

NORÐURLJÓS
ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF EDMONTON



April 2020

CONTENTS

President's Message – Page 1

Mark Your Calendars! – Page 3

Remembrances – Page 5

Feature: Learning Icelandic in Reykjavik – page 6

Board contact information – Page 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Icelandic Club members,

This newsletter is coming out at a time of enormous global crisis and disruption. We are all aware of the world-wide issues concerning the Covid19 global pandemic virus and the request by our politicians and public health care system to remain isolated and to stay safe. Sadly we need to postpone our next event, which is the celebration of Icelandic National Day on June 17th.

To try to cheer us in our isolation, this issue is focussed on community and ways that our club celebrates our Icelandic heritage and maintains our connection to our roots and to each other. You will find a review of our very successful Thorrablot event on February 29th, one of the club's annual events celebrating our common heritage. You will also find memorials for two distinguished figures, Mr. Norman Nordal and Dr. Ken Domier, who contributed greatly to Scandinavian and Icelandic communities in Edmonton. We have a feature from a young man who went to Iceland for a winter to learn about the Icelandic language and culture. We have a successful Snorri applicant who will be supported by our club in an experience that will be one of the most memorable in her life. These stories all represent strengths of our Icelandic community and are among ways in which our club has nurtured links to our heritage.

As a club, we are here for one another. Icelanders have weathered many crises and catastrophes throughout their long history. We are a tough people who have survived because we support one another. Please let us know if you need to talk and/or are in need of some support. See page 7 for more information on this.

We do not know what the future holds or when we can get together again, but I could not put it better than was expressed by Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, president of Iceland as quoted in the last issue of Lögberg-Heimskringla:

Ultimately, we will conquer the virus and its effect on our societies. Let us look forward to a future where free citizens can again converge and cooperate, travel and enjoy each other's company, to the benefit of all humankind.

Stay safe and take care.

- Jón Bjarni Baldursson

Thorablót

The club's annual celebration of Thorablót saw about 130 attendees come together to sing and dance, enjoy rousing music from Cheryl and Vic Laxdal, shop at a silent auction, taste Icelandic beers and traditional foods, and enjoy each other's company. We sampled hákarl, rullupýlsa, hangikjöt, rugbrauð, skýr, and harðfiskur. We danced to *Tvö skref til hægri* and *Höfuð, herðar, hné og tær*. We also enjoyed the infamous hat dance, where everyone dances in a circle and when the music stops, you have to have a hat on your head or you are out. Song sheets were provided and several other traditional songs were sung, including *Í Hlidarendakoti*; *Á Sprengisandi*; and *Sá Eg Spóa* (you can find all the above tunes on Youtube if you would like a recap!)

Once again it was a great event that brought together the best of our heritage: foods that have nourished Icelanders for a thousand years, traditional songs, and best of all, the people who share this common heritage. Icelanders have faced catastrophe at many points in their history, from volcanic eruptions to the devastating shock of having to adapt to life in a new world in North America. Strong community life and support for each other have helped us rise above hard times in the past and will always do so. *Skál* to all!

Thorablót:

At left: Ilmur and Jessica on the dance floor

Below: Donna and Lorraine - each year volunteers make enough rullupýlsa for the event for all to share.

Right: Pat and Sam



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Icelandic National Day June 17, 2020

We have cancelled this in-person event at the Dutch Canadian Centre.

Stay tuned for an opportunity to share with club members how you will celebrate Icelandic National Day.

ICCE Board meetings:

Second Tuesdays of most months
6:30 p.m.

Next meeting: April 14, 2020

Meetings are open to all members. At this time, meetings are being held by Zoom videoconference. If you wish to attend please contact a board member for details.

Please note the Scandinavian Library is currently closed.

MEMBERSHIPS

- 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.

Thank you to Casino volunteers!

On January 25 and 26th, 2020, members of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton showed their true grit and came out to volunteer for the bi-annual casino fund raising event.

As the person responsible for the scheduling I want to say that the members of our club made my job pretty easy.

I want to say thank you to all the members and friends who came out to volunteer and also to all those who graciously put their names forward to help but for one reason or another couldn't make it work this time. No worries, there is always another opportunity. Isn't it a wonderful thing when you have more volunteers than you can schedule.

