Happy New Year—Gott og farsælt komandi ár

Knitting Classes, the Icelandic Way
Will begin on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 7–9 pm
And will continue for the following five Tuesdays.

Scandinavian Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, BC
Cost will be $50.

Contacts: Jana Helgason - janahelgason@gmail.com or 604-943-6027
Nina Jobin - nina_jobin@telus.net or (604) 277-0143

The Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia, 2015 Membership
6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, BC, V5B 4P9

Please list all members' names (print). One year (Single, Senior, Family) $25; cheques payable to: ICCBC

Name(s): __________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________________
City: ___________ Province/State: _________ Postal Code/Zip: _________________________
Home Phone: _______________ Cell: _______________ Email: _____________________
I prefer to receive my Newsletter by: Email _____ Mail _____
____________________________________________________________________________

Cost of 1 year membership (Single, Senior, Family): $25.00
Please make cheque payable to: ICCBC

Icelandic Language Classes

Unfortunately, there will not be language classes this Spring due to instructors not being available.

If anyone out there is able to, and would like to, teach a Spring Language Class, please contact:

Gerri McDonald, gerrimcdonald@shaw.ca, 604-279-0420
Jana Helgason, janahelgason@gmail.com or 604-943-6027
Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

We are looking for those of you who have volunteered during the year. We want to invite you to a luncheon to thank you for your help. So, if you have volunteered at the Centre during the past year or two, come and join the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, hosted by the Five houses. Scandinavian Cultural Centre president, Norman Eyford, will M/C, catering by Kate Praegel and games/quizzes by Marg Kirsebom.

Date: Sunday, January 18, 2015
Time: 12:30 pm, lunch and program at 1 pm
Location: Scandinavian Community Centre

Contact RSVP by January 14 to:
Danish House Society, Ed Kuhlman kuhlman@shaw.ca
Finnish House Society: Riitta Enridge, normanriitta@shaw.ca
Norwegian House Society, Ron Stubbings, norway@telus.net
Sweden House Society, Lena Normen-Younger, swedenhousechair@gmail.com
Iceland House Society, Leif Eiriksson, eirikur@shaw.ca

And if in doubt, or houseless, contact the office, info@scandinaviancentre.org, or phone the office at 604-294-2777.
Make a note of this date on your calendar:

The Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia cordially invites you to þorrablót

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Scandinavian Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, BC, 604-294-2777

Complete information will be in the February newsletter.

From the Front to the West Coast—A Documentary
The Recollections of the Finnish War Veterans in Vancouver
Date: Friday, January 23, 2015, 7:30 pm
Scandinavian Community Centre

This is a documentary directed and produced in British Columbia about Finnish World War II Veterans. The veterans tell their stories revealing history through personal experience: why and how they fought, the personal consequences, as well as the consequences to the country as a whole; tragedy and hope. The archival footage is fascinating. The captivating stories depict the significance of home during childhood and youth. It also tells the story of how and why they left Finland after the war to start a new life in Canada. Even though the topic is war, humour has not been forgotten.

This is an excellent documentary. Come and meet the filmmakers. 66 minutes in Finnish with English subtitles. Admission by donation.

ICCBC Winter Raffle 2014/2015

First prize: Hand made quilt by Elsie Einarson
Second prize: Set of Sagas (valued at $500)
Third Prize: Basket of Icelandic Treats

$2.00 each ticket / $10 per book of 5 tickets

Draw: March 7, 2015, 9:00 pm, Scandinavian Community Centre, Thomas Street, Burnaby

Winners consent to release of their names by Licensee BCLC #109124

Because of government regulations, we cannot mail a raffle ticket with our newsletter. We have to have you order it, send us a cheque and we will return the stub to you, preferably by email. So, if you would like to order and help the club, send a cheque for however many tickets you would like to purchase, to:

Nina Jobin, 6320 Madrona Crescent, Richmond, BC, V7C 2T4 Tel: 604-277-0143

1st prize: Hand made quilt, approximately 4½’ x 5½’

2nd prize: The Complete Sagas of Icelanders, from Leifur Eiriksson Publishing, is the first English translation of the entire corpus of the Sagas of Icelanders together with the forty-nine tales connected with them. Thirty translators were carefully selected for the project, including leading international scholars and university teachers from seven countries who have studied and written on Nordic medieval literature.

