
Fréttir

The Icelanders of Victoria Newsletter

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From the editor

Wayne Erickson

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Since the last issue club activities have included our Thorroblot at Norway House and the two Beck Lecture series in March and April.

To emphasize the News in the newsletter I would like to hear from you or from the other Board members that you talk to. If you attend something of interest to “things Icelandic”, why not make a small report to share with the other members?

Membership reminder

If you haven't yet renewed, please mail in the yellow form in the November newsletter, or contact Kay Sessions (595- 0938).

In Memorium

Irene Larusson passed away peacefully on March 22 at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital's extended care unit. The wife of

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Almanak

Icelandic National Day Picnic *June 17th 6:00pm*

Celebrate Iceland's Independence Day with a potluck dinner at the home of Vince & Runa Pleshek in Metchosin (details below)

Icelandic Canadian Club Peace Arch Picnic

Saturday July 30, 1-5 pm, Peace Arch Park Picnic Grounds

Tenth Annual Thorroblot

Trish Baer was crowned as the Fjallkona for the year at our Thorroblot. Her eloquent acceptance speech is printed on page 3.



Trish Baer is crowned as the Fjallkona for the year at the Thorroblot in February. Fred Bjarnason makes the presentation, Bill Valgardson officiates and the statue of Thor is seen at stage level.

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Jonas Larusson, she was born in England July 16, 1919. Irene grew up in Vancouver and later worked for Imperial Oil for 30 years.

Club Logo Contest Entries Needed

So far we have only two entries, so exercise your artistic talent with a design. The Board will choose a contest winner at a later meeting. Interest members will also have an opportunity to attend and vote.

Snorri Plus program for this summer

From an article in the INL Listserve (email) by Asta Sol Kristjansdottir

Hello all, *Hæ allir*,

If you are thinking about going to Iceland why not choose Snorri Plus!? If you haven't thought about it at all then start thinking! You won't regret it. The program is designed with your individual needs in mind and included are most meals, accommodations, all trips within Iceland, complete family tree, lectures on things Icelandic, work place visits, and so much more! Whether you've been to Iceland before or not does not matter.

We still need a few more to be able to make Snorri Plus work this year. It would be a real shame to cancel this year's program. We've put so much work into it already.

Remember that you only live once.... so.... register today and have the time of your life in August :-)

Please contact me if you need more information. The registration form can be found at www.snorri.is (click on the SNORRI PLUS button)

Bestu kveðjur – Best wishes,

Asta Sol Kristjansdottir, Project Manager.

Skjerpla

Skjerpla, the second month of summer on the Icelandic calendar, begins after May 18.

“Paying It Forward” in Genealogy

We Icelanders are really into tracing our roots. But normally we are looking into the past and figuring out where we came from. What about documenting our present lives for future generations? We could sure save them a lot of time and effort if we told our stories while we are living! That is what my Mom just did for me.

I have known Dan Curtis as a co-member of the *Getting' Higher Choir* but only recently became aware that he is a professional documentary film maker now specializing in recording peoples life stories. I thought what a fabulous idea it would be - to have a digital video recording of my Mom, talking about her past and her beliefs – seeing her move and hearing her voice whenever I wanted to! But first I had to run it past my Mom.....

After a few persuasive conversations, she agreed! It became a very positive process and the results were absolutely fabulous! I couldn't be happier with the DVD that I received at the end of it all. Dan did a great job and was very successful in making the whole event as stress-free as possible.

Dan Curtis owns and operates Cygnus Communications, Inc.

He can be reached at cygnus@inforamp.net and (250) 598-5887. Please contact him for more specific information.

Submitted by Lois Turner

Celebrate Iceland's Independence Day

With a Potluck Dinner June 17th, 2005 at 6:00pm at the home of Vince & Runa Pleshek, 4431 Leefield Road, in Metchosin. For more information call Fred Bjarnason, 387-2089.

Storyteller Faye Mogensen has agreed to come and tell a couple of folktales. She has some Icelandic roots and of course this style of entertainment is classic Icelandic entertainment, it was very popular at a VAKA and is still done a lot at family gatherings etc.

