



The Icelandic Canadian Club of British Columbia

NEWSLETTER

January 2017

Gott og farsælt nýtt ár

XLIX:i

LANGUAGE LESSONS

January 16—February 27, 2017

No class on Family Day, February 13, 2017

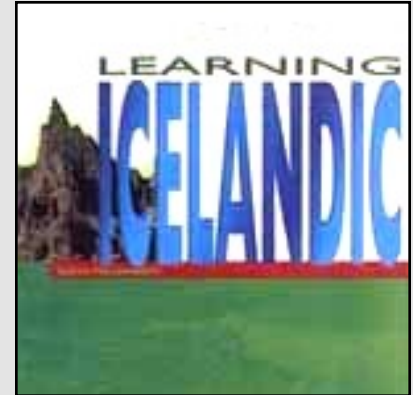
Mondays, 7-9 pm

Scandinavian Cultural Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, BC

Language Instructors: Gunnar Hansson, Edda Langworth

The class will be in two groups. People interested in taking the classes should email **Gunnar Hansson** (gunnarhans@gmail.com)

Cost \$60, Everyone Welcome



The Snorri Program, June 11-July 20, 2017

The Snorri Program 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 Snorri 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. The program has been running since 1999 and 182 young individuals have participated. It is a co-operative assignment between the Nordic Association and the Icelandic National League in Iceland—
www.snorri.is

Application deadline: January 13, 2017

Snorri Plus—August 16 (arrival August 17)—August 31, 2017

The program consists of the same components as the Snorri Program but in two weeks rather than six. You will not only meet relatives, you will bond with other people from Canada and the United States who share the same background and interest in Iceland. You will also meet your Icelandic 'work colleagues' and/or get help with finding more information about your special interests or hobbies. Our focus is that our participants gain more from Snorri Plus than they would if they came as ordinary tourists. Anyone living in Canada or the United States can apply for this exciting adventure. As long as you are over 30 (no age limit) and healthy you are eligible to participate. Applicants do not need to have Icelandic roots. Applications will be accepted in the order they are received. Please note that all our programs are non-profit.

Application deadline: January 20, 2017

Ásta Sól Kristjánsdóttir, Project Manager

Óðinsgata 7 IS-101 Reykjavík, Iceland,

Rates and application forms for both on: www.snorri.is; for additional information email: info@snorri.is
Tel./Simi (+354) 551-0165; Fax (+354) 562-8296; www.facebook.com/snorriprogram/;

ANDERSON, ELLEN ANNIE (nee Ausmundson)

Ellen was born April 29, 1919 in Selkirk, Manitoba. Her father was: Magnus Bjorgvin Ausmundson (Ásmundsson), born September 26, 1892 in Geysir, Manitoba. Ellen's mother was: Emma Jane Ellis who was born February 4, 1904, in London, Ontario. Magnus Ausmundson's father was:



Guðmundur Ásmundsson, born 1861 at Setberg, Borgafjörður, Iceland. Magnus' mother was Ragnhildur Jónsdóttir, born 1864 at Breiðadalur at Höskuldsstaðasel, Iceland.

His parents owned property in Geysir, Man. Selling the property to Skulason's in 1905, they then moved into Selkirk where they lived for the rest of their time except for the time they spent in Blaine, Washington. They both died in Selkirk, Manitoba.

Ellen's maternal grandparents were: Willet Edmond Ellis (born 1881 in Ridgeway, Ontario). and Annie Howlett (born 1895 in London, Ontario). They were married October 14, 1902.

Ellen's parents were married in Víðir, Manitoba, on February 26, 1918, and lived there where Magnus owned property (homestead). They lived there for a few years where Richard Bjorgvin was born, and then the family moved to Selkirk in 1919 for the birth of Ellen. Then back to Víðir for another two years moving back to Selkirk for the birth of Gwendolyn Augusta in Selkirk on 1921. Clayton Verland was born in Selkirk, 1924 and David died at birth May 24, 1926. Ellen was baptised into the Lutheran Church. Because services were only in Icelandic she took an active part in the Presbyterian church, where she was married.

Ellen grew up in Selkirk and went to school there at the Central School and Devonshire Collegiate where she completed grade 10. She then applied for nurses training. While waiting for the call to go into training (all papers were approved even though she studied on her own) she married Charles Emil Anderson of East Selkirk on October 7th, 1937. In January 1943, she left for Prince Rupert. Charlie had a job at Port Edward as a carpenter and Ellen got a job in the Riddie Home as a house Mother for 11 children (oldest 10 years) and her own two girls.

