PRESIDENT’S LETTER

As I sit and write this President’s Letter, I am thinking about what a great culture we belong to. Our ancestors were/are a strong people that cannot be knocked down. The Icelandic Soccer Team has beat teams that would never have thought they could beat them and here they are today going up against France. All of us need to get behind this team and cheer them onto to victory!

I would like to thank Donna Crozier and Lorraine Ilnicki for helping set up our Icelandic National Day celebration and Susan Hallett, Lorraine, Donna, and Colleen & Ron Adams for helping take down the evening, plus Glen Bond and Norman for cooking up a storm of smokies and hotdogs. If you were unable to attend, you missed a great time. We did the usual barbecue; our program consisted of our anthems, a goodbye from our Alberta 2015/2016 Fjallkona Carolyn Yu and great stories told by Karen Gummo.

Some important dates that are coming up very quickly are the Fall Dinner on Saturday, September 24; the Sporid Icelandic Folk Dancers on Saturday, October 8th at 1 pm at the Dutch Canadian Club, and our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, October 22. There are two positions that will need to be filled, Treasurer and Social Events.

It is always great to see so many of our members come out to our events. I always look forward to seeing you there. And, now it is time to sign out for the summer, but we will be back in September.

Skal,
Joedy Englesby, ICCE President

Iceland Independence Day Celebrations

A crowd of hungry Icelanders arrived for our annual Independence Day barbeque, bringing with them good weather and warm greetings. Hotdogs, smokies, salads, beans and desserts were enjoyed and the hall was abuzz with conversation. Several new members were welcomed and enjoyed the festivities. I overheard and participated in many conversations about genealogy, the history of the Fjallkona, school, summer vacations and more. Caroline Yu, wearing her traditional Icelandic costume, was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers to thank her for representing our club as the Alberta Fjallkona over the past year.
After dinner, storyteller Karen Gummo entertained the group with stories and riddles about trolls, eggs and birds.

A big thank you to everyone who came out to help set up, make or bring the food, cook the smokies and hotdogs, clean up and put the hall back in order. We have been advised that the Dutch Centre will be undergoing renovations over the summer so people will be welcomed to a bright, renewed venue when we meet for our fall supper. We will be changing up our menu for that event.... stay tuned for more.

Donna Crozier, Vice-President

FJÄLKLONA FAREWELL

I want to thank the entire Edmonton Club for a wonderful year as the 2015-2016 Alberta Fjallkona which just ended. It was a once-in-a lifetime exciting experience! Making short speeches wasn’t too bad after all.

The June 17 barbecue event with desserts was well attended and a lot of fun! Special thanks to Jodie Englesby and Donna Crozier who made the year memorable. I also would like to acknowledge the efforts and hard work of Colleen Adams, Lorraine Ilnicki, Sophie Olsen and many others making the celebration event a success. I appreciated having the night off so we could make preparations to go to Markerville the next morning for the day-long festivities at the Íslendingamót (Icelandic Picnic) there.

The specially decorated cake was spectacular and the HUGE Bouquet of mixed flowers I received was gorgeous! We took it to Saskatchewan to show it to all my relatives there.

Good-Bye and thanks for the lovely year!

Carolyn Josephson Yu
MARKERVILLE
A picture perfect community, nestled in view of the mountains, welcomed us when we arrived from Edmonton. The sun shone; mosquitos cooperated; people were plenty and the fun was grand. Three-legged and egg races were enjoyed by folks of all ages. A troop of Viking warriors invaded the glen, demonstrating battle formations, fighting techniques and great sportsmanship. The forty plus children in attendance had the opportunity to show off their own skills, brandishing Styrofoam swords and defeating the Viking warriors. The children then challenged the Vikings to a tug of war and despite the larger size of their foes, the children handily won the war. Everyone was treated to ice cream before heading indoors for the more formal program.

