



NORÐURLJÓS

Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton

Directors

President: Allison Boychuk
 Vice President: vacant
 Secretary: Pat Dunn
 Treasurer: Kaitlyn Anderson

Committee Chairs

SHSE: Lorraine Ilnicki
 Snorri & Bursaries: Tanya Hofforth
 Social Media: Kaitlyn Anderson

Directors at Large: Jodine Chase, Marty Anderson, Erla Anderson
 Newsletter Editor: Pat Dunn
 Keeping in Touch: Joedy Englesby
 780-905-3000

Membership: Gloria Krenbrenk
gkrenbrenk@gmail.com
 780-668-9166

Auditors

Dennis Magnuson
 Donna Crozier

Contacts

Email: info@iccedm.org

Website: <https://iccedm.org>

Facebook:
 Search for @iccedm



Art by Svala Arnason Dunn

President's Report - Allison Boychuk

Greetings! We are in the festive season and looking forward to our Christmas event on December 2, 2023. The Dutch Canadian Centre building is up for sale so we, along with the other Scandinavian societies, have started the transition to finding other venues for events. We have rented a storage locker for our items that we stored at the DCC. After many years of having events at the DCC, this year will be a new chapter!

Please see our event calendar for further details for upcoming events including our annual Thorrablot March 9, 2024 and casino fundraiser - May 28-29, 2024.

Looking to get involved? Volunteers are an essential ingredient for successful events and the future of ICCE. We have open positions for committee chairs, and urgently need a Casino Chair. This position is key to your club's ability to support the Snorri and our bursaries program, and other activities. Please consider this short-



Mark Your Calendars!

Christmas Gathering
Saturday, December 2
2-5 p.m.

Lois Hole Library
17650 - 69 Avenue

Thorablót
Saturday, March 9, 2024
4-9 p.m.

Norwood Legion
11150 - 82nd St

Casino
May 28-29, 2024
Yellowhead Casino
12464 153 St NW

Board Meetings
7:30 p.m. on the second
Tuesday of each month
*No meetings: July,
August, December*

2024 Board meetings

January 9th
February 13th
March 12th
April 9th

Meetings are open to
members and held by
Zoom videoconference.

To attend, email
info@iccedm.org and
we will send you an
invitation.

* Call Gloria to attend by
phone. *

term volunteer commitment. Training and support are provided.

We held our annual AGM on Saturday, November 18th, 2023 and added a new board member, Natalie Guttormsson, as Director at Large. Welcome Natalie!

In this newsletter issue, we celebrate Christmas and vicariously visit Iceland with recollections from club members who have recently travelled. I hope you enjoy!

In closing, I encourage everyone to attend our events, visit and celebrate our Icelandic heritage. I encourage anyone with some time available - please volunteer. We are only as strong as our members. Many hands make light work.

Best of the season, Gleðileg Jól to all!

— Allison



2023 Annual General Meeting held

The Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 18th. Board members and committee chairs gave reports on their activities of the past year to the members who came out.

Highlights of the year were our events, the Icelandic National League of North America convention in Banff, and our transition away from having the Dutch Canadian Centre as the club's home base. As always we are proud of continuing to be able to support the Snorri program and to provide bursaries for students in post-secondary education.

Board and committee chair positions still open are:

Vice-President

Casino Chair

Social and Events Chair

If you would like information on any of these positions, please contact us at info@iccedm.org. We would love to have you join our friendly and productive board!

Litlu Jól

**Saturday, 2 December
2:00 - 5 p.m.**

**Lois Hole (Callingwood) Library,
17650 - 69 Avenue
Edmonton, AB**

PROGRAM

Meeet the Jólasveinar! Find out about Iceland's naughty Christmas elves.

- **Christmas Crafts for kids** - or kids of any age
- **Bring a dessert** if you can to share for visiting time.
- **Kindly let us know how many kids you are bringing** so we can get the Santa bags ready.
info@iccedm.org



Þorrablót

March 9th, 2024

**Norwood Legion
11150 - 82nd St
Edmonton, AB
5 -9 pm**

Ticket information coming soon!

