

NORÐURLJÓS

ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF EDMONTON



December 2019

Gleðileg Jól!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Icelandic Club members,

We have come now to the most festive season of the year. It is a time to celebrate with our families and also to celebrate our family histories and memories of Christmases past. As you will read in this newsletter, Christmas is a very special time in Iceland, as it is here in Canada. Iceland has its own Christmas folk tales, traditions, foods, and songs. Iceland's unique Christmas traditions include the Christmas Cat, the Jólasveinar, and the Christmas book flood. We are planning a fun Christmas Gathering – Litlu Jól – to celebrate our Icelandic Christmas heritage and hope you will join us and learn some Icelandic Christmas songs and dances. Read on in the newsletter for further information on this event.

We had a well-attended AGM on November 2nd. The club had a good year, offering several successful events. Club members met and hosted visiting Icelanders and represented our

community at heritage events, including the Edmonton Heritage Festival with other members of the Scandinavian community, where our pavilion won three awards. We supported three young people to participate in the Snorri Program in Iceland in 2019 and provided seven \$2000 bursaries to deserving students.

Many of our activities are supported through funds we earn through volunteering at casinos. We have this opportunity every two years and have been allotted two days at Century Casino in January. Read in the newsletter how to volunteer for this important fundraising opportunity for the club.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Gleðileg Jól og farsælt komandi ár! I look forward to celebrating together at Litlu Jól.

○ Jón Bjarni Baldursson

Christmas Gathering – Litlu Jól – Event Information

The club will host its annual Christmas Gathering – Litlu Jól – on Sunday, December 15 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the International Hall. Last year's event was fun filled and lively! We will learn some Icelandic Christmas songs and have a visit from the Jólasveinar. We will also, as last year, have a book exchange in commemoration of the Icelandic Jólábókafloð tradition and our vast literary heritage.

Litlu Jól is a free event. The club will provide light snacks and coffee. We ask members who are attending:

1. Kindly let us know if you are bringing children under 12, as we will provide a gift bag for each child and need to know the numbers.
2. Please bring a dessert or Christmas treat for sharing.
3. Please bring a new or gently used book in good condition for the book exchange. The book should not be wrapped, but you can decorate it with ribbon and a gift tag to be festive. It would be great if you can bring a book with an Icelandic theme, or by an Icelandic or Icelandic-Canadian author! Children attending can bring a child's book to be exchanged with other children. If you don't wish to participate in the book exchange that is fine too.

We are looking forward to another enjoyable event in the best Icelandic tradition! If you would like more information or to RSVP regarding the kids, please drop a line to me (patdunn001@gmail.com) or to info@iccedm.org.



*Advent lights and
Christmas lights of all
kinds are welcome in
the dark season of
winter*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Christmas Gathering
Litlu Jól
Sunday, December 15th
1–3 p.m. International Hall

ICCE Casino
January 25–26
Further info to be provided

Porrablót
February 29, 2020
International Hall

ICCE Board meetings:
Second Tuesdays of most months
6:30 p.m.
Dutch Canadian Centre Boardroom
Next meeting: January 14th
*Meetings are open to all members.
Contact any board member if you plan to
come in case there has been a change to
the meeting date or location.*

Library Hours:
Saturday mornings, or by arrangement
with Donna Crozier

Scandinavian Heritage Society:
January 21, February 25

*For more information, contact any
board member.*

Icelandic Canadian Club Casino

The Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton is scheduled for a casino on **January 25th and 26th**. The funds that we receive each time we volunteer at a casino are considerable and are the mainstay of our special programming such as supporting the Snorri Program, providing bursaries, and many cultural activities and performances.

The club normally is given a casino opportunity every two years. Please consider if you can volunteer for one of the many positions. We will be at the Century Casino, 13103 Fort Road. Several shifts and positions will be required at different times of the day and night.

We will send out an email in December seeking volunteers for specific positions and providing further information.

Scandinavian Heritage Society



The Scandinavian Heritage Society of Edmonton meets monthly, usually the last Tuesday of the month, except for the January meeting in 2020. All are welcome to join us for any of these meetings. We are beginning to plan for the 2020 Heritage Festival and have already booked some dates for work bees to prepare for the festival. Mark your calendars if you can help out! And don't worry, we will be providing reminders to members as the date gets closer! Work bees are scheduled for baking vinarterta (June 24th), piirakka (July 15th) and riskrem (July 29th). Further details will be posted in the New Year.