3rd prize: a basket loaded with Icelandic specialty items.
Looking for……

Jórunn Björnsdóttir was born February 13, 1867, in Árnessýsla in Iceland. She was brought up in Árnessýsla, by her parents Björn Oddsson and Ingveldur Einarsdóttir. By the time she was 13 she was working as an errand girl at Púfa, the farm of her Aunt, her father’s sister, Guðbjörg Oddsdóttir. She moved to Reykjavík where her son Jón Sören Sörenson was born in 1891. Sometime after her son’s birth she emigrated, leaving her son behind.

At some point in time she moved to Vancouver, quite possibly in the early part of the 1900s. She married a non-Icelander with whom she had at least 3 children, all sons. Unfortunately, nothing more is known about Jórunn. If any of this sounds familiar to you, please contact Gerri (gerrimcdonald@shaw.ca or 604-279-0420).

The person looking for information on Jórunn is the great granddaughter of her eldest son Jón who remained in Iceland. In a twist of fate, Jórunn’s great great-granddaughter, Hafdis, now lives in Bellingham and is hoping to find out about Jórunn’s life in North America.

It is Snorri and Snorri Plus registration time, www.snorri.is

**The Snorri Program (6 weeks)**

is an opportunity for young people (18-28) of Icelandic origin living in Canada and the United States of America, to discover the country, culture, nature and language of their ancestors, and to create and/or strengthen new bonds with relatives living in Iceland. The Program offers an exciting six-week adventure starting in mid June every year, until the end of July. The program offers a unique experience of the country, its nation, culture and nature.

**Arrival date at Keflavik airport, June 14, 2015**
**Departure date from Iceland, July 24, 2015**
**Application Deadline: January 16, 2015**
(Recommendation: check the Grants section)

**The Snorri Plus Program (2 weeks)**

The program is both for people (30 and up) who have never been to Iceland and those who have been to Iceland once or more often. It is for individuals, couples or families with focus on your Icelandic roots, although people do not have Icelandic blood running through their veins may apply as well. We focus on relatives, culture and nature and do our best to connect people with their Icelandic relatives.

**Arrival date at Keflavik airport, August 19, 2015**
**(Departure date from North America, August 18)**
**Departure date from Iceland, September 1, 2015**
**Application deadline: January 30, 2015**

ARTISTS

**Nordic Art & Photography – Juried Art & Sale**

February 28 & March 1, 2015 (Saturday & Sunday), 11 am-4pm

**CALL FOR ART**

To enter your materials, contact Sonja Busch, sonjabusch@hotmail.com, 604-522-4567, or Carolyn Thauberger, cthauber12@gmail.com 778-329-6964. Also, please call Sonja if you can volunteer for this event.

Presented by the Scandinavian Cultural Society with support from the BC Gaming Commission.

COMING EVENTS

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Christmas is a wonderful time to make connections with your culture. There is a genuine yearning to pass on memories held close to your heart to a new generation. Food can often be a vehicle for the enjoyment of sharing cultural traditions that satisfy memories of times gone by and introduce new challenges to the senses so alert in the younger generation.

The Icelandic Canadian Club of B.C. always tries to have some traditional Western Icelandic foods for sale at their annual Christmas Bake Sale in Vancouver. This year the rúllupylsa ordered from Don Bilinski at the Shop Easy store in Riverton added to the array of food items offered. Having a good source for traditional foods is important. Many people seem more interested in buying rather than making the traditional food items.