Christmas in Icelandic

Jól - Christmas

Jólasveinarnir - the Christmas Yule Lads

Jólabókaflóðid - the annual flood of books from publishers into the Icelandic market, just in time for Christmas!

Vinarterta - Vienna cake, the iconic Western Icelander treat, often a Christmas treat

Jólaskap - festive Christmas mood

Gleðileg Jól! - Merry Christmas!

Farsælt komandi ár! Happy New Year!



Þvörusleikir (Spoon-Licker)

From Svala Arnason Dunn's book, The Christmas Trolls of Iceland.

Don't be a tourist. Be a Snorri.

Snorri 2024

Who: Canadians and
Americans of Icelandic
descent, ages 20-30
When: 9 June - 13 July

Snorri Plus 2024

Who: Anyone 30+ -
individuals, couples,
family groups
When: 19 Aug - 2 Sept



Apply by
January 15!



THE SNORRI PROGRAMS



Iceland's 13 Yule Lads will soon start coming down from the mountains one by one to play their tricks and leave gifts for the good and a potato for everyone else.

One story has it that on Christmas Day the Yule Lads simply enjoy their day among us celebrating Christmas. The next day they start heading home again, one by one, in the same order that they arrived.



Learn ICELANDIC with Kaffi Rabb

Some of you may remember the pre-Covid Icelandic

language and cultural sessions hosted by the club. Called Kaffi Rabb (“coffee chit-chat”), the classes were offered by club members including Erla Anderson and Armann Ingolfsson. The great news is that Erla and Armann are willing to offer this great session again if there is enough interest.

The class will focus on teaching beginner conversation skills and Icelandic culture, including songs and poetry, rather than grammatical structure, and will be suitable for all levels of learner.

This would take place via Zoom and there will be no charge. **If you would like to take part in this, please drop us a note**

at info@iccedm.org. It will only happen if we have enough interested participants so please do let us know if you would join.

Classes would take place on Saturday afternoons at 2 p.m. (not every Saturday).

Fréttir: Iceland in the News

Earthquakes, threat of a volcano, lead to evacuation of Grindavík

From veður.is: Starting around October 25, earthquake swarms began to occur on the Reykjanes peninsula. By the 28th, over 7000 quakes had been recorded. Many were of enough magnitude to be felt further west, in Reykjavik and other communities. Measurable ground uplift and deformation occurred, a result of magma accumulating under the region. Both the uplift and the earthquakes continued day after day. On November 10th the aviation colour code was assigned as orange, indicating a potentially imminent eruption. On the same day the evacuation of Grindavík was initiated due to uncertainty about a potential eruption and severe damage caused to the town’s infrastructure and buildings by earthquakes and a deep crack that formed through the town.

As of this writing (November 26) seismic activity has decreased and the hazard rating in Grindavík has been downgraded to a danger level (from orange to yellow). An eruption is still considered likely, but most likely not in Grindavík. Increased access is being allowed and some area businesses may be able to start operations again soon. All are hopeful that the area will soon stabilize further, but, said government officials at a recent press conference, it is unlikely that there will be a truly normal Christmas celebrated in Grindavík this year.

Westjet Announces New Direct Flight, Calgary - Keflavik

Calgary Herald, 15 Nov. Beginning in May 2024, WestJet will offer a four-times-weekly non-stop service to Reykjavik (Keflavik), Iceland from Calgary. An interline agreement with Icelandair will enable guests to travel across Icelandair and WestJet’s network via one boarding pass.

Heimsóknir

2023 Iceland Visits

Christmas is a season for celebrating family and for getting together. We descendants of Icelanders have shared family stories that happened long ago and many of our relatives live far away, so if we get a chance to visit, it holds special meaning. To celebrate these connections, some club members share here their adventures of visiting Iceland in 2023, connecting with their heritage and roots.

