



Directors

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

Committee Chairs

SHSE: Lorraine Ilnicki
 Snorri & Bursaries: Tanya Hofforth
 Social Media: Vacant
 Directors at Large: Marty Anderson, Marla Hladysh
 Newsletter co-editors: Pat Dunn and Bridjet Radstaak
 Keeping in Touch: Joedy Englesby
 780-905-3000
 Social media co-chairs: Sydney Veldhuis, Georgia Hladysh

Membership: Gloria Krenbrenk
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Auditors

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 Donna Crozier

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President's Report

Dear Members,

What a beautiful autumn we have had! It is hard to believe we are now closing in on Christmas and our next event together, the annual Litlu Jól Christmas party. We did not have a fall newsletter so there is lots to catch up on in this one.

Some news to share is that the Dutch Canadian Centre has now been sold. For quite a while we have needed to find other venues, such as the Norwood Legion for Þorrablót this year. We have found that library meeting rooms are rented inexpensively to non-profits and these have worked well. We are hoping to be able to settle on some consistent venues but still need to work on that.

Our most recent events were our Leifur Eiríksson fall social in September, and our AGM on October 27th. We retained the same executive and most board members. Jodine Chase is stepping down from the Member at Large position, and Marla Hladysh is joining the board in that position. We also welcome Sydney Veldhuis and Georgia Hladysh as co-chairs of the Social Media committee, and Bridjet Radstaak as newsletter co-editor. Welcome to all! And thank you to Jodine for your many contributions over the years. Jodine led the Snorri West program here in Alberta this summer, an awesome experience for three visiting Icelandic Snorris!

The club provided grants to support Snorri participant, Bridjet Radstaak, and two Snorri Plus participants, Eric Oddleifson and Donna Crozier. More from all the Snorris in this newsletter!

On June 2nd we held a planning session, inviting people to provide input on the activities and future possibilities for the club. Among the follow-up activities identified





was a survey. We are delighted to say that Snorri alumnus Sydney Veldhuis has developed a survey for distribution to members. Watch for the survey link in your emails and here too and help us shape your club and prepare it for the future.

Our Christmas party, Litlu Jól, will be on November 30th at the Capilano Library. Marla is leading a team putting together a fun event and we hope to see everyone out! **Watch for details on Facebook and an invitation by email, and see below!** After that we will celebrate Þorablót in late February or March, stay tuned for details.

Hope to see you at the Christmas Party!

Gleðileg Jól!

—Allison

LITLU JÓL DETAILS

- ✦ **PLEASE RSVP IF YOU ARE COMING. EMAIL info@iccedm.org. If you are bringing children under 12 tell us how many please (for gift bags).**
- ✦ **Are you interested in participating in a book swap? GET IN TOUCH!**
- ✦ **Are you interested in participating in a Vínarterta contest? Let us know!**

Mark Your Calendars!

Litlu Jól

Saturday, November 30, 2024
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Capilano Library, Program Room
9915 - 67 Street NW
Edmonton

Porrablót

February - March TBD

Board Meetings

*Times and dates may vary. No meetings:
July, August, December*

Meetings are usually held on the second Monday or Tuesday of each month. They are open to members and held by Zoom videoconference. To attend, email info@iccedm.org for the date and time and we will send you an invitation.
* Call Gloria to attend by phone. *

Icelandic National League of North America

The INLNA's 2023 convention was held in Banff, and the 2024 convention was virtual. The 2025 convention will be held in person in Gimli from May 1-4th. The INLNA offers a travel subsidy/scholarship for student travel to the convention. As a club we can also utilize casino funds to send delegates to the convention. If you are interested in attending, please let the board know.



Followup - Future Planning Session

Back in June the club held a strategic planning session. We want to make sure that the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton is meeting the expectations of its members and will be functional for many years to come, over many generations.

Participants shared their hopes for the club, identifying ways to connect with community, re-energizing, and increasing involvement. If you would like more detail on the results of the planning session, please email us.

We would like to hear from you!

As a followup to this session, we would like to check in with members. Sydney Veldhuis, a Snorri alumnus, has put together a survey for circulation to club members. Many thanks Sydney!