An old friend of Charlie's, Oli Sunstrom, convinced him to go fishing which turned out to be a disaster. The Anderson family soon left for Edmonton where Charlie found work on the Namao airport until he decided to go

into logging in Wildwood Alta. Ellen cooked for the skidders and haulers for the winter before moving to Salmon Arm where she was active in the Farmer's Institute and the PTA.

Ellen worked in the orchards, thinning and picking apples for the local fruit farmers. They lived there for ten years.

Next move was to Prince George when she was seven months pregnant. They bought 180 acres and built a home on the property. Ellen worked along with Charlie even climbing up onto the rafters nailing the joists down and putting on the roof. She joined the PTA in Peden Hill School and was President for two years. Charlie worked in the sawmills until he went to work at Hoppcott's (a John Deere Company).

They joined the Sons of Norway in 1953 and were members for many years. Ellen was the Historian and mailed out the monthly bulletin, *Rondona*, for the Sons of Norway - for nearly eight years. Charlie helped build a ski hill on their property called *Hickroy Wing*. Ellen ran the concession for coffee and treats, etc. All the while, Charlie ran maintenance using his bulldozer to clear the roads of snow. The Hickory Wing was dismantled in 1960, because the bottom part of the property was subdivided. All lots were sold. Later the rest of the property was sold and then resold to the University of B.C. who later built the campus known as the University of Northern British Columbia.

In 1966, Ellen and family moved to White Rock, B.C. where Charlie did renovations for homes. They joined a square dancing group, and Ellen worked as a volunteer for the White Rock Hospital Auxiliary. She later joined Sólskin, an Icelandic Women's Charitable Organization in 1972 and was an active member and served on its executive. Ellen was a long-term member of the Icelandic Canadian Club of B.C. and the Scandinavian Cultural Society of B.C.

Her favourite hobby was making porcelain dolls. She poured, fired and dressed 345 porcelain dolls of which most were sold. Ellen also had an avid interest in genealogy and over the years she compiled a vast family history.

Charlie died November 25, 1993 of cancer. In December 1994, she met William (Bill) Stevens and in 1996 they decided to share a life together until he died of an aneurysm in 2000.

Ellen and Charlie's children were all raised in B.C. Delores who was born in Selkirk, in 1938, and died at three days old. Their other children are: Donna Leith; Fay Lynn; Barbara Joan; Teresa Ann. Their son Brian Charles died in 1981 at the age of 35. Ellen passed away in early December 2016.

Information from the IABC, submitted by the family, September 19, 2001.

**The Icelandic Club of BC would like to thank
Don and Fran Johnson
For their very generous donation.**

Iceland's Karlakórinr Heimir Men's Choir to Vancouver—April 21-23
(exact dates and schedule to be confirmed)

*This is the third year for the **VanMan Male Choir Summit**, hosted by the **Chor Leoni Male Choir**. It has become a sought-after international destination for male choirs, one of which they are pleased to welcome is **Iceland's 80 voice Karlakórinr Heimir**. They will be performing at UBC's Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, and at St. Andrew's Wesley Church on Burrard Street. **Karlakórinr Heimir's** men's choir was founded in 1927. The present conductor is Stefán R. Gíslason; pianist is Thomas R. Higgerson. Additional information will follow in subsequent newsletters. www.heimir.is.*

The Poulsbo Norwegian Youth Folk Dancers
and
Song of Romance
with various outstanding Centre performers
Saturday, February 18, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

The Scandinavian Cultural Society will again present our Valentine Concert at the Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby. By donation.

The lively Youth Folk Dancers from Pilsbo, Washington, will open the show. A variety of outstanding Centre performers have prepared songs of romance for the second hour. Coffee will be served. Watch the Centre website for details. The last Valentine Concert was a big hit. Bring your Valentine.