This year our casino was very successful in increasing the community fundraising coffers. To date we have not received information about what our share will be as this is determined by AGLC.

These funds are very important to our club as a large portion of the money raised from the casino is used to support the Bursary

and Snorri programs. A commitment to education and the increased knowledge of our Icelandic heritage is of significant value to our club.

Thank you again for the continued support of our club.

- Liz Tanti

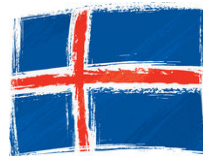


Scandinavian Heritage Society

Planning is continuing towards the 2020 Heritage Festival, in the hope that by August, when it is scheduled to take place, public gatherings will once again be permitted and safe. The Scandinavian Heritage Society has booked some dates for work bees to prepare for the festival. Work bees are scheduled for baking vinarterta (June 24th), piirakka (July 15th) and riskrem (July 29th). If these change, we will advise our members.

BURSARY DEADLINE

The club awards up to 10 bursaries of \$2,000 each, to post-secondary students whose families are members of the club. To apply, students need to fill out an application form, available from the website or from Tanya. Applicants must provide two letters of reference, their latest transcripts, and proof of enrolment to the post secondary institution. Documents must be emailed to Tanya (tanm77@hotmail.com or info@iccedm.org) to meet the **August 15, 2020** deadline. We would also appreciate a photo as we would like to feature successful applicants in the newsletter.



2020 Snorri Program

Congratulations to Megan Veldhuis, who has been accepted into the Snorri 2020 program! The ICCE is proud to provide support for Megan to attend the program this summer. We are keeping our fingers crossed that it can proceed as normal and that our current health crisis will have passed.

Congratulations again from the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton, and we wish you a wonderful experience in Iceland!



Online Icelandic Learning Resources

Do you have a little time on your hands these days? There are several FREE online courses for learning Icelandic, varying from easy vocabulary exercises to full-on grammar courses. Here are some that our members have tried and liked:

- *Tungumalatorg.is* – several courses are posted here at different levels, try *Viltu Læra Íslenska's* videos or *Íslenska fyrir alla*.
- *Icelandiconline.com* – A full-on university level course in learning Icelandic.
- *Pronunciator.com* – Drills for speaking, listening, and improving vocabulary and pronunciation
- *Youtube.com* – Youtube hosts many video series on languages – just search for Icelandic and see what you find!
- As you start to improve, check out *RUV.IS*, the national Icelandic broadcaster to hear and see the language spoken. Keep Google Translate open as you learn!

There are many other resources out there but these are good ones to start with. Have fun!

Remembrances



Dr. Ken Domier

Norman Gudmundur Nordal

The ICCE lost a well-loved member and dedicated volunteer this winter. On January 16, 2020 Norman Gudmundur Nordal passed away after a long battle with kidney disease in the Grey Nuns Hospital in Edmonton.

Norman was born in 1933 to Sigurlaug and Bjarni Nordal in Lundar, Manitoba. He married Elinora Vestmann in 1959 and they celebrated their 60th anniversary in October, 2019.

Norman was raised on a farm in Lundar, Manitoba. In retirement he and Elinora moved to Alberta to be closer to family. Norman was proud of his Icelandic heritage and was a member of the Scandinavian center in both Winnipeg and Edmonton. In 2000, Norman and Elinora fulfilled a lifelong dream and moved to Iceland for a year to immerse themselves in the culture. Norman enjoyed wood and leather work and music, but most of all he enjoyed having a cup of coffee and talking to friends and family.

Norman was an active member of ICCE, attending many events and volunteering on the phoning committee for several years. He enjoyed speaking to people. Many club members spoke to Norman on the phone over time and will remember him as a friendly representative of the club.

He was a quiet and selfless man and could be counted on to be true to his word. He will be remembered with honour and respect.

Excerpt from the Winnipeg Free Press, Jan 21, 2020

Kenneth Domier, a longtime, completely devoted supporter of Scandinavian societies, passed away on March 7th. Many Icelandic Club members will have known Ken as a strong advocate for Scandinavian culture in Alberta.

