



INLNA Newsletter

ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF NORTH AMERICA



Photo courtesy Icelandic Festival of Manitoba

INLNA CONVENTION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – GIMLI, MANITOBA 2025 – MAY 1-4, 2025

Pó líði ár og öld
THOUGH THE YEARS AND CENTURIES PASS
Hosted by the Gimli Icelandic Canadian Society

The INLNA convention is coming up fast and excitement is building as the Gimli Icelandic-Canadian Society (GICS) prepares to welcome over 200 delegates and friends from across North America and from Iceland. For over a hundred years, the convention of the Icelandic National League of North America has been bringing members and friends together to celebrate Iceland's culture and heritage. It is so special for the INLNA and friends to be gathering this year in Gimli, as it celebrates 150 years since the first Icelanders sailed west to a land of hope and dreams. Hardships were suffered, but the Icelandic community in Gimli is still strong after all these years. What better place for us to strengthen our connection with our Icelandic heritage and build on this sense of belonging to a distinctive and vibrant group that has added to the richness of our countries. The maxim for the convention aptly captures the sentiment of INLNA members: "Pó líði ár og öld - Though years and centuries pass". Though time passes we still gather to honour, learn and celebrate our Icelandic culture and heritage – renewing the bond that keeps us strong!

There will be engaging speakers, captivating musicians from Iceland, cultural and historical presentations, all highlighting the unique aspects of Icelandic heritage in North America as we celebrate the bonds that continue to connect us across generations. Professor Ryan Eyford telling us the story of the first Icelanders arriving. From Iceland, Kristín Jóhannsdóttir from the University of Akureyri and Eliza Reid, former First Lady and author coming for her new book launch. There will be lots of opportunity to socialize during Kaffítimis. Join the INLNA Icelandic Trivia contest at the Interlake Brewery Thursday May 1st from 5pm to 7 pm for a chance to win some prizes! Then head down the street to the Icelandic Heritage Museum for the official welcome and convention opening. Friday evening, May 2nd, is the INLNA Awards Ceremony with the bar opening at 6:30 pm. Come and meet some amazing people who have contributed so much over the years to building and maintaining our Western Icelandic community. There is more information inside the newsletter and on the INLNA website at <https://inlofna.org/gimli-2025>



Icelandic Canadian Frón

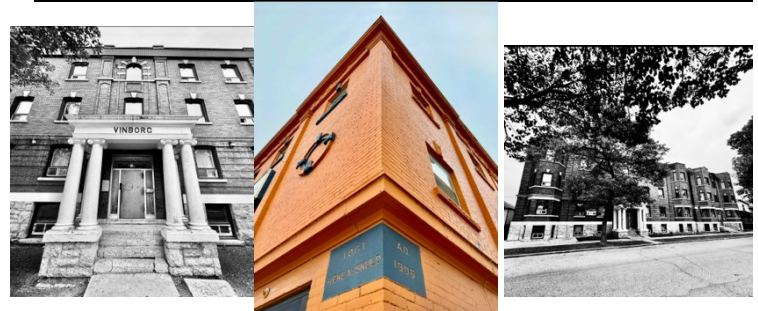
In preparation for the 150th Anniversary of Icelandic immigration to Canada, the Icelandic Canadian Frón (ICF) formed a planning committee that is hosting a number of events throughout the year of celebrations. Here we feature some of the activities that they have hosted and share their upcoming sesquicentennial Icelandic Winnipeg Tour coming up in October. There will be special events in Gimli in October too. Stay tuned to the INLNA web calendar for upcoming events as you plan to join in the yearlong festivities in Manitoba celebrating Nýja Ísland 150.

Save the Date! Icelandic Winnipeg Tour October 11th, 2025

As part of the 150th Anniversary of Icelanders first coming to Canada, we are excited to offer a special guided tour of Icelandic Winnipeg, curated by historian and storyteller, Stefan Jonasson. Mark your calendars for October 11, 2025, and join us for a unique journey through history, exploring the contributions of Icelandic immigrants to Winnipeg and their lasting impact on the community. This immersive experience will include:

- A Guided Tour of Icelandic Winnipeg – Discover key historical sites, neighborhoods, and landmarks that highlight the rich heritage of Icelandic settlers.
- A Sit-Down Lunch – Enjoy a delicious meal with fellow attendees, while reflecting on our shared history.
- Kaffitími – Experience a cherished Icelandic tradition with coffee and treats.
- A Special stop at the University of Manitoba's Icelandic Collection – Get an exclusive look at rare books, archives, and a photo exhibition by Signy Tteinsson that tell the story of Icelandic immigration and culture in Canada.

Reservations for this event will open later this summer, with more exciting details to come! Stay tuned, and don't miss this incredible opportunity to celebrate our heritage and connect with the Icelandic community. We hope to see you there!



150th Anniversary Committee Visits Barnhammer Brewing



As preparations continue for the 150th Anniversary of Icelandic Immigration to Canada, the planning committee is hard at work organizing a series of special events to celebrate this historic milestone.

This January, committee members had the opportunity to visit Barn Hammer Brewing for an exclusive tour of their impressive facility on Wall Street in Winnipeg. The visit included a tasting session of their exceptional craft beers and a sneak peek at some custom beer labels that may make an appearance at upcoming Icelandic Canadian Frón events.