For information contact: Carolyn Thauberger at cthauber12@gmail.com

Art and Photography Juried Show and Sale
February 25 & 26, 2017
11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Scandinavian Community Centre, Burnaby, BC

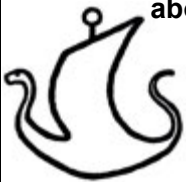
Call for Art, Artisan Crafts, Photography, Fabric

To enter your materials, contact: sonjabusch@hotmail.com
For information: cthauber12@gmail.com or ph: 778 329-6964
Presented by The Scandinavian Cultural Society

Nordic Spirit 2017—Settlements

A photo exhibit with talks
about the settlements Scandinavian settlers established in BC and elsewhere.
April 8 & 9, 2017—11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Send your pictures and stories to us:
Carolyn at cthauber12@gmail.com or 778 228-2334
Presented by The Scandinavian Cultural Society



Knitters, Icelandic Wool—where you can find the wool

- North Vancouver, **Urban Yarns**, 1760 Lonsdale Avenue, phone 604-984-2214; Toll free 1-877-488-9276. four different types of Lopi, many colors
- Point Grey Village, **Urban Yarns**, 4437 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, 604-228-1122, Toll free 1-877-488-9276
- Both the above stores are Online—store ships worldwide, www.urbanyarns.com
- Vancouver, Main Street, **Three Bags Full Knit Shop**, 4458 Main Street, Vancouver, BC V5V 3R3, 604-874-WOOL (9665) info@threebagsfull.ca



Poet's Corner

The Prophet's Son

Our scriptures say the fathers fell upon
And foully beat and killed the prophet's son,
But long before the grass had greened the clay
They gathered at his little knoll to pray.

A lettered stone construed it holy ground
And strangers passing by the flowered mound
Would ask amazed, "Why did ye him to death,
Whose dust-remains you praise with every breath?"

Each worshiper, with hand on burning breast,
A-beam with eagerness and pride confessed:
"We wished to take away his life," he said,
"That we might honor him the more, when dead."

But though into the past I peer and dip,
A pagan with a smile upon the lip,
My secret eyes are on another spot
Within the purlieus of my native plot.

S.G. Stephansson 1853- 1927
from *More Echoes*

Netflix subscribers can take advantage of the **Nordic Noir trend with three Icelandic series** now available on the streaming service:

- **Trapped** follows three local police officers trying to solve a string of murders in a small town after being snowed in by a major winter storm. Their investigation is hampered by numerous dark secrets that lie just beneath the surface of a tightly-knit community.
- **Case** deals with the aftermath of the death of a young ballet student. There is the detective who does not believe she committed suicide and the disgraced lawyer investigating the case in search of redemption.
- **The Lava Field** is about the potentially suspicious death of a wealthy man and the troubled police detective who's personal life overshadows the investigation.

All of these series are rated TV-MA.

Netflix is also currently streaming two **Norwegian** political thrillers:

- **Occupied** is about an EU-supported Russian 'soft' invasion of Norway after the country's Prime Minister decides to suspend oil production. It was created by the mystery writer Jo Nesbø.
- **Nobel** asks how far one would go to achieve peace through two intertwining stories involving a Norwegian special forces officer during and after a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Bake and Craft Sale

It was super busy and we sold out everything except the brown bread - we had lots. Next year we are going to have to increase our amounts.

The **Hard Fisk Café** was a huge hit. Everyone can buy coffee and Icelandic treats, sit down with friends, both old and new. It is a very social event.

We in the club would like to thank all the volunteers who baked, and cooked, those who helped set up and take down tables and chairs, those who



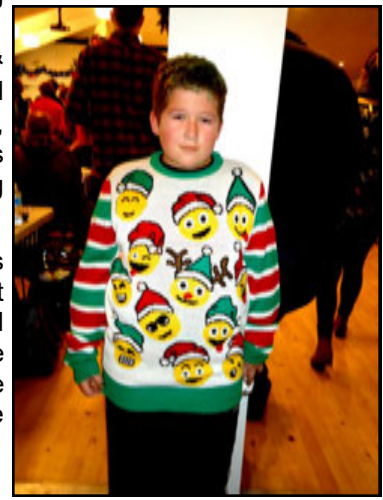
welcomed people and showed them around our Icelandic Room and generally all those who took care of everything needed.

Children's Christmas Party

We always hear that this is the best Children's Christmas party of the season. Everyone has a good time. Children received presents from Santa with moms & dads, ammas & afis watching, drinking coffee and enjoying it all.

Thanks to Jana & Óðinn Helgason, and the whole family, which includes Santa, for organizing the total event.

None of our photos turned out well but this little guy wanted his picture taken. We didn't get his name but we thought he was rather nice.



