

ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF EDMONTON

FEBRUARY 2019



In the February newsletter:

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF EDMONTON Jón Bjarni Baldursson

Jón with Past President Donna Crozier, who has just coached him to make his first rúllupylsa!



Dear members,

Since the last newsletter, life has been very busy. The club had a successful and very enjoyable Christmas gathering, celebrating with traditional songs, dances, and a lot of Christmas goodies. It was especially great to see so many families and people of all ages participating. The Club has also welcomed a new Board member. Erla Anderson has accepted the position as Vice President of the club. Erla has been one of the leaders for the Kaffi Rabb program and we are all very pleased that she is joining the Board.

There are many people now planning for Porrablót on March 2nd. I have received a number of donated products from several generous Icelandic companies for door prizes and silent auction items. We are also planning music, dance, and games and doing our best to make this yet another Porrablót to remember. A ticket order form is enclosed or you can order through the club website.

The deadline for the 2019 Snorri program, both youth and Snorri Plus, has come and gone. Over the 20 years the Snorri program has been in existence, the Edmonton club has supported many youth to connect with their Icelandic heritage. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the program, a reunion will be taking place in Hofsos in July. This

will be an exciting event for those who can go and a celebration of an excellent program that has strengthened the ties between Canadians of Icelandic descent and Iceland.

Please do read down in the newsletter to find out more about Porrablót and about the club's other activities. All activities are undertaken by volunteers so if there is an activity that is especially dear to you, please consider volunteering to help! Contact information for all board members is given on the last page of the newsletter.

Hope to see you at Porrablót!

- Jón Bjarni Baldursson

2018 Christmas Gathering a Success

Club members filled the Nordic Room for the Christmas gathering on December 9th. The treats were plentiful and outstanding! Activities included children's Christmas crafts, poetry reading, traditional songs with actions and dances, door prizes, and a book exchange to remind us of the Icelandic love of literature, especially at Christmas. We also had a visit from the Yule Lads, as several young folk worked with Erla Anderson to put together a skit illustrating the pranks of the Yule Lads (Jólasveinar). They performed the skit twice! Finally a visit from Santa was appreciated by all and the children present each received a gift bag.

Many thanks to all who helped! Elizabeth Tanti for organizing the crafts; Armin, Erla, Bryndís, Halldor and Jón for leading the songs, dances, and poetry reading; to the youth who acted out the Jólasveinar story to the delight of all; to Svala Arnason Dunn for the donation of children's books in English with the story of the Yule Lads for the gift bags; and to Elliott Tanti for jolly Santa. Thanks also to all the board members and helpers who kept the coffee coming and got all the big and little tasks done as needed. Finally thank you to all the members who came with Christmas treats and books for the exchange. A club is a community and this was a wonderful community event.



Young actors dramatized the thirteen Yule Lads, while the famous poem by Jóhannes úr Kötlum was read out by Armann Ingolfsson. From left to right: Erla, Dan, Vala, Ari, Deniz, Ilmur, Aimée Rae, Jesse.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Þorrablót

(Thorablót)

**Saturday, March 2nd
International Room,
Dutch Canadian Centre
5:00 p.m.**

- 5:00 p.m. Icelandic appetizers and
Cash Bar
6:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions
6:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner (roast beef,
chicken, vegetarian)

Program to follow with dancing

To buy tickets: ONLINE - at the website
(www.iccedm.org)

BY MAIL – Mail a cheque made out to
the Icelandic Canadian Club
of Edmonton to:

Joedy Englesby
7407 – 82nd Street
Edmonton, AB
T6C 2X2

TICKETS: Adults \$35
Students (13-24) \$20
Youth (6-12) \$10
Children (0-5) \$5

Board meetings:

Second Tuesdays of most months at
6:30 p.m.
Next: February 12
Dutch Canadian Centre Boardroom

Past President Report

Donna Crozier

Concordia University- Cultural Day.

ICCE was invited to attend the annual cultural day hosted by Concordia. This provided ICCE an opportunity to talk about interesting facts about Iceland, answer questions and share some of our culture. This year there were 15 countries represented. There were many students, as well as members of the community on hand to share in the fun. Erla Anderson, Lorraine Ilnicki, Bryndis Thorarinsdottir and Donna Crozier attended the University, sharing Vínarterta, interesting facts about Iceland, Icelandic Yule Lads; the Icelandic flag, hardfiskur, and samples of knitted goods as well as a traditional Icelandic costume (Lorraine). Bryndís and Erla read a poem in Icelandic and provided the English translation, allowing students to hear the language.