The link can be found here : **ICCE 2024 MEMBER SURVEY**. We recognize that there may be members who have limited internet access or who would prefer to fill out the survey on paper.

Please contact the club if this is you and we will mail you a paper version or we can do the survey by phone. Call Pat at 587 338 0254.

2024 AGM

The club held its 2024 Annual General Meeting on October 27th at the Lois Hole Library. The president, Allison Boychuck, and other board members presented the activities and achievements of 2024.

The club provided grants to two Snorri Plus participants (Donna Crozier and Eric Oddleifson) and one Snorri participant (Bridjet Radstaak) in the 2024 program. We also awarded 8 bursaries to students (see sidebar). The funds for Snorri grants and bursaries come from proceeds earned at casinos. The club had a casino in May and will have its next one in 2026.

The following slate of directors was elected by acclamation:

2024-2025 Board Members

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

Committees:

- Casino Chair: Ryan Cornell
- Edmonton Scandinavian Centre Association Rep: Joedy Englesby
- Keeping in Touch Chair: Joedy Englesby
- Member at Large: Marty Anderson
- Other Members at Large: Marla Hladysch was nominated.
- Membership Chair: Gloria Krenbrenk
- Newsletter Co-Editors: Pat Dunn, Bridjet Radstaak
- Scandinavian Heritage Society of Edmonton Reps: Lorraine Ilnicki, Allison Boychuk
- Snorri & Bursaries Chair: Tanya Hofforth
- Social & Events Chair:
- Social Media Co-Chairs: Sydney Veldhuis, Georgia Hladysch

2024 Bursary Recipients

ICCE was pleased to award bursaries to the following students this year:

- Kelly Fitzgerald (Dad Gordon Thorlakson and Grandparents Tanis and Ken Fitzgerald. 1st year Administrative Assistant, Norquest Community College)
- Liv Sveinsson (Parents Kristjan and Leigh Sveinsson and Grandparents Del and Lynn Sveinsson. UofA -Augustana Campus – 4th year Computing Sciences)
- Vyn Sveinsson (Parents Kristjan and Leigh Sveinsson and Grandparents Del and Lynn Sveinsson. 1st year at Grant Macewan in Travel and Tourism)
- Sophie Olsen (Grandparents Don and Catherine Olsen. City University- Edmonton Campus, 3rd year Masters in Counselling)
- George McLauchlin (Mother Jodine Chase and Grandmother Olof Rosemary Moon. 1st year at Macewan University, Theatre Production.)
- Jade Goodman (Current Member. 1st year at UofA, Postgraduate Dental Education IV sedation)
- Vala Ingolfsson (Parents: Erla Anderson and Armann Ingolfsson. 4th year at UofA, Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences with minor in Linguistics)
- Amelie Preville (Mother Alison Grant– Preville and Grandparents Charlie and Ann Grant. 3rd year at UBC, Bachelors in Sociology with a minor in early childhood education.)

Congratulations to all and very best wishes for your studies!



Snorri West in Edmonton, June 2024

*Contributed by Jodine Chase
& Jenny Graham*



*Hilla, Unnar and Mars at
Edmonton City Hall*

in Markerville, they took part in a river valley tour, a downtown tour of Hecla block, Legislature tour with MLA Lori Sigurdson and Indigenous Day downtown. Billets were arranged at the homes of Snorri Alumnus Helgi Thorvaldson and Georgia Hladysh.

Jodine organized lunches, and a museum visit while Jenny, Georgia and others took them to a watch party for an Oilers playoff game (Playoff game 7). This was their last day and there was a dance party. They went by train from here to Watrous; a Westjet strike meant they could not continue to Utah, but spent the rest of their trip in Calgary with visits to Banff and Lake Louise, which were very much enjoyed. Their visit was four weeks in total.



The Snorri West youth cultural program brought three young Icelanders here to the Edmonton region June 20-25 to follow the trails of their ancestors who emigrated from Iceland to North America. Hildur (Hilla) Sigurbergisdóttir, Mars Baldurs and Unnar Ingi Sæmundarson arrived in June in Calgary, and were hosted by the Markerville club before heading north to Edmonton. ICCE last hosted Snorri West in 2017. Snorri West only comes to Alberta every few years, as the program travels to different parts of North America each year.