Barb Beirnes

Family Reunion

This past July for two weeks I went to Iceland. It was a family get-together to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of my great great grandfather, Johannes Frímann Rúnolfsson. There was a gathering at a hotel conference room for the descendants of this man in Reyjavík. There were about 40 people in attendance. There were 3 speakers who gave information on the life of JFR. One speaker was my nephew Gregory McNeill from Winnipeg. He did a slide show illustrating the Icelandic emigration to Canada. He spent a lot



of time in New Iceland, located in Manitoba.

Another excursion took place from Blönduós where about 20 people toured the area by bus to various farms where JFR lived and worked. It was a very enjoyable time meeting many people who are descendants of JFR.



Greg and Tanus McNeill, Barb, Brigitte and Kevin McNeill



The family in front of the only building in Iceland where JFR would have been.

My two nephews and their wives and myself toured around Iceland. We went to the Blue Lagoon, the Golden Circle tour, Grindavík, Höfðsós, Reykholt, Akureyri, Sauðárkrúkur, Siglufjörður, to name a few places.

We saw beautiful scenery with geysirs, waterfalls and glaciers. We even had an extra attraction as a volcano erupted on July 10th!

It wasn't far from the Reykjavík Airport, I had a pleasant surprise at Hofos where I met Jack whom I had met in May at the INL of NA convention in Banff. He was doing a mentorship in Iceland for the summer. He informed me the Snorris were arriving in a half hour. So I met the Snorris, including the two girls from Edmonton - Georgia and Emma.

It was a lovely vacation and I highly recommend Iceland as a travel destination to anyone who is thinking of going there. I must

add to go to Iceland only when it is deemed safe to do so because of the recent seismic activity.



Edmonton 2023 Snorris Emma and Georgia with Barb in Iceland!



Hraunfoss

Pat Dunn

Family, Friends, Language in Iceland

Your newsletter editor has been trying to learn the beautiful but forbidding Icelandic language remotely. Thanks to covid, the University of Manitoba's Icelandic language courses went virtual in 2020, making it possible for me to enroll out here in Alberta.

Over the past year I also worked with a tutor in

Reykjavik, with lessons over Zoom. In September I decided to cap off all this desk learning with a visit to Iceland, travelling solo as my husband was working. I visited my cousins, met some new cousins, and had a lesson with my tutor, Sigurður Hermansson, in person. Siggí is a busy Icelandic tutor, instructor and linguist, and manages an excellent website called *Icelandic Made Easi(er)*. I added an in-person lesson with another tutor as well, so I could tell myself my trip was for educational purposes (and not just a whole lot of fun). After visiting family (and even managing to crank out a little Icelandic) I met a friend for a few days of sightseeing. The fall colours were at their peak and the weather was great. Highlights were seeing white tailed eagles over Helgafell, magnificent fall colours at Hraunfoss, a nice hike up Hafnarfjall, and more time to get to know my cousins better. A short trip but a gooder! I may or may not ever learn to speak much Icelandic, but the journey to get there continues to be a lot of fun.

Eric Oddleifson

At 71 I can now say that I have been to Iceland. One thing or another has kept me from this trip for a long time. I was finally set to go on the Snorri Plus tour last August but I got covid and had to cancel. So I used that flight to plan a trip to Iceland this past September. I planned a 9 day stay in Reykjavik, not venturing on tours outside of the city. My arthritic knee doesn't like me walking too much. My flight arrived at Keflavik Airport on Wednesday at 6:00 a.m.! I bought a round trip bus ticket that took me to the front door of my hostel (then sat for 6 hours till they'd let me into my room).

After talking to Sydney and Megan, recent Snorri participants,



New friend Raul, and Eric

I had decided to stay at the Dalur

Hostel, just north of city center, on Bus #14. The bus stop was right in front of the hostel. A bus ticket cost 285 kronur (about 3.00 CAN) and could be used for a return ride if taken within 1 hour + 15 minutes of time of issue. This came in handy to go downtown, walkabout, get a hotdog, and scoot back to the hostel.