*Donna, Erla, Lorraine and Bryndís
introducing students to Icelandic culture*

Rullupylsa workshop:

On January 30, 2019 ICCE hosted a workshop where we made a total of 27 Rullupylsa. The smell of spices and onions mixed with the laughter and

chatter, making it a very fun event. We had a couple of new people eager to try their hand and taste a traditional treat. Thanks to Carolyn and Ken Yu for establishing the contact for the lamb flanks; collecting cans and offering support. You will have a chance to try some of the Rúllupylsa at Porrablót. We will also be offering some traditional Hangikjöt so be sure to get your tickets early.



Rúllupylsa workshop – from left: Erin, Donna, Lorraine, Jón, Elizabeth



A beautiful rúllupylsa!



KRISTJAN SVEINSSON BSc., D.C.

DOCTOR OF CHIROPRACTIC

#6,5304 - 50th Street
Leduc, AB T9E 6Z6

Tel: (780) 986-8488
Fax: (780) 986-8489

ICELANDIC LIBRARY

The Icelandic library is a part of the Scandinavian Library in Edmonton, and is located at 15212 – 117 Avenue.



The library is usually open on Saturday mornings, hosted by either the Danes or ICCE. You are welcome to come and explore and borrow some of our many books. Please contact Donna Crozier at donnagc@datacardalberta.com if you would like to access the library at a time other than Saturdays. A collection of books by Icelandic authors both in English and Icelandic is available for reference and check-out by club members.

The Library position on the ICCE Board is currently vacant. Michelle Braakman and Donna Crozier are managing the library until a new librarian is found. If this is an interest for you, please consider talking to a board member about volunteering to help out.

SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Lorraine Ilnicki is the ICCE representative among the six members of the Icelandic section of the Scandinavian Heritage Society board.

The group annually puts together a display and menu for the hugely popular Edmonton Heritage Festival. The group is looking at menu changes for the Heritage Festival, for example possibly having pylsur made, to showcase

different Scandinavian foods and update and help maintain interest in the booth.

Meetings of the Society take place the last Tuesday of the month and club members are welcome to attend. Contact Lorraine Ilnicki for meeting details. There will be a callout for volunteers in June to assist with the Heritage Festival.

Board members needed

Treasurer: ICCE is recruiting for a Treasurer for our AGM in October, 2019. Michele Braakman, who has been our very dedicated treasurer for some time will be stepping down due to work commitments so has asked us to begin the process as soon as possible so she can mentor the new treasurer in advance of the AGM. If you have some accounting skills and are interested please contact Jón Bjarni Baldersson or Michelle Braakman to discuss the position.

Secretary or Newsletter Editor: Pat Dunn has been fulfilling both positions (and enjoying them both) but she would give one up to an interested volunteer. If either position interests you, please contact Pat for more information.

Keeping in Touch

Club member Joanne Olafson passed away on January 14, 2019. Joanne was a longtime member of ICCE, past president and past Fjallkona. A memorial service was held on January 19 at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. Our sincere condolences go out to Joanne's family.

KEEPING IN TOUCH MEMBERSHIPS

The club is up to about 140 members as of January. Gloria is Membership Chair and if you have not heard from her, your membership is up to date.

- Individual membership is \$15 per year.
- Couple / Family is \$30 per year. Children under age 18 are included with your family membership.

Pay via Paypal at:

<http://iccedm.org/category/membership/>

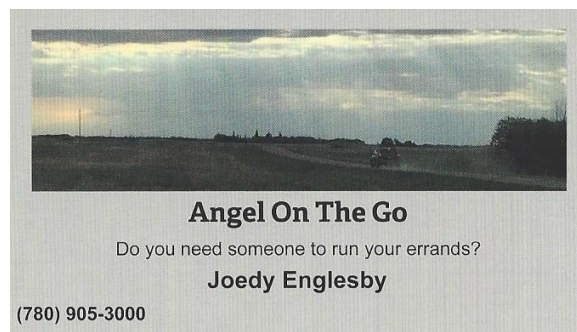
Or mail a cheque payable to "Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton" to:

Gloria Krenbrenk
#515, 10160 – 114 Street NW
Edmonton AB T5K 2L2

Any questions contact Gloria at 780-668-9166 or gkrenbrenk@gmail.com.



Advertisement for Del Sveinsson, Realtor. The image features a portrait of Del Sveinsson on the left. To the right, there are logos for 'ULTIMATE SERVICE', 'COLDWELL BANKER', and 'HAIDA REALTY Leduc, Alberta'. Below these logos, the text reads 'DEL SVEINSSON REALTOR® (780) 986-4711'. At the bottom, a small line of text states 'Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.'



Advertisement for Joedy Englesby. The top half of the image shows a landscape with a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. Below the image, the text reads 'Angel On The Go' in a large, bold font. Underneath that, in a smaller font, is 'Do you need someone to run your errands?'. Below that is the name 'Joedy Englesby' in a bold font. At the bottom, the phone number '(780) 905-3000' is listed.

