

NORÐURLJÓS
ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB OF EDMONTON



Gleðileg Jól!

December 2020 Newsletter

CONTENTS

President's Message – Page 1 ICCE Bursary Awards 2020 – Page 5-6
AGM Results – Page 2 Christmas in Iceland – Page 7
Mark Your Calendars! – Page 3 Board contact information – Page 8
Snorri Program and Snorri Plus – Page 4



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Erla Anderson, 2020-2021 president of the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton:



Erla at Heritage Festival Icelandic exhibit

Thank you, all club members, for trusting me and giving me the honour of being president. Since I first moved to Edmonton in 2000, I've felt the vitality and community of this club; my family has felt the support. From attending one of our first fall suppers where Inga Berman is pictured holding our newborn daughter Vala; to Ármann teaching Icelandic classes, giving toasts at Þorrablót, and singing Icelandic songs; to me joining the Saga Singers; to Vala receiving a club bursary -- all these special moments resonate with me as I accept this honour. I'm committed to the club mission of fostering Icelandic culture, committed to working together -- I encourage all members to attend board meetings when possible and get in on the discussion -- committed to keeping in touch virtually and in person as a membership, and I'm committed to you, as we work together to move the club forward in to a successful future.

2020 Annual General Meeting Results

For the first time ever, the club held its Annual General Meeting virtually, through a Zoom call. The Zoom technology has been working very well for the club, with the Board holding its monthly meetings by Zoom, and even a virtual event! We have always celebrated our heritage each fall with a fall supper commemorating Leifur Eiríksson Day. This year it was held successfully by Zoom.

A board election was conducted at the AGM. Jón Bjarni Baldursson has stepped down as President and Erla Anderson, formerly vice president, is now the club President. All other board members chose to remain.

Kaitlyn Anderson initially accepted the Vice President role but we subsequently learned that AGLC rules do not allow family members to serve on the same executive and our treasurer, Martin Anderson, is Kaitlyn's father. This rule only affects the "executive board" also known as the "board of directors". Our executive board is the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and immediate past president. Kaitlyn has graciously stepped down as Vice President and is now our Social Media Chair, an important role we are very glad to have filled. We will add this note to the minutes at our next AGM. This leaves us without a nominee for Vice President. If you would like to join the board as Vice President, please contact Donna or Erla at info@iccedm.org. We are also seeking a Social Events Chair.

2020 has been a difficult year for non-profit organizations as for nearly everyone. Our last in-person event was Thorraþlót on February 29th. None of our subsequent events could be held in person and programs such as Snorri and the Heritage Festival were cancelled. Despite this the club has successfully carried out other business including:

- A casino with proceeds of over \$50,000
- A donation of \$15,000 to Historic Markerville/Stephan G. Stephansson Society
- Ten bursaries funded from our casino account and one from our general account
- \$1000 to the Dutch Canadian Centre for a statue of Anne Frank

The minutes of the AGM are available to any member who has not yet received them. Please contact the club at info@iccedm.org or call the Secretary (Pat Dunn) if you haven't received the AGM minutes and wish to receive them.

Thank you to all who attended. We certainly hope next year's AGM and our other events will be in-person! Take care, everyone and stay safe with your loved ones over this holiday season.



Stekkjastaur – Sheep
Cote Clod

The Jólasveinar are sending letters from Iceland to some lucky kids in our club! We sent a note out in early November and asked people to provide the names of children 12 and under who would like to receive letters from the Icelandic Santas, the Jólasveinar. Those who signed up will get their letters from Iceland around Christmas. This fun project is being coordinated by Jón Bjarni Baldursson and Tanya Hofforth. Thank you!

Gleðileg Jól og farsælt komandi ár!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ICCE Board meetings:

Second Tuesdays of most months

Times may vary.

The next board meeting will be in 2021.

The next meeting dates are:

Jan 12

Feb 9

Mar 9

*Meetings are not held in
July, August, or December.*

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 and times (see last page of newsletter for board contact information).

Leifur Eiríksson “Zoom” Gathering

While we couldn't get together on October 3rd to enjoy our usual annual supper together, we still gathered – online!

We enjoyed some musical selections from the Icelandic men's choir Raddbandafélag Reykjavíkur. Our bursary recipients introduced themselves and their programs, and you can meet them here in this newsletter as well. The format was very successful and there were no technical issues. During this Covid era this technology will continue to allow us to get together even if only online. The club AGM was also held by Zoom.



*Pottasleikur –
Pot -Licker*

The Scandinavian Library



We have sad news to report: the Scandinavian Library has closed as the building is to be sold. We are grateful to Konrad

Hansen for the many years of providing space to the Scandinavian Clubs to house our valuable libraries. We have been very fortunate to enjoy the use of the space.

Donna Crozier has been working towards a solution for the many books in our collection. She has exhausted such avenues as public and university libraries, including the Alberta and Edmonton Archives and Scandinavian Studies at the University of Alberta. Unfortunately these institutions are unable to take any of the books.