If a slice of rúllupylsa served on a piece of homemade brown bread at our Hard Fisk Café could speak, this is the story it could have told at the bake sale.

Hello, my name is Rúni Rúllupylsason and I am from Riverton. My family line goes back to a special recipe that is only known to a few. Right after our whole family was made we were put on a bus and shipped to Vancouver. The weather was cold and we enjoyed the trip through the mountains. When we arrived, they put all of us in pots of boiling water for over an hour. I got so hot I floated to the top and was scooped out to cool off with the others. We all felt much better spending a few quiet days together in a cold fridge.

Shortly thereafter, we were vacuum packed, weighed, priced and put up for sale. Some like me were sliced and put on buttered homemade brown bread. I am content and happy this Christmas season because I feel closer to home here on this batch of bread. The recipe, I have learned, is an old one from Oak Point. Thanks to everyone who helped me get to where I am today. Best regards to those at home and to my family wherever they may be. I hear we taste pretty good.

All the best, Rúni.

Naomi Dyer has made the brown bread for the ICCBC Bake Sale for years. When she sent me her recipe shortly after the bake sale, I nearly fell off my chair. The typed recipe title reads “Icelandic Brown Bread (By way of Oak Point Manitoba)”. My parents Hilda and Halli Eyford met there when mom worked at the Oak Point Hotel and dad at J.T. Arnason’s Store.

Norman Eyford, Vice President
Icelandic Canadian Club of B.C.
Bonfires for New Year’s Eve
from Iceland Review
Photo: Páll Stefánsson.
Sixteen bonfires were prepared for New Year’s Eve in Iceland’s capital region. There were also bonfires in other parts of the country, including Akureyri. Bonfire manager Páll Brynjar Pálsson told ruv.is that “Only clean timber can be used.” “We are following strict regulations and we cannot pollute much,” Páll added. In the capital region the bonfires are put out at 2am but in Akureyri the fire won’t be put out while people are hanging around. It’s a tradition for many families in Iceland to attend a bonfire on New Year’s Eve and watch the fireworks show that follows.

Can Iceland become the ‘Switzerland of data’? Amid government snooping, tiny Nordic nation hopes to brand itself as a safe haven for data privacy around the globe.
By Felix Gaedtke, excerpted from Al Jazeera, 30 Dec 2014

Reykjavik, Iceland—On a cold, windy December afternoon in the southern Icelandic town of Reykjanesbaer, this former NATO airbase looked like nothing more than a huge warehouse from the outside. But the barbed-wire fence surrounding it and surveillance cameras atop its gates betrayed its importance. This facility, which began operating in February 2012, is one of several data centres in Iceland. It’s run by Verne Global, a company that allows its customers to store data on servers here.

Tate Cantrell, the company’s chief technical officer, explained why Verne Global favoured this tiny Nordic nation of all places. “In Iceland, you’ve got this ideal situation: energy, excellent connectivity for data, and a constant cool climate. So Iceland was an obvious choice.” Iceland’s abundant renewable energy from geothermal and hydroelectric plants means the costs of running these data centres are low. And the Gulf Stream current keeps the temperature in Iceland more or less stable throughout the year, avoiding the need to provide cooling for the servers and computers.

Data centres based here have another advantage, too: Iceland is in the initial stage of implementing the most progressive data-privacy laws in the world, a major selling point especially after whistleblower Edward Snowden’s revelations regarding widespread surveillance by the United States’ National Security Agency (NSA). A recent paper published by Verne Global stated that Iceland was “uniquely positioned as a data privacy haven” because of the new regulations.

‘Switzerland of information’
The International Modern Media Institute (IMMI), a non-profit organization, has played an instrumental role in designing and promoting the legal framework for Iceland’s new data privacy laws. Following the country’s 2010 financial crisis, mass protests broke out against the nepotism, corruption and lack of transparency exposed by the collapse. A group of Icelandic activists began working on an initiative to create the world’s strongest media and free speech protection laws, as well as a state-of-the-art privacy law.

