



NORÐURLJÓS

Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton

Directors

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

Committee Chairs

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 Snorri & Bursaries: Tanya Hofforth
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 Social media co-chairs: Sydney Veldhuis, Georgia Hladysh
 Social events committee lead: vacant

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Facebook: Look for the club by name
 Search for @iccedm

President's Report

— from Allison Boychuk

Greetings!

As we welcome the fall season and cooler weather, it is time to look back on the summer as a lot has been happening in our Alberta Icelandic community. On June 21st we appointed one of ICCE's members as Fjallkona, Beverly Arason-Gaudet, and crowned her at Iceland's Independence Day in Markerville. We are continuing our support of our younger generation, as we sponsored four youths for Snorri 2025 program and awarded eight bursaries of \$2000 each to post-secondary students.



On September 20th, we hosted our annual Leifur Eiriksson Fall Gathering. Summer was filled with many opportunities for our club members to celebrate our Icelandic heritage together and to support our next generation to keep in touch with their roots in Iceland.

Behind the scenes, we have purchased insurance for our activities and continue to work to find homes for our collection of Icelandic themed books in both English and Icelandic. Our books and other belongings are currently kept at a mini-storage facility. We hope to downsize the size of the unit are renting as we find new homes for items for which we no longer have a use. We will be providing opportunities for members to take home books from this collection at upcoming events.

Next on the event calendar is our ICCE AGM on Sunday October 26. We will be saying farewell to two long time board members who are pursuing other interests. Marty Anderson has worked diligently as the club's treasurer and member-at-large for many years.

We will miss Marty but count on seeing him out at club events.

Erla Anderson is also leaving the board to focus on her other volunteer commitments. Erla is a long-time member who has served as President, Vice-President, Past President and member-at-large. Erla is also our nomination chair for the upcoming AGM. Erla will continue to be involved, as she and her husband Ármann Ingólfsson will be hosting Kaffi Rabb once again this winter. We are all looking forward to this opportunity to learn more about the Icelandic language.

We will come out of our AGM with a few new board members. We hope you will attend to meet new and old board members and learn more about the activities of the club.

Our final event of 2025 will be our annual Christmas celebration, Litli Jól, on Sunday December 7th. Stay tuned for stories of Icelandic Christmases.

Finally, if the stories of our Snorris inspire you, start checking snorri.is soon as the applications, and deadline announcements, for next year's Snorri and Snorri Plus programs will be posted shortly.

It's always so great to see everyone at our events! I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and/or Litli Jól. Take care and enjoy our fall newsletter! As always if you have ideas or stories or photos for the newsletter, please get in touch! We'd love to hear from you.

Takk! Allison

Leifur Eiríksson Gathering



Sydney Veldhuis spent the summer as a Snorri Alumnus Intern at the Icelandic Emigration Centre in Hofsos, Iceland.

On September 20th, members gathered at Central Lions Recreation Centre for our annual Leifur Eiríksson get-together. We had a catered lunch and presented cheques to this year's eight bursary recipients. Thanks go to EJ Johnson-Dmyterko, who shared stories about her summer experience as a Snorri participant, and to Sydney Veldhuis, who shared her experiences as the Snorri Alumnus Intern at the Icelandic Emigration Centre in Hofsos.



EJ Johnson-Dmyterko shared stories from her Snorri adventures in Iceland this past summer.

Mark Your Calendars!

ICCE AGM

Sunday, October 26
1 - 3 p.m.
4723 - 52 Ave NW (Silvacom Building)

Litli Jól

Sunday, December 7th
4723 - 52 Ave NW (Silvacom Building)

Porrablót 2026

March 21st, 2026
Central Lions Recreation Centre
11113 - 113 St.

Board Meetings

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

Meetings 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 and link.

** To attend by phone get in touch and we will set you up. **

2025 ICCE AGM

The annual ICCE AGM will take place on Sunday, October 26. Please see sidebar for location and times.



Here is your chance to meet board members and fellow club members and find out about programs ICCE is involved with, from cultural events like Thorrablót and Icelandic National Day, to the Snorri and Bursaries programs. We will review the club's objectives and accomplishments over the past year, and look at our to-do list for the next year.