Jodine Chase and Snorri Alumnus Jenny Graham organized activities for this group. After picking them up



*Snorri West with club president Allison,
going to an Oilers watch party.*





Snorri Plus 2024

The club provided its Snorri Plus grants this year to Donna Crozier and Eric Oddleifson. The Snorri Plus program is an opportunity for participants to learn more about their Icelandic heritage in a guided, assisted, once-in-a-lifetime adventure in Iceland.

-Contributed by Donna Crozier

"What an honor and a privilege it has been to participate in the Snorri Plus program 2024. After a long flight, from Edmonton to Calgary then Calgary to Reyjavik, I arrived in Iceland and was met by the smiling face of Atli Geir Halldorson, holding his Snorri Plus sign. He was there to pick up strangers from North America who would become friends over the next couple of weeks. Already at our hotel were the other participants from Canada, the United States, and Tajikistan and our tour leader extraordinaire, Julie Summers.

It was obvious from the onset of this trip that a lot of time and attention to detail had been put into our Snorri experience. My thanks and gratitude go to the thoughtful effort and energy that has been put into making this experience memorable and meaningful for each participant. We were each provided with a personalized binder that held information about our individual genealogy, going back centuries; where in Iceland our ancestors had lived; how we were related to important people (ancestors and current) and where to shop and explore in Iceland. Prior to our trip we were each asked to submit things of interest."



Donna at Hraunfoss



Eric getting genealogy information from David Johnson at Hofos.

That set the stage for the rest of the trip. Donna, Eric and the other participants were each provided with individualized portfolios with a personalized genealogy, and that of each of the other Snorri participants, linking each to common ancestors. Lectures and briefings were offered on the topics of genealogy and Icelandic history, emigration, politics and more. A highlight was being hosted by the new President of Iceland, Halla Tomasdóttir at the presidential residence. An intensive two week introduction to Icelandic heritage! For more information on this program, visit Snorri.is.





“A gracious welcome....”

Contributed by Bridget Radstaak

As a young adult, the world seems like an incredibly big place, and your ideology can become focused on your immediate surroundings. Your friends, immediate family, school, work etc. can become your main focus, blinding you to the realities of the world. Becoming wrapped up in the negatives and

monotony of everyday life is one of the limitations of youth today, and admittedly I fell into this trap. The Snorri Program truly gave me another chance at enjoying life, and opened the doors to a more meaningful, valuable life.



Prior to arriving in Iceland, I was incredibly nervous and anxious about the voyage. Traveling for 5 weeks in a strange country completely alone seemed like a daunting challenge, and one I had viewed as an upcoming deadline to prepare for, instead of a wonderful new opportunity. This shows how narrow-minded I had become in my journey into adulthood, and how focused I had become on endings, as opposed to beginnings. Upon arriving at the airport, I ran into a fellow Snorri from Calgary, a young woman my age. This interaction was the start of this emotional journey, as it made me realize that I was not alone in this journey of cultural ancestry.

Once I met the group of fellow Snorris, I felt as though I was already part of a bigger community than just myself. All these incredible

people across North America, all distant cousins that I had never known, really became such a critical part of this trip. As someone who has typically kept to myself, focusing on my own path, I really felt like I was swept up in a current of love, community and togetherness in this group of complete strangers. Throughout the first two weeks of cultural immersion in Reykjavik, sharing these experiences of exploring a new city, new language and new lifestyle really proved the value of enjoying the moment with people you love. Every moment felt so valuable with this group, and it was amazing to see how everyone was able to find fulfillment in different ways.

Watching people begin to connect with their heritage, while I was on my own cultural journey, really solidified the importance of community to achieving one's goals. I owe so much to these incredible cousins for helping encourage me to practice my Icelandic, dive more into the lives of my ancestors, and allowing myself to enjoy the experience without stressing over the end.