Birgitta Jónsdóttir is IMMI’s spokeswoman and now represents the Pirate Party in the Icelandic parliament explained to Al Jazeera correspondent that one of IMMI’s goals is “to allow people working on human rights or investigative journalists, as well as people who want to host data on a massive scale, to be free from worrying about privacy issues”. She added: “Iceland should become for information what Switzerland is for money.”
Underground Lava River Seen in Thermal Image
A new thermal image of the Holuhraun eruption site, shot from the air, reveals a glowing underground lava river. The river originates in the crater, flows under solidified lava to the northeast and extends 14 km (8 miles) to the edge of the new lava field. The image was posted on the Facebook page of the University of Iceland’s Earth Sciences Institute. The lava field now measures 79.8 square km (30.8 square miles). As reported, it's already larger than the entire Reykjavík metropolitan area and is approaching Iceland’s largest lake, Þórisvatn, in size, which is 83 square km. It’s the largest lava flow in Iceland—and the world—in 230 years.

Basketball Iceland's Sportsperson of the Year
Basketball player Jón Arnór Stefánsson was named Iceland’s Sportsperson of 2014 by the Association of Icelandic Sport Journalists. Jón Arnór, who plays with Spanish premier league team Unicaja Málaga, is the second basketballer to earn the title. The first was Kolbeinn Pálsson in 1966. Mbl.is reports that the national team in men’s basketball was named Team of the Year and basketball legend Pétur Guðmundsson was accepted into the National Olympic and Sports Association’s Hall of Fame along with footballer Ásgeir Sigurvinsson. Coach of the Year was Rúnar Páll Sigmundsson, who made Stjaman Icelandic champion in football.

Eiður Guðjohnsen Comes Full Circle
Thirty-six-year-old Icelandic professional football player Eiður Smári Guðjohnsen is said to have signed a contract with Bolton Wanderers, who currently compete in the Championship League, the second highest in England. Eiður Smári played three years with Barcelona, winning the Spanish and Champions League. Since 2009, he has played with Monaco, Tottenham, Stoke, Fulham, AEK Athens, Cercle Brugge and Club Brugge.

Cardiac Surgeon Iceland’s Person of the Year
Cardiac surgeon Tómas Guðbjartsson, a professor and senior physician at Landspitali National University Hospital, was voted Person of the Year by listeners of Rás 2 radio station. Tómas and his team recently saved a man who had been stabbed in the heart. The operation was filmed and the footage screened on RÚV’s news magazine Kastljóðs. It shows how Tómas pumped the patient’s heart with his hands to maintain the flow of blood to the brain, ruv.is reports. “I didn’t expect this news story and event to garner so much attention but I find it pleasing, of course, both for myself but no less for my colleagues and everyone who works at Landspitali and in the healthcare system. I find that it isn’t just me who is receiving a recognition but the healthcare system overall, which I believe people care about and are concerned about,” Tómas commented.

Man Walks 500 Meters Naked to Save Family from Fire
It was the night before Christmas when Vífill Valgeirsson woke up. He was in bed with his wife and everything was still on the farmhouse Bjarg in Eyjafjörður, close to Akureyri. Suddenly, his dreams were interrupted when he smelled smoke and felt extremely warm. He jumped out of bed, rushed to the corridor and got the feeling that the whole house was ablaze, ruv.is reports. In shock he stumbled out of the house and shut the door behind him. It was then that he realized that the door was locked and his wife and mother in law were inside. Plus he was stark naked. Vífill decided to break a window on the door, but the heat was so intense that he could not enter. He called his wife who answered, but dared not leave her room. Somehow he thought of his mother in law on the second floor but her door was locked as well (RÚV does not tell us how he knew that). There was nothing to do but walk to the next farm, which luckily was only 500 meters away (600 yards). He managed to wake them up and 15 minutes later the fire department came and managed to save both women. Just in time, because Vífill’s wife had almost passed out. She was taken to the intensive care unit in Akureyri with smoke inhalation. She has now recovered enough to be released from hospital. The cause of fire is thought to be a furnace used to dry food.