Iceland Canadian Club Peace Arch Picnic

Saturday July 30, 1-5 pm, Peace Arch Park Picnic Grounds

This year, it was suggested that we revive the picnic at Peace Arch Park that had been such a huge celebration in the past. Now the picnic will include three Icelandic clubs in the vicinity: ICCBC (Vancouver), Blaine Heritage Society and the Icelanders of Victoria.

For Victorians going over it will be as per usual, walk on the 10:00am Ferry, the Vancouver group will pick us up on the other side and car-pool us to the park (and back).

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For those wishing to drive over, the Peace Arch Park is accessible from both sides of the border and you don't have to cross over the border to get to the picnic. Canadians either, park in the parking lot at the Canadian side (it is better to get there early and you don't wait in the over-the-border line) or park on 'O'(zero) street. The later is recommended. In both cases you can walk through the park to the picnic site without going through the border crossing.

For more information please call Fred Bjarnason at 387-2089.

Trish Baer's Fjallkona Speech at the 10th Annual Thorroblot

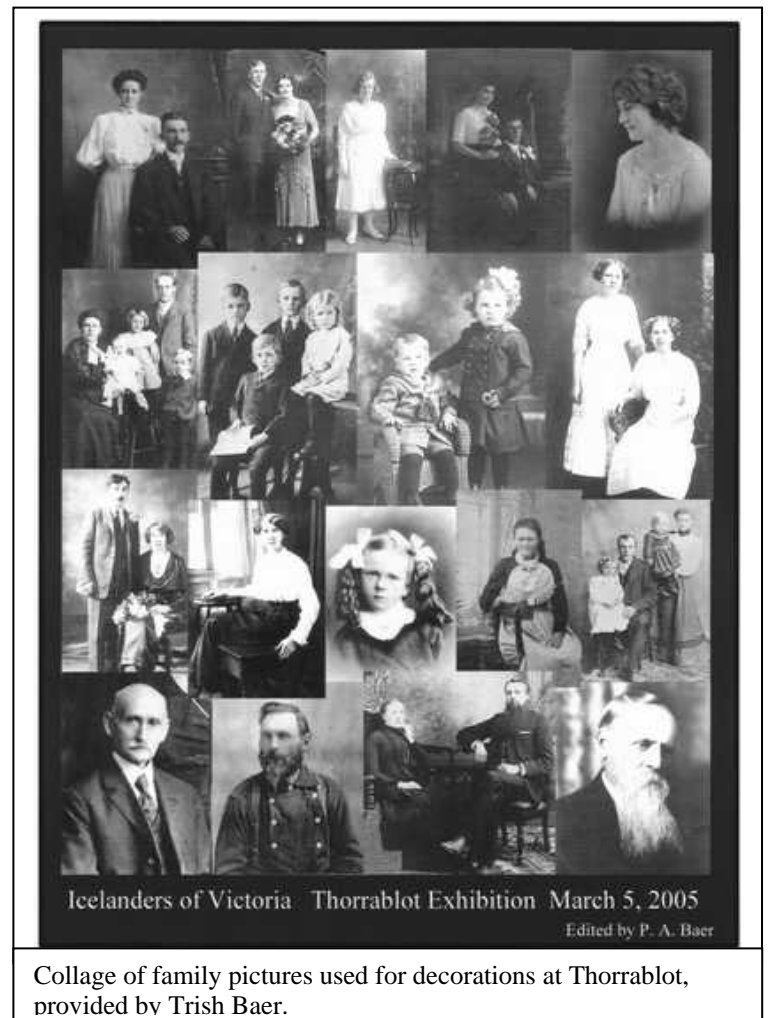
Madame Consul, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to represent the Icelanders of Victoria as Fjallkona for the coming year. As I stand here, I am mindful of the fjallkonas for the club whose ranks I join tonight. I think that this is a time when we should pause to remember the fourth fjallkona, Mattie Clegg. It is because of Mattie's determination and generosity that we have a Fjallkona's costume for these events, and she contributed to the club in many other ways as well.