COMING EVENTS

Jan 16-Feb 27	Language Classes, Mondays, 7-9 pm	Scandinavian Centre
March 4	Porrablót	Scandinavian Centre
Mar/Apr	TBA—Icelandic Canadian Club of BC Annual General Meeting	Scandinavian Centre

BYRON INGEMAR JOHNSON 1890—1964; Premier of British Columbia, 1947—1952
From the Icelandic Archives of British Columbia (IABC)

This article was published in Löberg-Heimskringla, December 2016. We publish it here for those who may not have had the opportunity to read it at that time.

Byron Ingemar Johnson, a sportsman, businessman, politician and family man, lived a unique and distinguished life in British Columbia. He was born on December 10, 1890 in Victoria, British Columbia, to Ólafur Jónsson (Oliver Johnson) and Guðrún Arfinsdóttir (Guðrún Finsson), both of whom were born in Iceland. His paternal grandparents were Jón Jónsson (John Johnson) and Valgerður Grímsdóttir and his maternal grandparents were Arnfinnur (Arnfinnsson?) and Ingveldur (Björnsdóttir?), all of whom were born in Iceland.

Byron Ingemar Johnson's original name was Björn or Bjössi, as his parents fondly called him. When Byron went to school his fellow classmates gave him the nickname "Boss". His original name Bjorn was anglicized to Byron. In later years the name Byron Johnson would become a familiar name to British Columbians as he became the first non Anglo-Saxon premier of the province.

Byron Johnson attended Elementary and High School in Victoria where he distinguished himself as an extremely good athlete, especially in rugby and lacrosse. After High School, he joined the Vancouver Lacrosse Club and at age twenty two he turned professional. Unfortunately, the Vancouver Lacrosse Club folded shortly after he came on board. However, Johnson continued to support lacrosse and during the 1930s he became the Commissioner of Lacrosse where he endeavoured to provide lacrosse boxes and supply equipment to young lacrosse players across this province.

Byron Johnson's father, Oliver Johnson, had a cartage business where Byron worked on Saturdays and during the holidays. He was always business oriented and during High School he took a Commercial Course which got him a job as a clerk-stenographer with the Tye Copper Company in Victoria.

When World War 1 was declared in 1914, Byron Johnson joined the British Army where he served in the Field Ambulance Corps, later as a Sergeant in the Mechanical Transport Division. He eventually transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. In 1920, he married Kate Scott Simpson of Victoria. She had been born in Hawick, Scotland, to parents Walter Simpson and Agnes Little Simpson. Byron Johnson and his wife had one son, Byron O. S. Johnson, born in 1926.

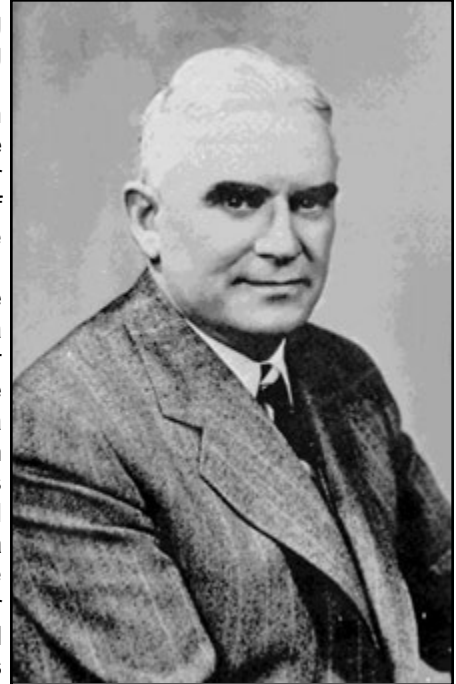
After Byron Johnson returned from overseas, he embarked on a business venture with his brother John Johnson. They bought an old truck and started up a trucking and supply business which eventually evolved into one of the most successful haulage and cartage firms in British Columbia. This independent company, Johnson Bros., expanded further to include

fuel and building supplies. During the 1920s, Byron Johnson became President or Director of several large companies, among them the British Columbia Power Corporation. He was a handsome man of courteous demeanour and he had a remarkable memory for faces and names. His respectful and thoughtful manner served him well in the quiet diplomacy of the executive boardroom and in making lifelong friends.