First Electric Car Rental Service to Open
Twenty-one year old entrepreneur Ádásteinn Lárus Skúlason recently set up Iceland’s first electric car rental service, Electric Carrental. Ádásteinn has received the company’s first car, a Nissan Leaf, and is expected to add more cars to its fleet in the spring, mbl.is reports. According to Iceland Transport Authority, there are just four electric cars available on the car rental market but no car hire company specializing in electric vehicles existed previously. “The idea is to market the hire company to those who want to go all the way in [terms of] a green lifestyle. Many tourists come here because of the clean air and environment. These are tourists who care about the planet and are conscious of pollution,” Ádásteinn said.

Grímsstaðir Still for Sale in EEA
Jónannes Haukur Hauksson, one of the owners of a 72% share of the remote farm Grímsstaðir á Fjöllum, Northeast Iceland, says the land is still on the market after it was put up for sale. Chinese investor Huang Nubo had wanted to purchase or rent the land and build a resort and golf course. However, delays from the government and local municipality in dealing with him have meant that the land remains unsold.
The 8-page newsletter is published at the beginning of each month, ten months of the year. A newsletter is not printed in July or August. Material is gratefully received by the 20th of each month.

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Morgunblaðið: http://mbl.is
Ströndin Internet Radio: www.inlofna.org/SIR
Honorary Consul General of Iceland for BC & Yukon,
Heather Alda Ireland: iceconsul@shaw.ca

Jan 9 (Fri) 12 noon—Scandinavian Seniors Lunch
please call Tor 604-294-0749 or the office.

Jan 14 (Wed)—Scandinavian Business Club’s Dinner,
7pm. Email Paul Andreassen at info@sbc-bc.ca. We welcome both non-members and members to all our events! Also visit us at www.sbc-bc.

Feb 15 (Sun), 1 pm.—Valentine Concert: With special guests The Poulsbo Youth Norwegian Folk Dancers, local singers and musicians. Contact: 778-329-6964 or ctauber12@gmail.com. Admission by donation.

Jan 17 (Sat) - Genealogy meeting, 1 pm.

Jan 18, 28 (Wed) - Scandinavian Dancers 7.30 pm, All ages, couples and singles welcome. Contact: Judith Anderson judithanderson@shaw.ca or 604 526-4722.

Apr 11-12, 11 am-4 pm—Nordic Spirit 2015: 30 Years of Nordic culture.


Icelandic Language CDs or Tapes
Get acquainted with the language or brush up on your pronunciation with lessons 1 & 2, each one hour long. Typed lessons are included so that you can learn to read Icelandic as well.

- Canadian Orders: CDs, 2 lesson sets $30 CAD/ USD; tapes are also available. Postage & handling included.
- US and Foreign Orders: International money order only.

Send your cheque or money order made out to:
Icelandic Canadian Club of B.C.
3776 Arbor Street, Burnaby, BC V5J 1T4
Tel: 604-433-6329
www.inlofna.org/ICCBC/Tape_Lessons.htm

Icelandic Online Club; email: ioc@inlofna.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IcelandicOnlineClub

Photo: Páll Stefánsson, Iceland Review

Oakridge Lutheran Church
585 West 41st Avenue,
Vancouver
9:30 a.m., Sunday Morning Service
English Joint Services
Coffee served every Sunday
Everyone is welcome!

LIBRARY & GENEALOGY
Books written by Icelanders in English or translation are available in the Scandinavian library upstairs. The sorting of books in the Sólskin Library is progressing.
Information regarding the Genealogy Centre can be obtained from Gerri McDonald at 604-279-0420.