KAFFI RABB

Kaffi Rabb (Coffee Chat) classes on Icelandic Language and Culture are being led by the skilled and

knowledgeable Erla Anderson, Armann Ingolfsson, Bryndís Þorarinsdóttir and Halldór Þorgeirson.

In addition to Icelandic vocabulary, pronunciation, and language, Kaffi Rabb participants are learning Icelandic songs and poems and have the opportunity to discuss Icelandic history, myths, and culture.



*Armann, Erla, Halldor, and Bryndís
at Kaffi Rabb*

The Kaffi Rabb Facebook page has links to several Icelandic learning resources, including tungumlatorg.is, which is the curriculum we are following in the class. You might like to check these out. Online you can find several free online language learning resources,

and don't forget video channels such as Youtube for Icelandic content. An excellent resource called Pronunciator is available through the Edmonton Public Library and Strathcona County Library. This comprehensive site teaches vocabulary, phrases, and pronunciation.

In preparation for Þorrablót, the Kaffi Rabb students are learning the chorus of the song *Ólafur Liljirós*. Ólafur encounters an elf queen while riding – and such encounters often don't go well. If you think you'd like to be able to sing along at Þorrablót, search for the song on Youtube and practise the chorus!

The Kaffi Rabb students are enormously grateful for the care and expertise of the volunteer instructors. Language is absolutely central to a culture and we are very lucky to have the opportunity to learn Icelandic so far from Iceland itself.

Kaffi Rabb class



Kaffi Rabb Sessions

WHERE: Scandinavian Library, 15212 -117 Ave
WHEN: 11:00 – 13:00 About two Saturdays per month - confirm with Facebook page
TO REGISTER: on the Facebook page or contact Erla at info@iccedm.org

THE TRADITION OF THORRABLOT (ÞORRABLÓT)

Þorrablót is an Icelandic midwinter festival, named for the month of *Þorri* of the historical Icelandic calendar (for 2019, January 25 to February 24). The historical context is from the *Orkneyinga* saga, where *Þorri* (Frost) is an early Finnish king, the son of *Snær* (Snow). The modern festival arose in the second half of the 19th century, with the Romantic nationalism of the time, comparable to Burns night in Scotland. The first known celebration was reportedly organised by the association of Icelandic students in Copenhagen in 1873 and by other societies active in the Icelandic independence movement of the time.

Þorrablót gained wide publicity starting in 1958, when a *Reykjavík* restaurant, called *Naustið*, began offering a platter of foods that were once common in the Icelandic countryside, but had become rare. The food was arranged in slices on a wood trough made in the likeness of old troughs on display in the National Museum of Iceland. The restaurant advertised this platter as *Þorramatur*, linking it to the tradition of the *Þorrablót*. The idea caught on, and the serving of *Þorramatur* has become a defining feature of *Þorrablót*.

Þorrablót is an evening with dinner where participants give speeches and recite poems, originally to honour the Norse god *Þórr* (Thor), whose name is associated with *Þorri*. Traditional dances such as the *viki vaki* circle dance are featured. Calling the feast a *blót* (a feast held in honor of a god in Norse paganism) makes a clear link to pagan times, which many nationalists of the 19th century considered a golden age of Icelandic history. Today *Þorrablót* is common among Icelanders everywhere and can be anything from an informal dinner with friends and family to large organised events with stage performances and an after-dinner dance.

Þorramatur (food of *Þorri*) is a selection of traditional Icelandic food, consisting mainly of meat and fish products cured in a traditional manner, cut into slices or pieces and served with *rúgbrauð* (dense and dark rye bread), butter and *brennivín* (an Icelandic akvavit). *Þorramatur* is eaten during the month of *Þorri* (Thorri), in January and February, particularly at the mid-winter feast of *Þorrablót* (Thorrablót) as a tribute to old culture. Not many traditional *Þorrablót* delicacies are available in Canada but we will have some dishes as well as Icelandic beers available for participants to try at the ICCE dinner on March 2nd.

Þorramatur

Hákarl, fermented shark.

Hrútspungar, the testicles of rams pressed in blocks, boiled and cured in lactic acid.

Svið, singed and boiled sheep heads, sometimes cured in lactic acid.

Sviðasulta, head cheese or brawn made from *svið*, sometimes cured in lactic acid.

Lifrarpylsa (liver sausage), a pudding made from liver and suet of sheep kneaded with rye flour and oats.

Blóðmör (blood-suet; also known as *slátur* lit. 'slaughter'), a type of blood pudding made from lamb's blood and suet kneaded with rye flour

Harðfiskur, -dried fish (often cod, haddock or sea wolf), served with butter.