The decision to stay at Dalur Hostel was the best. It was cheaper than a hotel and I had my own room with bathroom and shower. For laundry the washer (with detergent) was free but the dryer was \$9.00. I didn't use the dryer. And the kitchen was right across from my room. Grocery store was 1 kilometer away and a bistro was next to the grocery store. There was a hot dog stand just outside the swimming pool, on the way to the grocery store. All these things set the tone for my week long stay.

My first goal was to do my sightseeing. And I thought I'd eat out a lot. I did the sightseeing in 2 days using the red double decker bus, "Hop on, hop off" (\$50 for 2 days). In planning there was a rather compulsory to-

see list: the museums, the Lutheran church, Perlan, the concert hall, Flyover Iceland. You know. So I discovered the "Hop on, hop off" was the best way to go. And I enjoyed these sites very much.

Eating out was not really much of an option. So very expensive! So I got groceries and had most of my meals in the hostel kitchen. And the added bonus was all the people I met, young and old, and from a diversity of countries. Poland, Spain, Costa Rica, Czech, Japan, Denmark, USA, Canada - just amazing people. I've travelled lots when I was younger and it's always the people that spark the memories.



So what was my week like? Well, did grocery shopping (and a lovely bakery). By the way, a buffet breakfast at the hostel was \$22.00! I don't eat breakfast. Coffee is enough. I found Iceland's world-famous hot dog stand: steamed bun, crispy onions, raw onions, hot dog (containing lamb), Icelandic ketchup made from apples, Icelandic mustard and Remoulade (a mayo based relish). Always ask for "the works".

While sitting in the sunshine by the Ingólfur Arnarson statue downtown (first settler in Iceland), I met an Icelandic woman and in chatting I mentioned my Icelandic heritage. She asked the name of my great great grandfather and in moments she found him on her genealogy app. Then said she and I are related by mutual ancestors from the 1600s. I was amazed at this. These are the surprises when you engage with people.

I also learned of the adventurous spirit of driving the Icelandic back roads. I met a Czech tour operator at the

hostel. During the week they are out on the land but on weekends they overnight at the

hostel. He, Jan, was making a traditional Iceland fish soup for his tour group of 20. So we chatted and he told me about their excursion and showed me his tour bus. And I saw a few more camper vans and off road SUV's.



Ingólfur Arnarson



Jan's adventure travel bus



Backroads SUV - a common sight

So what are my take aways? 1. I really enjoyed being in Reykjavik. It's so modern, so clean, oh yeah, traffic congestion too, and its history was seen everywhere.

2. I enjoyed the sightseeing. Iceland wants to present itself to the whole world and does it well.

3. My stay at the hostel and all the people I met.

4. I befriended Raul, a young school teacher from Spain. He wanted to improve his income and chose Iceland. He's got a job teaching in Iceland and enjoys his prospects. He took me to a restaurant on "Rainbow Street" where I had a traditional Icelandic meal for \$25.00. Hmm. I think I could make that dinner at home.

So there's a glimpse of my experience in Iceland. I plan to go again in August 2024 with Snorri Plus.



Traditional meal of mashed potatoes, fish and brown bread

Erla Anderson

Our family of Ármann, Erla, Vala, and Ari went to Akureyri, Iceland last summer mainly to celebrate amma Hrefna's special birthday.

Vala and Ármann on a mountain by the town Siglufjörður.



Vala and Ármann in an Akureyri playground on a long summer night



Steam at Leirhnjúkur close to Mývatn

**Gleðileg jól og
farsælt
komandi ár!**

*With very warm wishes
from the board of
Norðurljós, the Icelandic
Canadian Club of
Edmonton. We look
forward to seeing you at
Litlu jól and in the New
Year! Blessings upon you
and your families.*