Christine Mueller and Gwen Mann from Calgary welcomed everyone from all parts of Alberta. D’arcy Gamble, President of the Stephan G Stephansson Society thanked everyone for coming out and talked a little about their community. Donna Crozier brought greetings from Edmonton. Dorothy Murray from Markerville shared the history of Vonin, a group of women who spearheaded fundraising back 125 years. Hallgrímur Benediktsson, Icelandic Honorary Consulate in Calgary brought greetings from Iceland and spoke about his Icelandic upbringing, his career and his ongoing support of and involvement in the Icelandic clubs in Alberta. Bev Arason-Gaudet, Second Vice-President of the INL of NA brought greetings from the INL of NA. Alberta’s 2015 Fjallkona, Caroline Yu, talked about her activities and experiences, then helped to crown 2016’s Fjallkona Marg Finnson. Marg then thanked everyone and shared information about her background and her ties to the Icelandic heritage. The food was great, ending with cutting of the cake from the ICCE then entertainment by the Viking warriors.

Donna Crozier, Vice-President

KEEPING IN TOUCH
A get well card was sent to Barb Beirnes, and a condolence card to Herb Vigfusson and family on Phyllis’ passing.

Marilyn Thorlakson, Keeping in Touch

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
July 30- August 1 – Heritage Days Festival
Saturday, September 24 – Fall Dinner – Main Hall, DCC
Saturday, October 8 – Iceland’s Sporið Dancers, DCC
Saturday, October 22 – AGM, Nordic Room – 11am
Saturday, November 26 – Christmas Party, DCC

2016 Board Meetings – 6:30 pm
September 13, October 11, November 8

VIGFUSSON, Phyllis Eileen
On Wednesday, June 8, 2016 Phyllis Vigfusson of Sherwood Park passed away at the age of 88 years. Phyllis will be lovingly remembered by her husband Herb "DAD"; 3 children: Bryan, Judy, Darlene (Bert); 9 grandchildren: Robyn, Sandi, Michael, Chris, Carrie, Lori, Katie, Sarah and Cody; 15 great-grandchildren; and her sister Bernice Barnhouse. Phyllis was predeceased by her parents Katherine and Fred Miller and her sister Joyce Miller. A Funeral Service took place at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at Glory Lutheran Church, 22577-Hwy 16, Sherwood Park, AB, with Interment to follow at Glenwood Memorial Gardens, Sherwood Park.

SCANDINAVIAN SENIORS GET-TOGETHERS
Scandinavian Seniors continue with games and fellowship every Wednesday at 1:00 pm in the Nordic Room at the Dutch Canadian Centre. Snacks and goodies are provided by the Norwegians. We usually stop at 2:30pm to partake of coffee or juice and snacks/goodies.

To date we have played Mexican Train Dominoes, Ugly Sticks and Norwegian Whist. Several years ago the Swedes played Svensk Monopol and other games in Swedish.

If there are any questions, please call me at 780-434-6532 or e-mail at kendomier@shaw.ca Please come and enjoy the fellowship.

Ken Domier

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB HAS A NEW WEBSITE – CHECK IT OUT AT HTTP://ICCEDM.ORG/ FOR MORE NEWS AND UPDATES
HERITAGE DAYS AT GLASTONBURY VILLAGE

On Friday, June 30th, Carolyn Yu and I participated in Heritage Days at Glastonbury Village. The residence provides independent and assisted living for seniors and had asked for representatives to staff an ‘Iceland’ table and provide information and insight about Iceland to their residents. We brought an array of Icelandic products - books, a flag, photos, pamphlets, maps, woolen goods such as a scarf, hat and sweater, a Yule lad, a doll dressed in traditional Icelandic dress, etc. and we also ran an informational video on Iceland on a laptop. Other countries represented were Peru, the Ukraine, China, India and England. I couldn’t resist reminding England that in addition to what we had brought with us, Iceland was also pretty remarkable when it came to soccer players!

We indulged in a birthday cake for Canada with the residents who seemed to enjoy learning a little bit about Iceland. The residence is planning on running this event every year and hopes that we will return - I think we will!

Bev Arason-Gaudet
Past-President, ICCE

ICCE BURSARIES

We have 10 bursaries per year to award and each of these bursaries are worth $2000 each. The next deadline for submission of applications is August 15, 2016. If you, or someone you know, is attending post-secondary either in Canada or internationally, please have them contact me or visit the ICCE website for the application form.

