced many new and different things.

Iceland is an amazing country. I am so glad and proud that I went on my (first) trip there! I HAVE to go again... to the same places, but also to other areas of the country. I highly recommend this trip!

Bless,

Patsy Zdrill

(Laurence and Edith Johnson's daughter)

CLUB OBJECTIVES

Club objectives are to foster and promote good citizenship among people of Icelandic descent; to support Icelandic culture and heritage in various ways; to maintain associations with individuals and organizations which have similar purposes and objectives and to work as a Chapter of the Icelandic National League.

COMING EVENTS

The 91st Annual Icelandic National League of North America Convention will be held April 22-25, 2010 in Toronto. Brúin delegates are Maria Bear and Heather Schreiner. Johann Schreiner and Brad Hirst will also be attending. Brad will be making a presentation on the Icelandic Camp. Anyone wanting more information can visit the INL website at www.inlofna.org.

ICELANDIC CAMP

Spring looks like it is on its way in Manitoba, and with that comes the excitement of Icelandic Camp 2010.

Over the past several months a lot has been happening with our camp. We have developed an Executive Committee and have many of those positions filled with wonderful volunteers. Our new and improved website has absolutely everything you need to know about our Icelandic Camp. Visit us at www.icelandiccamp2010.com! Some people may notice that we have also had a name change. Many people remember The Icelandic Language and Culture Camp, it is now known simply as Icelandic Camp. This year we have incorporated the Icelandic title as well Íslenskar Sumarbúðir (thank you to David Gislason and Almar Grimsson for their translation assistance).

With all the new improvements to our camp we couldn't stop there. To top it all off we even developed a line of camp clothing featuring our brand new logo and sponsors. In the spring of 2010 we will be selling golf shirts, t-shirts, sweaters, hats and water bottles. A sample of all we have will be available online very soon.

All of this hard work would never have been possible without all the support we have received from our executive, Icelandic National League of North America clubs and the Icelandic Community as a whole. For all of your help I would like to extend my personal thanks. It is because of the tremendous support our camp receives that I love doing this job. We have finalized many of the details of this year's camp. The 2010 Icelandic Camp will take place Sunday, July 25th, 2010 – Friday, July 30th, 2010 at Camp Veselka. It is located just 2 miles north of Gimli, Manitoba, Canada along the shores of lovely Lake Winnipeg. Campers should arrive at 11:00 am on the Sunday, giving them time to settle in before we serve lunch. In honour of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic games Icelandic Camp will be holding their very own opening ceremonies. Parents are welcome to stay and attend the ceremony.

Our theme this year is "Famous Icelanders"! We will be learning all about four famous people from Iceland plus one famous person of Icelandic descent who have made a huge contribution to our local Icelandic Community. The campers will also be able to learn the Icelandic language, read some of the sagas, sing Icelandic songs and participate in many more cultural activities. They will also be able to enjoy all the other fun activities that come with summer camp. We offer volleyball, soccer, arts, crafts, field trips to Gimli, evening games, swimming and lots more. We at the Icelandic Camp have been busy trying to get our name out there. It is amazing how many people do not realize that there is an Icelandic camp out there. Watch for Icelandic Camp notices, ads and TV spots in the upcoming months in all major media outlets. However nothing works better than good old word of mouth advertising. I encourage you to help us spread the word about our camp.

If anyone is interested in making a donation to or helping out with the Camp, please contact me at 485-5455 or visit our website at:

www.icelandiccamp2010.com

Brad Hirst

IN MEMORIAM

Brúin Chapter would like to pay tribute to Neil Bardal, a man very well known in the Icelandic community. Neil was a member of Icelandic National League Chapters, a Past President of the Icelandic National League of North America and was the first recipient of the Laurence Johnson Award (our highest honour). Neil did a lot for the INL. If he saw something that needed doing, he just quietly got it done. Neil established great ties with Iceland. He was called upon many times by the Government of Iceland to make up itineraries for visitors from Iceland and to show them around when they came to Canada. Neil was an Honorary Consul for Iceland in Canada. and he suited the job very well. He had received The Order of The Falcon from The Government of Iceland. In recent years, Neil received a Lifetime Membership Award to The Icelandic National League of Iceland.

Neil became ill and recovered for a while. In autumn 2009, he found out he would not again get better. A reception was held in November honouring Neil with a huge crowd showing up. Neil passed away Feb.13, 2010. We have lost such an exceptional friend and mentor. He was a true ambassador (in every sense of the word) of our Icelandic Community and he strengthened the ties between Iceland and Canada. Neil will be sorely missed.

Rest in Peace, dear friend.

Maria Bear

THE GIMLI "BLAZIN' BUS TOUR"

Hi folks, I'm Johann and yes, it is my dear darling spouse who is the editor of this newsletter. Do you think the previous endearments will get me on her good side? I sure hope so! Well, my dear darling spouse asked me to submit a brief accounting of the Nýja Íslands Tour (New Iceland Tour) which included Gimli, Arnes, Magnusville, Hnausa, Hecla Island, Riverton and Arborg. It was an option at last year's INL Convention in Gimli. The adventure took place on May 1, 2009 and was a most interesting and enlightening tour of many sites of the Icelandic heritage I have come to know and love. I'm not Icelandic by descent but I have become Icelandic by osmosis! If you have not been to these sites of interest, make the time and go! The noteworthy comedy is what happened to the buses. There were 3 to begin with (2 big travel buses and 1 large handi-van). On the way back from Hecla, the tour stopped in Riverton for lunch. During the lunch break our big bus caught fire! (Something in the electrical system.) So then "we" had to do a walking tour of Riverton. Arrrg! The organizers decided they would shuttle people to Arborg utilizing the remaining 2 buses. We were very cozy and getting really well acquainted with the others packed into the handi-van on the way to Arborg, when we passed the other big bus broken down just east of town! (Cooling hose broke necessitating a shutdown!) Every conversation about the breakdowns quickly erupted into laughter as we were beginning to wonder if we'd need to walk back to Gimli! Following the Arborg Heritage Museum visit everyone was shuttled back to the convention in Gimli in cars of volunteers and the handi-van. Were we havin' fun!?! You bet, and the flaming and broken buses made for an amusing memory of the event.

Johann Schreiner