Rúgbrauð (rye bread), traditional Icelandic rye bread.

Hangikjöt, (hung meat), smoked and boiled lamb or mutton, sometimes also eaten raw. eat from the sides, pressed cured in lactic acid.

Selshreifar, seal's flippers cured in lactic acid.

Hvalur, whale blubber pickled in sour milk.

Rófustappa, mashed turnips

Skál!



Snorri Program 2019

The Snorri deadline for 2019 was January 9th and has passed for this year. Selection is underway for 2019 participants.



SNORRI PROGRAM 20 YEAR REUNION

The Snorri Program began in 1999, and will turn 20 in 2019! Anyone who has been a part of the Snorri Program, is invited to attend the **Snorri Program Reunion July 22-24, 2019 in Hofsos, Iceland!** For more information, check the Snorri website at snorri.is, or, Tanya at info@iccedm.org.

ICCE Student Bursaries

The Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton is proud to be able to support education and youth, both through supporting the Snorri program and by providing bursaries for post-secondary education. Each year the ICCE awards up to 10 bursaries of \$2000 each to students whose families are club members.

For more information on the bursary program, please contact Tanya at info@iccedm.org. 2019 deadlines are not until August 15th.

UPCOMING NORDIC EVENTS IN EDMONTON

Sibelius Festival

The Winspear is hosting a Sibelius Festival sponsored by the Finnish Society of Edmonton. On February 22 and 23rd, cultural events including Finnish dances and readings from the Kalevala will take place as part of the festival. Look for the Sibelius Festival on the Winspear website for more details.

The Vikings are Coming!

From April 18 until October 20, 2019, the Royal Alberta Museum will host the Canadian premiere of an exhibit called *The Vikings: Beyond the Legend* from the National Museum of Denmark. The exhibit includes three Viking warships, unique artifacts and clothing, multimedia, participatory experiences, and more. Tickets will be on sale through the Royal Alberta Museum.

2018 - 2019 ICCE EXECUTIVE

President	Jón Bjarni Baldursson	president@iccedm.org
Vice-President	Erla Anderson	info@iccedm.org
Past President	Donna Crozier	info@iccedm.org
Secretary	Pat Dunn	info@iccedm.org
Treasurer	Michelle Braakman	info@iccedm.org

Casino	Elizabeth Tanti	info@iccedm.org
Heritage Society	Lorraine Ilnicki 780-454-1710	info@iccedm.org
Keeping in Touch	Joedy Englesby 780-905-3000	info@iccedm.org
Library	Vacant (Michelle Braakman)	info@iccedm.org
Membership	Gloria Krenbrenk 780-668-9166	gkrenbrenk@gmail.com
Newsletter	Vacant (Pat Dunn) 780-922-5061	info@iccedm.org
Phones	Barb Beirnes 780-424-2690	n/a
Snorri & Bursaries	Tanya Hofforth	info@iccedm.org
Social Events	Vacant	
Social Media	Michelle Braakman/Matt Gaudet	info@iccedm.org

Director at Large	Jodine Chase	info@iccedm.org
Director at Large	Susan Hallett 780-471-0082	info@iccedm.org

Auditors	Del Sveinsson Bev Arason-Gaudet
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DUTCH CANADIAN CENTRE
Is located at 13212 – 142 Street EDMONTON AB

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
AT [HTTP://ICCEDM.ORG](http://iccedm.org) FOR MORE NEWS AND UPDATES

 [Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton](#)
 [icce kaffi rabb](#)



Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton

Annual Þorrablot

Saturday, March 2, 2019

Dutch Canadian Centre/Home of the Scandinavians

13312 – 142 Street, Edmonton

TICKET ORDER FORM

Please make cheques payable to the ICCE

Get your tickets early; tickets will not be available at the door.

Name	Adult \$35	Student (13-24) \$20	Youth (6 to 10) \$10	Child (0 to 5) \$5	Amount

Total:

Cash bar 5:00 pm, Buffet dinner 6:30 pm, Program to Follow with Dancing

Please mail this ticket order form and your cheque by **Monday, February 25 th** to:

ICCE Þorrablot Tickets, c/o Joedy Englesby, 7407 82st NW, Edmonton, AB T6C 2X2

Phone: 780-905-3000; email: membership@iccedmonton.org

- ☐ Please check here for confirmation of your ticket order by phone
(780)_____ (phone number)
- ☐ Please check here for confirmation of your ticket order by email
_____ (email)
- ☐ Please check here your willingness to help with set up and/or cleanup of the hall

Payment of your ticket will hold your space; you will be required to check-in at the door at which time you can enter your name into the door prize draws. Tickets will not be available for purchase at the door; all tickets must be prepaid by February 25th so that we can inform the caterer of meal requirements.

We hope to see everyone in March!