On behalf of the ICCE Board,
Tanya Hofforth, snorri@iccedmonton.org
RECIPE KORNER

At our Icelandic Language Class Graduation Day gathering in April, Michele Hales, mother of graduate Sarah Hales, brought Salmon Chowder for the pot luck table. Since it was such a hit, we asked Michele if she would share her recipe. Enjoy!!

Hales’ Salmon Chowder

1 T (15 ml) olive oil
3 medium leeks, washed, sliced (~3 cups)
1 clove garlic, minced
2 medium Yukon gold potatoes, peeled, cut into 1/2” dice
2 celery stalks, chopped
1/2 tsp (3ml) salt
1/2 tsp (3 ml) freshly ground pepper
2 cups (500 ml) chicken broth
2 T (30 ml) tomato paste
1/4 tsp (2 ml) cayenne
2 cups (500 ml) homogenized milk
8 oz (250 g) bbq salmon nuggets, broken into small chunks
1/2 cup (125 ml) whipping cream

Chopped fresh chives and dill for garnish

Heat the olive oil in a large heavy bottomed pot over medium heat. Add leeks and garlic and sauté until soft, about 3-4 minutes. Add potato, celery, salt and pepper and cook for about 1 minute. Add broth and simmer until the potato is tender, about 15 minutes. Stir in tomato paste, cayenne and milk until well mixed. Add salmon and bring mixture to a simmer (do not allow to boil). Stir in cream. Remove from heat and garnish with chives and dill.

AND – Diane Robock received a request from one of our members who was looking for a recipe for Mysuostur. This one was found in an old Icelandic cookbook.

MYSUOSTUR

1-1/2 cups whey powder
2 cups Pacific Milk
1 cup brown sugar
4 Tablespoons butter

Mix until smooth in pot. Bring to boil and simmer about 10 minutes. Remove from stove and beat until cool.
STRAWBERRY SPRING TEA
The crowd was small but the spirit was still there. Diane did a marvelous job preparing for the strawberry tea where we munched on cake and strawberries, drank ice cold fresh strawberry punch or hot coffee or tea. Lorraine Ilnicki helped Diane spruce up the library the day before and set out little pots of spring flowers. Library books were on display for loan, more Icelandic goods were for sale – give what you could afford. Lorraine’s young granddaughter Carlee organized the table and did a splendid job of it too. Unfortunately, there was an address error on our poster; hopefully we didn’t have too many people driving around trying to find the Scandinavian Library. Our apologies for this.
"Developer of the Hecla Block" JON JONSSON AKA Johnny Johnson

The second of four generations in Edmonton. In 1906 he paid $2025 for two lots where the Hecla block now stands. There was a grocery store on the property which the family operated for a time. However, he was active in the real estate business and became a prominent builder in the early days of Edmonton's history, with building of the Hecla Block (in 1914) and Tremont Apartments (later renamed to Riverview Apartments) as well as more than 60 homes. The Hecla block and Riverview building are still in use today after having been restored. The Hecla block, in particular, is of historical significance due to its Edwardian Classicism style, and the fact that it was one of Edmonton's first generation of fine apartment buildings. It was named after Iceland's best known volcano. Born in Iceland (at Skagafirde), John Johnson moved with his family to Canada, along with other Icelanders to get away from political upheaval, catastrophic weather and volcanic eruptions in the homeland. He settled first at Gimli, Manitoba, then at Markerville, and subsequently at Edmonton, Alberta. He, as well as his father, Jon P. Jonsson, were residents of Edmonton from approximately 1902. His father passed away in 1922 and his mother Ingun in 1912.

ÖLAFUR LOPTSON

Ölafur Loptson & Son, Jewelers operated by Ölafur Loptson and his elder son Atalsverin (Alex) was moved from Selkirk, Manitoba to the main floor of the new Gibson Block at 9614 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton in July 1912. They practiced watch and clockmaking and repairs as well as gold assaying and jewellery sales. Alex carried on with the business after his father's death on September 10th, 1915. During that time Alex also plied his watchmaker's skills and wares amongst the railway construction workers along the new route from Edmonton to the West Coast. Alex closed the jewelry business and eventually became a missionary in China and the Philippine Islands.