We have set aside books that we feel would be of great interest to members, books about Icelandic communities in Canada, Icelandic soldiers who served in both world wars, and volumes about emigration to Canada with the ship names and family. More than half of the library contains books in Icelandic, including Bibles.

The library was discussed at the AGM on November 15th. The club resolved to move the books that are to be kept to our storage room at the Dutch Canadian Centre. A bookseller will take books published before 1900 and will pay for their transport. This will put books back into circulation. It was also suggested at the AGM that we contact other Icelandic clubs across Canada for interest in taking books. This will be done through the INLNA.

The books were moved to our storage room at the Dutch Canadian Centre in late November. Once Covid restrictions ease we will have a work party to re-organize the room to make space for the bookshelves and books.

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.

Keeping in touch

Board member, Joedy Englesby, will send a card to any member who has experienced a loss or serious health challenge, or simply needs a pick-me-up. If you know of a club member who is struggling, please let Joedy know and she will reach out on behalf of the club. You can reach Joedy at info@iccedm.org or at the phone number listed on the back page of the newsletter.

Coping with hard times: 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.

Snorri Program for 2021



The Snorri Program is a unique opportunity for **young people (18-28)** of Icelandic origin living in Canada and the United

States of America, 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.

Please contact Tanya if you are interested in applying, as there are **2 grants from the ICCE available. (\$6000 each)** Please fill out the ICCE application form as well, and contact Tanya, as the ICCE sends payment directly to the Snorri Program on behalf of the recipient. tanm77@hotmail.com

The deadline to apply for the next Snorri Program trip is January 11th, 2021.

Snorri Plus 2021

Snorri Plus is a two-week cultural program in August for those who are over 30. It is suitable for people of Icelandic descent and people who have true passion for Iceland.

***NEW* The ICCE has 2 Snorri Plus Grants available! (\$6000 each)** Please fill out the ICCE application form as well, and contact Tanya, as the ICCE sends payment directly to the Snorri Program on behalf of the recipient. tanm77@hotmail.com

The deadline for Snorri Plus is January 25th, 2021. Check the Snorri Program website (snorri.is) for more info and application forms. Please also email Tanya to let her know you are applying and to get the ICCE Snorri Grant application.

2021 Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton Bursary Recipients

We had a record breaking number of Bursary applicants this year! We awarded 11 Bursaries this year. If you were able to attend our Virtual Leifur Eiriksson event, you heard from each of our talented recipients, as they thanked our club.

Each year we award 10 bursaries. This year we have increased the amount to \$3000 each. If you are interested in applying, or know someone that is interested, please have them contact Tanya for the application form. The deadline each year is August 15th, so that students have time to gather all the required documents. If you have any questions, please email Tanya: tanm77@hotmail.com

Lauren Eyford-Josey NAIT – 4th year Red Seal Journeyman Carpenter	
 Vala Ingolfsson (parents Erla & Armann) - University of Alberta – 1st year Bachelor of Science (Biology)	 Megan Veldhuis (parents Michelle & Jerry) - University of Alberta – 2nd year Electrical Engineering
 Amber Gogan (parents Heather & Jon, and grandparents Gil & Fran Benedictson) - Macewan University – 1st year Bachelor of Science	 Sydney Veldhuis (parents Kerry & Dan) - University of Alberta – 5th year Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (Co-op)



Skylar Veldhuis
(parents Kerry & Dan)

- University of Alberta – 1st year Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama (Production) in the specialty of Technical Producti



Jana Davidson
(parents Bert & Carol)

- University of Alberta – 1st year Bachelor of Arts



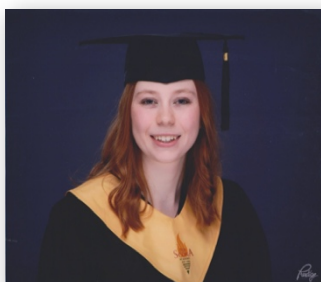
Taze Thompson
(grandmother Sandra Heidrick)

- Harvard – 1st year Biological Sciences



Tyler Veldhuis
(parents Michelle & Jerry)

- University of Alberta- 4th year Electrical Engineering



Hanna Sigurdson
(parents Lorenz & Shauna)

University of Toronto – 1st year Engineering Science



Isabelle Beaupré-Olsen

(parents Martine & Gordon, grandparents Don & Beth Olsen)

- University of Victoria – 3rd year Bachelor of Science Geology & Chemistry Combined

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
Reykjavik
(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.

2020-2021 ICCE EXECUTIVE

President	Erla Anderson		info@iccedm.org
Vice-President	Vacant		info@iccedm.org
Past President	Jón Bjarni Baldursson		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	Pat Dunn	587-338-0254	info@iccedm.org
Phones	Barb Beirnes	780-424-2690	n/a
Snorri & Bursaries	Tanya Hofforth		info@iccedm.org
Social Events	Vacant		info@iccedm.org
Social Media	Kaitlyn 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 13312 – 142 Street EDMONTON, AB T5L 4T3

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

**AT [HTTPS://ICCEDM.ORG](https://iccedm.org) FOR MORE NEWS AND UPDATES AND FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK**

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