Ken was a very active, passionate, committed and leading member of the Sons of Norway, Solglyt Lodge for over forty years. He also played a vital role as a president, director, trustee, historian, member, or supporter of many other organizations in Canada with similar goals. These ranged from the Torskeklubben and Scandinavian Heritage Society of Edmonton to Scandinavian Trade and Culture and the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada among numerous others. The Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton is only one of the Scandinavian associations to have benefited from his involvement. Even into his eighties, his passion, guidance, and commitment for and to these organizations never wavered. Without Ken's force, many of these groups would have faltered or failed. Ken spent considerable time and effort chronicling information about the early Norwegian settlers to Western Canada, taking on the responsibility of trying to preserve the history of the early Scandinavians in Alberta. In 2019 Dr. Domier was awarded the Sankt (Saint) Olav's medal



by His Majesty King Harald V of Norway for his contributions to retain and encourage Norwegian heritage and cultural traditions of Norway in North America. His extensive and enthusiastic service to the Norwegian and Scandinavian communities in Edmonton will be missed and never replicated.

Contributed by Donna Crozier

A Winter in Reykjavik **Learning Icelandic**

For the winter of 2018/2019, Cullen Hutchison, from Athabasca, attended the University of Iceland in Reykjavik as a full-time student learning Icelandic. Cullen has a degree from the University of Alberta in Environmental Science and is a past recipient of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton student bursary. Cullen's Amma Svala Arnason Dunn is a lifetime member of the ICCE.

I applied and was accepted into the *Icelandic as a Second Language Practical Diploma*, an 8 month program and attended over the winter of 2018/2019. A bachelor degree is also offered. Scholarships are



Cullen (right) unexpectedly showed up in a Distance Learning promotion for Háskóla Íslands



available for the program, but I didn't apply for one.

Classes covered grammar, speech, and pronunciation with small groups for the speech lessons. We started speaking right away and often had assignments where we had to record a conversation with an Icelander, at a grocery store or cafe. We had a ton of grammar charts to learn from that needed practice and memorization.

"Why Iceland?" is a question I was frequently asked during the winter I spent there. One can certainly see the appeal in heading there during the summer months, when the weather is slightly less cantankerous and the days are long enough to truly appreciate the scenery.

Iceland in the winter is another story altogether. Things get quiet in a country that only gets three to four hours of sunlight per day but that does not mean there is nothing going on. It's like the country itself becomes a reflection of its people: quiet on the surface, but with lots going on underneath. Icelanders may seem quiet or shy compared to North Americans when you first meet them, but you soon realize that although they often speak softly, Icelanders have a sly sense of humour and can get up to all kinds of respectable mischief.



Cullen was able to get out and explore the country even through the winter. This is an ice cave in Vatnajökull National Park.

Most people there were fascinated by my decision to learn Icelandic. Why brave the sunless winter to learn a language spoken by so few people on Earth? I think the

answer is that I really wanted to get a sense of what living in Iceland is like. I felt that winter is a time that few people would think to visit Iceland and I wanted to see this other side of it. I learned that, like Canada, winter is a big component of the country's persona.

I cannot wait to discover even more about Iceland on my next visit. I am continuing to study via *Icelandic Online* so when I visit again I will be able to continue getting to know Iceland in Icelandic.

Contributed by Cullen Hutchison



Coping with COVID Restrictions: Can we help?

This is a challenging time for many of us. Please be assured that, as a club, we are here for one another. If you would like to receive a call, to chat, to have someone check in on you or just to say hello, please contact us. If you know another member we encourage you to reach out to them. Or, contact a board member either by phone (see contact list page 8) or send an email to info@iccedm.org and we will respond. Please include your phone contact information in any email.

YOU are an important and integral member of our community and you are not alone. Icelanders have weathered many crises and are a tough people who have survived because we support one another. Please let us know if you need to talk and/or are in need of some support. Take care and stay safe!



Jón Bjarni Baldursson
Alrun Nordic Design

EMAIL: info@alrun.is
INSTAGRAM: [@alrun.nordic.design](https://www.instagram.com/alrun.nordic.design)
WEBSITE: www.alrun.is



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

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

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	Martin Anderson		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)	(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	Liz Tanti		info@iccedm.org
Social Media	Erla Anderson		info@iccedm.org
Casino	Liz Tanti		info@iccedm.org
Director at Large	Jodine Chase		info@iccedm.org
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 FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK

 **[Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton](http://iccedm.org)**