Byron Johnson was a staunch Liberal member. In 1933, he ran as a Liberal candidate in Victoria and was elected to the British Columbia Legislature. His chief interest in entering politics was to help restore prosperity to the province. In his maiden speech, he advocated the importance of promoting trade with other countries in the Pacific area. His sound business ideas so impressed Premier Pattullo that he considered him, at one time, for a cabinet post. However, in 1934, when Johnson Bros. was amalgamated with Evans Cole & Gilley and Johnson was appointed Director and General Manager of the company, he resigned from the Legislature and moved with his family to New Westminster. He continued to support the liberals and ran as a Liberal in 1937, but was defeated at the polls.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, Byron Johnson was persuaded by Chubby Powers, who was then Minister of Air in Prime Minister Mackenzie King's cabinet, to take charge of all R.C.A.F. airports in western Canada. At that time the R.C.A.F. contributed greatly to the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan which trained recruits from all over the British Empire. As a result of Johnson's successful involvement in this particular venture he was awarded the Order of the British Empire.

Byron Johnson became an influential personality in British Columbia politics, especially during the Liberal convention in 1941 which endorsed the formation of a Coalition of Liberal and Conservative members. At a new Westminster by-



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5- Byron Ingemar Johnson)

election in 1945, Johnson won the riding as a Coalition candidate in Premier Hart's government. Both Gordon Wismer, a Liberal and Anscomb, a Conservative, aspired to the leadership of the Coalition. Since the Liberals had a larger membership in the Coalition they felt a Liberal should head the Coalition. When premier Hart announced his intention to retire, Byron Johnson declared his candidacy for leader and the race was on between him and Wismer. At the Liberal Convention, early in December of 1947, Johnson won the leadership by eight votes. He was sworn in as Premier on December 29, 1947. He gave up his business interests as well as his Directorates in order to fulfil his obligations as Premier of British Columbia.

Byron Johnson, or Boss Johnson as he was often referred to, was now Premier and leader of a Coalition government, one that required tact and diplomacy in order to survive. He believed in free enterprise while at the same time he had a social conscience. He introduced legislation to establish compulsory Health Insurance, one of the first of its kind in Canada. He encouraged industries like Alcan and Canadian Cellulose to invest in British Columbia. In 1948, he imposed British Columbia's first Sales Tax, called the Social Security and Municipal Aid Tax. This 3% Sales Tax proved to be very unpopular with the electorate at that time.

During the 1949 election year, Premier Johnson allocated money towards road construction, including the Hope-Princeton Highway and the completion of the John Hart Highway, as well as extending the P.G.E. Railroad from Quesnel to Prince George. The 1949 election was a great victory for the Coalition government which won thirty nine over seven seats for the C.C.F. Of these thirty nine seats twenty eight had been won by Liberal members while eleven were held by Conservative members.

By 1950, the increased cost of Hospital Insurance became a problem, so the premiums were raised and Cabinet was given the power to set the rates for hospital care. That spring, Premier Johnson went to London to try and promote trade between British Columbia and England. Later that year, on a drive between Montreal and Quebec City where he was attending a Conference, he and his wife Kate were involved in a car accident. Both suffered injuries and by the time Premier Johnson returned to the Legislature he had not completely recovered from his injuries.

By 1951, Hospital Insurance rates had to be raised again. This was loudly denounced by the Labour Unions and the press began to issue negative comments against the deficit and lack of government policy. Premier Johnson, whose quiet style was better suited to boardroom diplomacy than the raucous confrontation of the political arena, was increasingly beset by dissension within the Coalition government. Anscomb, a Conservative, called for a "free for all election" and W.A.C. Bennett, also a Conservative, deserted the Coalition to sit as an Independent.

Premier Johnson's position as leader of a fractious Coalition was becoming tenuous, especially after Anscomb began to report to the Press without prior consultation with the Premier. Finally, Premier Johnson demanded that Anscomb resign. The result was that Anscomb, along with several other Conservatives quit the Coalition and joined the opposition benches. Premier Johnson felt that the voters should be the ultimate decision makers on the fate of the government. In the election of 1952, Johnson lost his seat and the Social Credit Party, a free enterprise party under the leadership of W.A.C. Bennett, was elected by a margin of 19-18 over the C.C.F. party with the Coalition a distant third.