Olafur Loptsson was born in 1862 to Loftur Jonsson (1815 - 1863) and Barbara Magnusdottir (1820 - 1888) on the farm in Lundar Parish, Folkadalur in Borgarfjarðarsysla, Iceland. He immigrated to Canada in 1888, settling in Churchbridge, Saskatchewan. He married another immigrant from Iceland, Gudrun Palsdottir and they later moved the family to Selkirk, Manitoba. In July, 1912 he brought his family to Edmonton where they made their home at 10946 83rd Street. Olafur was buried in the family plot at Thingvalla Cemetery near Churchbridge, Saskatchewan where he first homesteaded. His wife Gudrun died November 1946 and was buried at Edmonton, Alberta.
HERITAGE SOCIETY

There was an excellent turnout for the working bee in May, mostly familiar faces who just pick up the tools and start working at what they had done the year before, happily and so well organized. It really was a fun day. A lovely lunch was served for all, then everyone got back to work again. Here’s a few snapshots at different stages of the vinarterta baking bee.

Volunteers are needed to work in the Scandinavian tent during the Heritage Festival July 30, 31 and August 1. Call Lorraine at 780-454-1710 to get on the list.
NEWSLETTER DESK

My apologies if you are receiving this newsletter later than usual. It has been quite a summer so far for me and my family which unfortunately did not allow me to attend the National Day Celebrations. My husband Al broke his ankle in late May which required surgery, then unrelated to this, he ended up in hospital for 12 days. Needless to say, sitting on a computer writing articles, or cutting and pasting pictures was not first on my agenda. Unfortunately, many others on the Executive have had some family or personal health concerns as well, so hopefully everyone is starting to see the “light at the end of the tunnel”. I am thankful that my husband is recovering and hopefully the others who have been sick or have sick family members are receiving good news too.

The Icelandic Camp near Gimli Manitoba will soon be under way (runs July 24-29). If you are heading out to Manitoba for the summer and have children that would still like to attend, or if you are interested in volunteering as a helper call Brad Hirst at 204-485-5455. The more campers the better, and volunteers are always welcomed – your time and experience is valuable, so if you have the time, they have the want.

Please make note that the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton website name has changed to: iccedm.org and this change we hope will definitely be for the better. Thanks to Michelle Braakman for putting in such hard work to get it up and running properly. This name change also changes the generic email addresses for your Executive; take a look at the last page of this newsletter to see the changes.

We hope you have marked your calendars about the Sporid dancers from Iceland coming to the DCC on Saturday October 8th. We are very excited about these visitors and the Board is working hard to advertise this event. You will be hearing more about it in the next newsletter in September.

A reminder from your Membership Director – if you are behind in paying your membership dues, please contact Charles at membership@iccedm.org or by phone at 780-434-4469. You will be missing out on receiving news about our upcoming events if you are put on the delinquent list.

Linda Cornell,
Newsletter Editor

ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF NORTH AMERICA

At the recent INLNA Convention in Vancouver, I was honored to have been nominated and elected Second Vice-President of the Icelandic National League of North America. I have served as Convention Director for the past five years and have enjoyed the challenges and opportunities within the INLNA. At the tri-club Independence Day celebration in Markerville on June 18, I was asked to bring greetings from the INLNA to the assembled attendees. I prepared a speech on the drive down and felt ready to deliver an acceptable speech but as I sat listening to the greetings from the three Alberta clubs, one by one each speaker touched on points that I was planning to speak on - the INLNA Convention, the International Visits Program, the Snorri Program, the INLNA motto ‘Romm er sú taug’ or ‘Strong is the Bond’ - what was I going to do? It was too late to rewrite my speech so I decided to try something new and novel - just tell the truth! So I started by explaining my dilemma and stated that it was actually a good thing. Each of the three clubs in Alberta spoke about our relationship and collaboration with each other and used the INLNA programs as examples. It showed me that the INLNA programs are working just as they should - bringing clubs together and highlighting our Icelandic heritage.

I would like to invite you to contact me at any time if you have any questions about or suggestions for the INLNA. I look forward to watching the league grow under our new President, Sunna Furstenau, who has already initiated many positive changes.

Bev Arason-Gaudet
2nd VP, INLNA
Past-President, ICCE
## 2015-2016 ICCE EXECUTIVE

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