Plan to attend to learn more about your club and bring your own ideas and aspirations for it, and enjoy some snacks and coffee too. We hope to see you there!

Contact info@iccedm.org if you would like more information.

Kaffi Rabb Returns!

Learn Icelandic in a fun atmosphere! The Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton's Kaffi Rabb (Coffee Chat) is starting up again. Club members are welcome to join. There is no cost. All levels from beginner to "Lengra komnir" are welcome.

The sessions will be hosted by club members Ármann Ingólfsson and Erla Anderson. Ármann is Icelandic, born and raised in Iceland and a native speaker. Sessions will be held twice a month on Mondays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The first session will be November 10th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Zoom and the next session will be on November 24th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in person.

We'll meet over Zoom once a month and meet in person once a month, possibly at a coffee shop. It's Kaffi Rabb after all. Contact iccekaffirabb@gmail.com.



Reflections on being named the 2025 Alberta Fjallkona

by Beverly Arason-Gaudet

In 2025 the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton had the honour of appointing the 2025 Alberta Fjallkona. Beverly Arason-Gaudet was appointed and crowned at the Icelandic National Day Celebration in Markerville in June. Bev is a long-time club member and valued contributor to Icelandic culture and communities in Canada. A bio of Bev appeared in the Summer edition of this newsletter. Bev gave the following fascinating retrospective of the history of the Fjallkona and Icelandic communities in Canada and Alberta. This article was originally published in Lögberg-Heimskringla.



Bev speaking at National Day celebration in Markerville, June 21, 2025

When Gloria Krenbrenk called to ask if I would accept the nomination as the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton’s (ICCE) candidate for the 2025 Alberta Fjallkona, I was momentarily at a loss for words. Of course, I had attended the annual June celebrations in Markerville many times, where the three Alberta Icelandic clubs - ICCE, the Leif Eiríksson Icelandic Club (LEIC) of Calgary, and the Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society (SGSIS) of Markerville - gather to celebrate Iceland’s National Day and crown the Alberta Fjallkona. In the few seconds before I answered Gloria, I found myself thinking of the many remarkable women I had watched receive this honour over the years - and I accepted, deeply moved and grateful.

Many who attended the ceremony in Markerville were well acquainted with the historic significance of the Fjallkona, or Lady of the Mountain. She is a symbolic figure who personifies Iceland, first emerging during the 19th-century independence movement as a noble, maternal counterpoint to the Danish king, then seen as the “father” of Iceland. Prominent in nationalist poetry, speeches, and celebrations, the Fjallkona came to represent the strength, dignity, and enduring spirit of the Icelandic people. Since Iceland’s full independence in 1944, she has remained a central figure in the nation’s annual June 17th celebrations.

In Canada, the tradition of the Fjallkona began in 1924, when Sigrún Lindal was crowned the first Manitoba Fjallkona at the Icelandic Festival in Winnipeg. This cherished custom has been lovingly maintained in Manitoba for over a century. In 2024, the festival marked the crowning of its 100th Fjallkona, and this year Gunnvör Danielsdóttir of of Gimli was named the 2025 Manitoba Fjallkona and will participate in the Íslendingadagurinn celebrations in August, Manitoba’s commitment to preserving this tradition is truly admirable.

In Alberta, the tradition also runs deep. The Icelandic Society of Edmonton, as the ICCE was then known, crowned its first Fjallkona, Irene Henrickson, in 1958. From that year through 1977, a woman who had made meaningful contributions to the club was chosen annually for the honour. As I looked back over the list of those early honorees, I was struck by how many I had known personally: Freda Smith, Margaret Cameron, Mickey Shaw. Ruth MacNaughton, Shirley Thorsteinson, Della Roland, Nina Campbell, Lucille Oddson, Lillian MacPherson, Shirley Thorvaldson, and many more.

These women were part of the fabric of my childhood. I knew them from club events like Tombolas, Christmas parties at the Molson House Fort, formal dinners at the Scandinavian Centre,

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and Scandipades performances at the Jubilee Auditorium. I also knew them in more intimate settings.