In 1952, Byron (Boss) Johnson retired from politics. He was a man ahead of his time. We appreciate the value of his far-sighted vision in enacting the Hospital Insurance Plan and the Provincial Sales tax, both of which are necessities of today.

In 1955, Byron Johnson suffered a stroke which left him a semi invalid. He died in January of 1964. Throughout his life Byron Johnson enjoyed the gift of wonderful, lasting friendships with comrades in sports, on the battlefield in Europe, in business contacts and in politics. He had always had that personal touch in all encounters which endeared him to people.

On his retirement, Jim Hume, a reporter for the Victoria Times Colonist, in his last political column on September 28, 1996 wrote: "I haven't missed any Premier since Boss Johnson."

A poignant moment in Byron Johnson's life after he suffered a stroke is recalled in the following Victoria Times story: "Some years after he was stricken, former Premier Johnson accepted an invitation to watch the election returns from a Victoria newspaper office. As usual, the room was bustling with activity as late returns were snatched from the teletypes and party standings posted on large blackboards. But when "Boss" Johnson arrived on the arm of his wife and began to limp painfully across the floor to a seat by the main news desk, a hush fell over the room. It was broken when one reporter stood and began to clap his hands, then another and another, until the entire room, working press and friends, veterans of a dozen political campaigns and proud of their cynicism, filled the room with their applause. "Boss" looked up, a twinkle in his eye, and waved his hand in acknowledgement of the tribute. It was a wonderfully human and rewarding moment and we remember it today, as we remember him."- Victoria Times, January 13, 1964.

Research by Robert Asgeirsson

Compiled by Kristjana Magnusson Clark

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Iceland House Genealogy Research Centre

Portrait of the Premiers by S. W. Jackman

Premiers in Profile by William Rayner

Victoria Times, January 13/64

Victoria Times Colonist, September 28/96.

Vancouver Sun, January 13/64

The Province, January 13/64 & January 14/64



Glacier Retreat to Form Lagoon

Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon has grown a great deal since it first appeared in the 1930s, when Vatnajökull glacier began retreating, *Visir* reports. Since then, the glacier has continued retreating at an increasingly fast rate. There is every indication that in the end, the lagoon, which is Iceland's deepest, will become a long fjord. In 1890, the glacier covering the lagoon was no more than 250 m (820 ft) from the ocean. Then, the lagoon first appeared in 1934 and has been growing ever since. At present, it reaches 7-8 km (4-5 mi) inland, but could eventually become 25 km (15.5 mi) long and 5 km (3 mi) wide. According to Helgi Björnsson, geophysicist, the glacier has retreated exceptionally fast since 1995. It is a clear sign, he stated, of a warming climate in Iceland. Not only that, but at high tide, warm ocean water flows into the lagoon, melting the ice.

Emilía and Aron Most Popular Names in Iceland - 2016

Aron was by far the most popular name for newborn boys in Iceland in 2016, for the sixth year in a row. **Emilía** defends the title as the most popular name for newborn girls, having jumped from ninth to first place in 2015, *Visir* reports. For the past three years, **Aron, Alexander and Viktor** have been the top three names for boys, as stated in a new report by Statistics Iceland. However, the second and third most popular names for girls in 2016, **Sara and Ísabella**, did not make the top three the year prior. There has been an explosion in 'new' or 'foreign' names in Iceland in recent years. The name Baltasar is a notable example. In 2016 it was the eighth most popular name for boys, given to 24 newborns. Before 2000, there were only four persons with that name in Iceland, including film director Baltasar Kormákur, his father (Spanish painter Baltasar Samper), and son. Today, most children born in Iceland are given two names. By far the most popular middle name for

boys is **Pór and Rós** is the most popular middle name for girls. However, this is a fairly new tradition in Iceland; in the 19th century very few children were given two names. The first two examples were Danish siblings listed in the 1703 census. The popularity of middle names gradually increased, probably under Danish influence. Overall, classic names are still the most common in Iceland, even though their frequency has decreased significantly through the centuries. In 1703, 23.5% of Icelandic men were called **Jón** and 19.7% of women **Guðrún**. Today, the ratio is around 3% for both names, even though they are still the most common names for Icelanders. In second place is **Sigurður** for men and **Anna** for women.

Icelandic Novel One of Century's Best in China

Historical novel *Hundadagar* ('Dog Days') by Icelandic author Einar Már Guðmundsson was named as one of the best foreign-language novels of the 21st century in China earlier this month. The award ceremony will take place in March 2017.