It was my father's parents, Guðmundur Sigurðsson from Seyðisfjord and Guðbjörg Eyjólfsdóttir, who came to Canada in 1904. They lived in Hecla and the Ashern area and had five sons. My Uncle Águst moved to Iceland when he was a young man during the Depression, and it is because of that I have a group of seven first cousins mostly living in Reykjavik.

When I was young it was the Icelandic side of my heritage that captured my imagination, with the result that I spent a year in Akureyri when I was 16 and go back whenever I am able to. My mother's parents were of French, Irish and English background. However, belonging to, and participating in, four clubs would be more than a full time job. Exploring the culture of my Icelandic heritage and learning a little of the language has enriched my life, and I would like to thank the club for providing further opportunities to do so. My father and his parents are among the pictures on the Thorroblot Exhibition Wall, having them there makes me feel that they are present here tonight, and I would like to acknowledge them in Icelandic:

Ég er vestur Íslendingur og ég er frá Seyðisfirði. Æfi minn hét Guðmundur Berg. Faður hans hét Sigurður og móður hans hét Anna Guðmundsdóttir. Hann var frá Björgvin í Seyðisfirði og hann fluttist til Kanada með konu sinni, Guðbjörg Eyjólfsdóttir, 1904. Ég á marga atingja á Íslandi bæði á Akureyri og í Reykjavík. Ég hef komið fimm sinnum til Íslands og ég dvaldi Akureyri í eitt ár 1968. Ég var í Menntaskólanum á Akureyri.

In conclusion, all that remains to be said is "Góða skemmtun!" - "Enjoy Thorroblot!"



Collage of family pictures used for decorations at Thorroblot, provided by Trish Baer.

Icelanders of Victoria Board of Directors

Fred Bjarnason, President	888- 2832
Donna Einarsson, Vice President	250 715 1924
Ruth Cartwright, Secretary	642 2243
Deirdre Syms, Treasurer	708 0618
Trish Baer, Beck Trust	853 7656
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Emily Campbell, memories album	384 0154
Sigrun Cuffling, phone and coffee	477 3535
Wayne Erickson, newsletter	744 3644
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Al Olafson	727 6842
Brian Sessions, membership	595 0938
Kay Sessions, membership	595 0938
Lois Turner, database and marketing	382 3241
Bill Valgardson	595 5648
Joan Young	380 4680
Thorrobplot: Norm Jonasson	727 9214

Website: Phil Bartle

www.victoria.tc.ca/community/Icelanders

Editors Note: This is the first part of an article by Eric Clemens

Hannes Lárusson visits Victoria

Hannes Lárusson, artist and author, delivered three lectures at the University of Victoria on April 5-7, 2005. Sponsored by the Richard and Margaret Beck Trust and the Department of English, Hannes's Victoria appearance was part of a tour that included engagements in Alberta and Vancouver. It also gave him an opportunity to visit his kinfolk, Jónas, Keith and Debra Lárusson, members of our Icelanders of Victoria club.

Hannes Lárusson is a unique Icelandic artist whose conceptual and performance works in a variety of media and installations have gained international recognition. Since 1977, when he had his first one-man exhibition in Iceland and presented his first performance in Vancouver, his resume has expanded to include more than 75 exhibitions or performances in Iceland, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.



Bill Valgardson and the Thorrobplot figures he painted.

Hannes is a well educated fellow who has studied at the Icelandic College of Arts and Crafts, the Vancouver School of Art, Universita Degli Studi Di Firenze in Italy, the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program in New York, the University of Iceland (B.A. in Philosophy), the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (Master of Fine Arts) and Iceland's University of Education (Pedagogy). This background is reflected not only in his art but also in articles, critiques, lectures and speeches on such topics as the building of art museums, the heroic status of artists, the planning of art academies and the promotion of Icelandic art abroad. He consistently challenges conventional perceptions, often satirically, and has sometimes been a centre of dispute in Iceland.

Hannes's presentations in Victoria were delivered with the aid of "power point" technology. Two were about Icelandic turf houses. The other was about his own work.

Editors Note: There will be more to come about his treatment of the structure, function, and art of traditional Icelandic turf houses; and this artist and author's own work entitled Time, Space and Language. The next issue of *Frettir* will feature Eric's article in full.