My parents, Walter and Beulah Arason, were both active members of the club, serving on the board and various committees. At the time, meetings were held in people's homes, including ours. I often saw these women at board meetings, choir practices, and the many work bees and baking days held in kitchens and living rooms. I was always welcomed, often with the important job of passing around trays of dainties and napkins. Those gatherings left a lasting impression on me — and seeing my name now included among these remarkable women makes this honour profoundly meaningful.

In 1978, the three Alberta Icelandic clubs joined together to create a shared tradition: the crowning of the Alberta Fjallkona, rotating the role annually between the clubs, with the ceremony held in Markerville near June 17, Iceland's National Day. Now, 47 years later, I am humbled to be part of a legacy shaped by so many hardworking, dedicated women.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations and deep gratitude to the three Alberta clubs — their boards and members — for keeping this tradition alive. It would be easy for a custom like this to fade with time, but their commitment to preserving our shared history ensures that it endures.

In just three short years, Alberta will mark the 50th anniversary of this joint Fjallkona tradition. I would like to propose that this milestone is commemorated in true Icelandic style — with a celebration that honours five decades of strong, noble women. With the creativity and dedication I've seen in the Alberta clubs, I'm confident an unforgettable anniversary will become a reality.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to those who made my day so meaningful: Bridjet Radstaak, for graciously serving as my attendant; Matt Gaudet, for escorting me to the stage; Gloria Krenbrenk, for your kind words of introduction; Kathleen Raines, our 2024 Fjallkona, for placing the crown upon my head; the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton, for your trust and support; and my family - Gordon, Matt, and Rob — thank you for always being by my side.



***Icelandic National Day
Celebration and crowning of
the Fjallkona at Fensala Hall,
Markerville: June 21, 2025.***

*From left to right:
Gloria Krenbrenk, ICCE; Allison
Boychuk, President, ICCE;
Kathleen Raines, 2024
Fjallkona; Mark Pétursson,
President, Leifur Eiríksson Club
of Calgary; Beverly Arason-
Gaudet, 2025 Fjallkona; John
McKechnie, President, Stephan
G. Stephansson Icelandic
Society (Historic Markerville);
Bridjet Radstaak, the Fjallkona's
Princess, ICCE.*

2025 Bursary Recipients

Every year, ICCE takes applications and awards bursaries to post-secondary students. This year we awarded eight bursaries of \$2000 each. The money comes from our casino volunteer opportunities. The amount for each year’s bursaries will depend on how many applicants we have, and how much money we have in the account. We are proud to be able to support post-secondary students! Here are this year’s bursary recipients and the programs they are taking.

- **Kaylee Dodd** (Grandparents: Gail Helgason & John Dodd. 1st year at UofA, Planning (Urban Planning))
- **Liam Fitzgerald** (Parents: Tanis & Ken Fitzgerald Grandparent: Gordon Thorlakson. UofA 1st year at NAIT, Heavy Equipment Technician)
- **Ari Ingolfsson** (Parents: Erla Anderson and Ármann Ingólfsson. 2nd year at UofA, Mechatronics & Robotics Engineering)
- **Morley Hladysh** (Parents: Marla & Shaun Hladysh. 2nd year at NAIT, Interior Design Technology)
- **William Arndt** (Parents: Scott Arndt & Angela Anderson. 1st year at UofA, Bachelor of Science in Engineering)
- **Nói Halldórsson** (Parents: Halldór Þorgeirsson & Bryndís Þorarinisdóttir. 4th year at UofA, Physics)
- **Ben Olsen** (Grandparents Don & Catherine Olsen. 2nd year at UofA, Art & Design -Studio Art)
- **Amelie Preville** (Mother Alison Grant–Preville and Grandparents Charlie & Ann Grant. 5th year at UBC, Bachelors in Sociology with a minor in early childhood education.)



Amelie Preville



Ben Olsen

Several bursary recipients came to the Leifur Eiríksson event. From left to right: Liam Fitzgerald, Núi Halldórsson, Ari Ingolfsson, William Arndt, Kaylee Dodd, Morley Hladysh.

Edmonton Heritage Festival 2025

This year’s Heritage Festival took place on the August long weekend at Borden Park. As usual, we were there! Did you know that the Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton has been participating in the Edmonton Heritage Festival, along with the other Scandinavian clubs, since the very first event in 1976?