Thirty-One Granted Citizenship

Alþingi approved to grant thirty-one individuals Icelandic citizenship, *Visir* reports. Among those voting was Pawel Bartoszek, MP for the Reform Party, who remarked, "About 19½ years ago, my mother and I were granted citizenship this way," he is originally from Poland. Pawel used the opportunity to thank the senior among the MPs for his vote that day. Those granted citizenship come from numerous countries, including Sudan, Ghana, Bolivia, Haiti, Kosovo, Ukraine, China and many more. The youngest one among them was born in 1995, the oldest in 1947.

Pirate Captain Meets with Snowden in Moscow

Pirate Captain Birgitta Jónsdóttir met with Edward Snowden in Moscow on December 20, 2016. She told **RÚV** that he would be ready to come to Iceland and become an Icelandic

citizen. In her view, Iceland should grant him citizenship. Snowden, a former CIA employee, leaked thousands of classified documents from the National Security Agency in 2013, revealing numerous US surveillance programs worldwide, launched following the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001. If he returns to the US, he could be convicted of treason and imprisoned for 30 years. Birgitta stated she is worried about Snowden's situation now that a new president has been elected in the US. President-Elect Donald Trump has declared that Snowden deserves the death sentence. Birgitta said no one knows what would happen once he takes office in January. She admitted that although Snowden were granted citizenship, he would not be able to come to Iceland for the time being, since there is no safe way for him to travel here. Most of all, Snowden would like to return to the US, according to Birgitta, as long as he is granted a fair trial, open to the media, with a jury, where he could discuss the reason for his acts.

Cost of Living in Iceland

According to Iceland Statistics, the average wage in Iceland is ISK 415,000 (US 3,160) before tax per month; income tax is 37.3% for most people, but higher for the highest earners. The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Reykjavík is ISK 130,000 (USD 990) per month. A single person can expect to spend ISK 137,000 (USD 1,050) a month on food, clothes, medical services, recreation, transport, communication, and other services.

Winter Solstice Marks End of Darkest Days

December 21, 2016 was winter solstice. At 10:44 am, the sun reached a point on the ecliptic, which is the farthest south of the celestial equator. That moment marked winter solstice, when the sun is positioned the farthest south and lowest in the sky. At this point, the sun starts rising in the sky again. The sun rose at 11:22 a.m. in Reykjavík this day and set at 3:31 p.m.

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE

Website: www.scandinaviancentre.org (for more details)
E-mail: info@scandinaviancentre.org, Telephone: 604-294-2777

Jan 13 (Fri) 12 noon—Scandinavian Seniors Lunch, please call Tor 604-294-0749 or the office.

Jan 11 (Wed), 7 pm—Scandinavian Business Club's Dinner, 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

Jan 22 (Sun) 2 pm—Friends of Finland Afternoon Movie

ScanSports presents: Curling, Skating, Summer hikes, Running and more. Check out:
www.scandinaviancentre.org/tag/scansports/ or
email: scansports@gmail.com

Happy New Year 2017



New Year's Eve in Reykjavík

Icelandic Online Club; email: ioc@inlofna.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/IcelandicOnlineClub

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.

Editor & Publisher:

Margrét Bjarnason Amirault, Tel: 604-688-9082

ICCBC Mail: 6540 Thomas Street

Burnaby, BC V5B 4P9

E-mail: icc_of_bc@hotmail.com

Distribution: Naomi Dyer, Gerri McDonald, Nina Jobin

Labels/Membership: Norman Eyford

Website: Icelandic Canadian Club of B.C.

www.inlofna.org/ICCBC/Welcome.html

Email: icc_of_bc@hotmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Icelandic-Canadian-Club-of-British-Columbia/190426084338925

Website: Icelandic National League: www.inlofna.org

Icelandic Radio (6 stations): www.xnet.is

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

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

Oakridge Lutheran Church

585 West 41st Ave., Vancouver

10 am, Sunday Morning Service

English Joint Services
Coffee served every Sunday

Everyone Welcome



LIBRARY & GENEALOGY

Books written by Icelanders in English or translation are available in the Scandinavian library upstairs. Books in Icelandic are located in the Iceland Room. Information regarding the Genealogy Centre can be obtained from Gerri McDonald, email: gerrimcdonald@shaw.ca