Thanks again to our Icelandic Club Members who agreed to serve on the SHSE Board again this year: Brian Sveinbjornson, Allison Boychuk, Ken and Carolyn Yu, Coleen Taylor.

Laufabrauð



Annual General Meeting

The club's AGM was held on November 2nd. New board members since our last AGM include Marty Anderson as Treasurer, Elizabeth Tanti is taking on the Social Events role, and Elliott Tanti is taking on the Social Media role as well as Casinos. Thank you to all who attended! The club is up to 177 members as of the AGM. For the full slate of officers and their contact information, please refer to the back page of this newsletter.

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 collection of books by Icelandic authors both in English and Icelandic. Please contact Donna Crozier at donnagc@datacardalberta.com if you would like to access the library at a time other than Saturdays.

The library liaison board position is currently vacant. If this interests you, please contact any board member for more information. In the board's recent meeting with Professor Birna Bjarnadóttir, she donated several books to the Icelandic library, including a biography of Stephan G. Stephansson. These books will be available for loan once they have been accessioned.

MEMBERSHIPS

If your membership expires at the end of 2019, you will receive a reminder, either by mail or email.

- 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.

Jólabókaflóð

Each year before Christmas, a list of newly published books, Bókatíðindi, is mailed out across Iceland. The annual wave of books published at this time is called the Christmas book flood, Jólabókaflóðið. Most people will get books for Christmas! 2019 is turning out to be a record year for books published in Icelandic. It is said the best way to enjoy your new Christmas books is curled up comfortably with some chocolate. Most of us would certainly agree.



Snorri Program 2020



The Snorri Program is a unique opportunity for young people (18–28) of Icelandic origin living in Canada and the United States, to discover their roots in a six-week summer program in Iceland. Please go to the Snorri Program website for more information and the application form: <http://www.snorri.is>. Please contact Tanya Hofforth with the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton if you are interested in applying, as there are grants available from the ICCE for this program. Tanm77@hotmail.com.

Please note the deadline to apply is January 8th, 2020.

Snorri Plus 2020 is a two-week cultural program in August for those over 30. **Deadline: January 31st, 2020.**

See below for more information on the unique and exciting Snorri programs.

THE SNORRI PROGRAMS



Become a 2020 Snorri - have the Adventure of a Lifetime!

Strengthening the bonds between people of Icelandic descent in North America and the people of Iceland.

Snorri

For whom? People of Icelandic descent, 18 – 28 years of age

When? 5 weeks beginning June 16 – July 17, 2020

Why? Because it will change your life!

Application deadline: January 9, 2020 – Scholarships and grants available! <http://www.snorri.is/snorri.html>

Snorri Plus

For whom? People of Icelandic descent age 30 and over; their spouses, family and friends

When? 2 weeks - August 13 – August 28, 2020

Why? Because this trip is much more than you could ever imagine... experience your Icelandic heritage on a whole different level!

Application deadline: January 16, 2020

<http://www.snorri.is/snorri-plus.html>

Snorri West – Minnesota, North Dakota, Manitoba in 2020

For whom? Young Icelanders ages 18 – 28 years

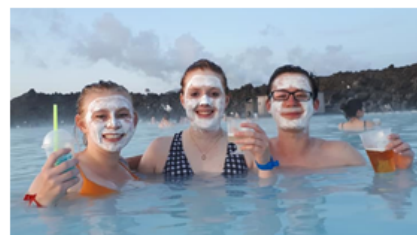
When? 4 weeks - tentatively July 10 – August 7, 2020

Why? Because Icelandic traditions and spirit remain strong in the world of Western Icelanders!

Application deadline: February 22, 2020

<http://www.snorri.is/snorri-west.html>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/snorriprogram/
<https://www.facebook.com/snorriwest/>



SNORRI ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

Snorri Internship at Hofsós Emigration Center

For whom? Any alumni of the Snorri or Snorri Plus programs

When? Up to 12 weeks beginning week of June 7 – 15, 2020

What? Volunteer with the dedicated team of the Emigration Center welcoming guests from all around the world and helping to fulfill the Center's mission work. Assist on research projects developed in conjunction with the US or Canadian Embassies to help promote the strong cultural bonds between Iceland, Canada and the United States.

Travel expenses, lodging, insurance and stipend included.

Application deadline: November 29, 2019

<http://www.snorri.is/snorri-alumni-internship.html>

Christmas in Iceland

Contributed by Erla Anderson

Christmas in Iceland (or Yule/Jól) starts four Sundays before Christmas proper, which begins on December 24 (Advent) and ends thirteen days later on January 6.