The five Scandinavian countries work together as the Scandinavian Heritage Society and include the local groups: Dania (Denmark), Finnish Society (Finland), Icelandic Canadian Club (Iceland), Solglyt Lodge #143 (Norway) and Skandia Lodge #549 (Sweden), demonstrating the vitality of Scandinavian culture in Alberta. Many volunteers work to organize and prepare traditional foods and displays for the pavilions and the Scandinavian group has won awards for its pavilions.

We are excited that next year’s Heritage Festival will return to the newly renovated Hawrelak Park location. And the Icelandic Club will be there again with the other Scandinavian groups, as it has been from the start. Thank you to Allison and Lorraine and the other volunteers that make this happen!

The iconic Viking ship identifies the Scandinavian Pavilion and introduces visitors to the world of the Scandinavian nations.



The pavilions include food service and cultural displays and are staffed by volunteers serving food and greeting visitors to talk about culture, language, tourism and other topics.



The 2025 Snorri Program

For 2025 ICCE sponsored four youth to participate in the Snorri program in Iceland. George McLaughlin, Jess Clark, Alexandra Harkness, and EJ Johnson-Dmyterko. Following are an article from Jess and a photo from Alexandra about this summer’s experience. We will be featuring still more Snorri experiences in future newsletters.

Jess Clark

This past summer I was fortunate enough to be one of the 2025 Snorris! It was a wonderful experience that combined history, nature, heritage and connection. I grew up just outside of Edmonton with most of my extended family in Manitoba. The Snorri program gave me the opportunity to reconnect with distant relatives and experience life in Iceland!



Jess



Shearing sheep with Lilja

My first homestay was with my 4th cousin Lilja María Gísladóttir and her husband Paul on their sheep farm just outside of Selfoss. I was joined by another Edmonton Snorri, George. George and I helped out with a few chores around the farm during our stay such as feeding the lambs, pulling weeds, building fences and making hay (or more like just watching the real farmers do the work!). During our free time Lilja and Paul were gracious enough to let George and I use their old car to explore some of the south of Iceland! We explored the south coast and stopped by many waterfalls, including Skogafoss and Seljalandsfoss, as well as a few natural thermal hotsprings and even took one of our other Snorris, Astrid, on a quick day trip down to the town of Vik.

In my second week of homestays I stayed with a few of my more distant cousins Samuel, Þórunn and their son Daði (a past Snorri West participant). They owned a large cow farm outside of Flúðir and Daði managed a greenhouse just a few minutes away. I spent a few of my days helping pack tomatoes at the greenhouse and helping Þórunn with farm chores and even walking a calf.

Both Þórunn and Daði were amazing hosts and went out of their way to show me the sights. One of the highlights with Þórunn was touring the Golden Circle, while Daði took me hiking to several beautiful — and less touristy — waterfalls, including a hidden spot near



Gullfoss that offered an incredible view. I mentioned I was interested in horseback riding and white-water rafting, and thanks to Daði’s help, I got to experience both!

Another memorable moment from my trip was meeting one of my fourth cousins, Karl Guðmundsson, along with his sister, daughter, and granddaughter for dinner in Reykjavík. Although Karl wasn’t able to host me, we had a lovely evening together. He was very interested in learning more about our Canadian relatives, so I helped connect him with my mom back home. They had a great conversation filled with stories about our shared ancestors.

The Snorri Program was so much more than just a trip — it was a really special way for me to reconnect with my heritage, meet extended family, and experience the amazing culture and landscapes of Iceland. I’m super grateful for the opportunity, and if you have Icelandic roots, I definitely recommend applying. It’s something you won’t forget!



Jess at Gullfoss

Check snorri.is for applications and information about the 2026 program. Applications will be available soon.

Alexandra Harkness



Alexandra at her host family farm

Alexandra was hosted at her family’s farm Stóri-Dunhagi. Her great-grandfather grew up in the same valley, born in Auðbrekka, Eyjafjarðarsýsla. Alexandra has more to tell us about the connections she made to her Icelandic family and history and is saving that story for a future newsletter.