One of the most memorable moments of the first two weeks in Reykjavik was June 17th, Iceland's National Day. The Snorris, including myself, began the day in front of Alþingi, the Icelandic Parliament building. Although we struggled to understand much of what was said during speeches given by the President, legislative members and this year's Fjallkona (our Icelandic still needs a lot of work), it was incredible to share that experience



Snorris in their lopapeysas

of cultural significance with other young adults. Our amazement, excitement and interest was contagious, even on such a gray, brisk morning listening to political speeches in a language we didn't understand. After the gathering, 4 of us went for a wonderful brunch of ponnukokur, before the rest of the day's festivities.

Near noon, we walked to the main street of Reykjavik, in front of Hallgrímskirkja, to "watch" a parade. Little did we know the extent of this event. All the church bells began to ring, while costumes, decorations and music filled the street. Suddenly, we were swept up in a huge march, where citizens joined the parade, and we were brought along with the crowds all the way back to Alþingi. Everyone was laughing, smiling, with infectious energy and wonder. It truly was such a perfect example of community and love for culture, topped by delicious cupcakes at the end of the parade for everyone.

After such an exciting afternoon, we returned back to the hostel for dinner before the evening events. Our final activity of the evening was an invitation to a small basement pub on main street for traditional dancing. Upon arrival, there were couples in traditional dress dancing in the street, spinning and prancing to live music played by a talented fiddlist. We descended into the pub, where we were swept up into a large group of young adults, chanting traditional songs, wearing traditional costumes and drinking local beers. Sigfus Haukur, a past Snorri West participant, taught us the steps needed to join the dance, a simple two-steps-forward, one-step-back. As we linked arms, we were immersed into an indescribable ocean of cultural passion, a display of the love for one's identity. In all honesty, as we snaked around this tiny pub doing a simple step, it felt like a scene from a



The family greenhouse

movie, where everyone is intoxicated with joy. We continued to dance late into the night, concluding one of the most memorable experiences from my trip.

After the first two weeks in Reykjavik, I was graciously welcomed into the home of my second half-cousin, Guðgeir Gunnarsson and his wife, Anna Helga Aradóttir. Staying on the family farm and meeting all my distant relatives was the most life-changing aspect of the Snorri trip for me, as it opened my eyes to a whole new family I never knew existed. Helping out in the family greenhouse, experiencing a new culture, and seeing how day-to-day life was for this group of people was so insightful, and their incredible generosity and love was priceless.

These complete strangers opened their home to someone they only learned of a few weeks prior, and allowed me to experience the intricacies of their personal lives. They really went out of their way to help me try as many foods as possible, see as many sights, and meet as many family members as possible during my short time with them. I will forever be grateful to this wonderful group of people, and knowing I have family across the ocean who love and support me has truly given me a new outlook on life. I am counting down the days until I can visit them again, as their influence really helped me grow not only as a young adult, but also as a family member. They really instilled a value of love, community and belonging in me, making me proud of my heritage and the struggles my ancestors went through.

The Snorri Program was one of the most influential experiences I have undergone in my life, and I am immensely grateful to the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton for their support in this adventure. I am indebted greatly to everyone who helped me explore this opportunity, and I am so thankful for all the incredible people I was able to connect with along the way. I can't wait to help give back to the ICCE and Icelandic-Canadian community, and help others to embrace their heritage as well.



Snorri adventurers hiking and boating



Gleðileg Jól! Og farsælt komandi ár!



Members Joyce and Gail prepare vinarterta for Litlu Jól with Donna (who is taking the photo)

Icelandic has over 40 words describing different kinds of snow! A few:

Snjor - snow

Krapi - slush

Hundslappadrífa - heavy snow, fat flakes

Möll - new fallen snow

Fönn - snow that doesn't melt in summer

Ofanbýlar - snowfall in a wind

Nýsnævi - fresh snow

Lausamjöll - powder snow

Skafrunningur - drifting

Snjómugga - small snowfall

Kafald or kóf - thick snowfall

Hraglandi - sleet



They are coming!

On December 12 the Jólaveinar - the Icelandic Yule Lads - start coming down from the mountains one by one starting with Stekkjastaur, Sheep Cote Clod. Come to Litlu Jól and hear about their pranks and mischief!