Traditionally, one candle is lit each Sunday until four candles are lit on the 24th. At 6:00 pm church on Christmas Eve bells ring to start the Christmas celebration. The religiously observant and/or traditional Icelanders will attend mass at this time while the secular Icelanders will begin their holiday meal immediately. After the meal is finished, they open gifts and spend the evening together. In Iceland people over the Yule holidays most often eat smoked lamb, ptarmigan and turkey. Pork is also very popular.

The Yule Lads

December 12: Stekkjastaur (Sheep-Cote Clod)
December 13: Giljagaur (Gully Gawk)
December 14: Stúfur (Stubby)
December 15: Þvörusleikir (Spoon-Licker)
December 16: Pottasleikir (Pot-licker)
December 17: Askasleikir (Bowl-licker)
December 18: Hurðaskellir (Door-Slammer)
December 19: Skyrgámur (Skyr-Gobbler)
December 20: Bjúgnakrækir (Sausage-Swiper)
December 21: Gluggagægir (Window-Peeper)
December 22: Gáttaflefur (Doorway-Sniffer)
December 23: Ketkrókur (Meat-Hook)
December 24: Kertasníkir (Candle-Stealer)

Thirteen days before December 24 children will leave their shoes by the window so that the Yule Lads can leave small gifts in their shoes. The Yule Lads are the sons of two trolls living in the Icelandic mountains. Each of the Yule Lads is known for a different kind of mischief (for example slamming

doors, stealing meat, stealing milk or eating the candles). The Yule Lads traditionally wear early Icelandic wool clothing but are now known for the more recognizable red and white suit.

Each home typically sets up a Christmas tree indoors in the living room with most decorating it on December 11. In addition to the decorations, presents are put underneath the tree. It is also a tradition in many homes to boil skate on the 23rd. The day is called Saint Thorlak Mass (Þorláksmessa).

During the holiday season, it is traditional for families to work together to bake small cookies to serve or give to guests. Most common are thin gingerbread cookies which are decorated in many different colors of glaze. Many families also follow the tradition of making Laufabrauð (Leafbread), which is a flat thin bread that is cut out using a special tool and folding technique.

The end of year is divided between two days – the Old Year's Day (Gamlársdagur) and the New Year's Day (Nýársdagur). At the night of the former and morning of the latter Icelanders shoot up fireworks blowing the old year away and welcoming the new one.



*New Year's
Eve
fireworks
over
Reykjavík
(photo
Rúnar
Hjartar)*

Thirteen days after the 24th Icelanders say goodbye to the Yule Lads and other mystical creatures such as elves and trolls. There are bonfires held throughout the country while the elves, Yule Lads, and Icelanders dance together before saying goodbye until the next Christmas. This celebration is known elsewhere as Epiphany Day.

Christmas Songs

Here are a couple of songs that are popularly sung at Christmas.
Find these titles on YouTube to hear the tunes and practise for Litlu Jól!

Adam átti syni sjö

Adam átti syni sjö Sjö syni átti Adam. Adam elskaði alla þá Og alla elskuðu Adam. Hann sáði, hann sáði Hann klappaði saman lófnum Stappaði niður fótunum Ruggaði sér í lendunum Og snéri sér í hring.	Adam had seven sons, Seven sons had Adam. Adam loved all of them And they all loved Adam. He sowed, he sowed He clapped his palms, Stamped his feet, Swayed his hips, And turned around.
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This song is sung while performing actions matching the lyrics.

Í skóginum stóð kofi einn

Í skóginum stóð kofi einn Sat við gluggan jólasveinn Þá kom lítið héraskinn, Sem vildi komast inn. „Jólasveinn, ég treysti á þig, Veiðimaður skýtur mig!“ „Komdu litla héraskinn, Því ég er vinur þinn.“	In the forest there was a little hut A jólasveinn sat by the window There came a little hare, Who wanted to come inside. “Jólasveinn, I rely on you, The hunter is shooting at me!” “Come little hare, Because I am your friend.”
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2019–2020 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	Martin Anderson		info@iccedm.org
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Library	Vacant (Donna Crozier)		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	Elizabeth Tanti		info@iccedm.org
Social Media	Elliott Tanti		info@iccedm.org
Casino	Elliott Tanti		info@iccedm.org
Director at Large	Jodine Chase		info@iccedm.org
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Auditors	Del Sveinsson		
	Bev Arason-Gaudet		

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 AND
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