A heartfelt thank you to Symon and the team at Barnhammer Brewing for the warm hospitality and fascinating tour. Stay tuned for more exciting updates as we continue to honour 150 years of Icelandic heritage in Canada!

Icelandic Heritage Brunch in Winnipeg Draws a Sold-Out Crowd

On Sunday, January 19th, the Icelandic Canadian Frón proudly hosted a sold-out Heritage Brunch, marking the return of this cherished event after a pandemic hiatus. The brunch served as a meaningful gathering for Winnipeg's Icelandic community, fostering connections between various clubs and organizations dedicated to promoting Icelandic culture in Manitoba.

Guests were treated to a spectacular buffet crafted by Chef Michael and Jolyne of Bonne Cuisine, featuring breakfast favorites alongside Icelandic staples, such as skyr, sandwich cake, rúgbrauð (brown bread), and an array of delicious desserts.

Representatives from Icelandic organizations across Manitoba were invited to set up display tables, offering information, merchandise, and a chance to network with attendees. A special thank you to the New Iceland Heritage Museum, Lögberg-Heimskringla, Jón Sigurðsson Chapter IODE, the Icelandic Department of the University of Manitoba, and the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba for their participation in this memorable event.

With such an enthusiastic turnout, the Icelandic Heritage Brunch will continue to be a vital tradition, strengthening the bonds within Manitoba's Icelandic community.

Lisa Johannson-Maloney

President, ICF

All photos courtesy of ICG



INLNA READS

Sunday, May 25th, 2025 at 3 pm CST



INLNA READS

Helga's Saga: A Novel by Brian Borgford



Amazon Review says that Helga's Saga is a captivating story of a woman's journey through life, love, and loss. Abandoned by her parents and raised in foster care, Helga navigates the challenges of being a working girl and a mother in 19th century Iceland. Her resilience and determination are put to the test as she faces hardships and heartbreaks, but she never loses hope. Follow Helga's journey as she travels across the ocean to start a new life in Canada and discovers the true meaning of family and home.

Brian Borgford was born in Winnipeg and is now living his retirement in Calgary. In between, he worked as an accountant and has lived in many parts of Canada, as well as in China and the Middle East. He has written several books and has extensively researched his Icelandic background to produce both written fiction and non-fiction books.

SUNDAY, May 25th, 2025 - 3 PM CST

1 PM PACIFIC / 2 PM MOUNTAIN / 3 PM CENTRAL / 4 PM EASTERN / 5 PM ATLANTIC

Western Icelanders: Our Story Our Legacy

Joint INLNA-INLUS Webinar on Tuesday, June 24th, 2025 at 7 pm CST



Presented jointly by the Icelandic National League of North America (INLNA) and the Icelandic National League of the United States (INLUS)



WESTERN ICELANDERS: OUR STORY OUR LEGACY

Minneota in Minnesota was first settled by Icelanders in 1875. **Kathryn Rothman** will share the story of these first settlers, many of whom came from the rocky, lava plains of northeast Iceland to this flat prairieland with little but their personal belongings and books. They built schools, churches, libraries, farms and industries. An enduring love of learning and their Icelandic heritage are part of their legacy. Author **Bill Holm** was born here, and his books and poetry capture the spirit of Minneota. Kathryn has spent time researching the local history of area, and interviewing descendants of those first settlers. Join us online to hear more about the Icelanders who came to Minneota.



Photos courtesy of G Morgan

Icelanders, forever the adventurers, moved further west in 1888 to settle in the Red Deer county of Alberta. **Mark Petursson**, will share the story of these first settlers to Alberta, who came in search of a better life for their children. In the settlement of Tindastoll, later named Markerville, the Icelandic pioneers relied on fishing to sustain them through the winters and rich pastures for sheep and cattle. In the early 20th C, Icelanders began to move to the urban centres of Calgary and Edmonton. Still, the bond with their Icelandic heritage remained strong and Markerville, Calgary and Edmonton remain bastions of Icelandic heritage. Join us to hear the saga of Icelandic- Albertans.

TUESDAY. JUNE 24th, 2025 @ 7 pm CST

MORE INFORMATION AND THE REGISTRATION ZOOM LINK CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITES.

INLNA Community News

Hekla Icelandic Club 100 Years Celebrations Continue

Hekla Icelandic Club has planned a series of celebrations for its 100-year celebrations. The Hekla Club's official 100th birthday was January 30th, 2025. Their 100th anniversary reception made headlines in the Lögberg-Heimskringla. The Club joined the Minnesota Orchestra's Nordic Soundscapes Festival in January and Iceland was the 'host' country for the Chamber Music performance. News of the event reached the New York Times and Wall Street Journal that both gave a mention to the Hekla Icelandic Club. Special mention was made of the Hekla Club's table display of Icelandic wool. In honour of the 100th anniversary, Governor Tim Walz issued a proclamation declaring



Michele Ode created their wonderful centennial logo displayed here:
Sailing into the Next 100 years!
You can find out more at <https://sites.google.com>

January 30th, 2025, as Icelandic Hekla Club Day in Minnesota.

It is fantastic to see the Hekla Club recognized for the valuable work they have done for charity and in supporting Icelandic heritage.

The Hekla Icelandic Club's Samkoma is on Sunday April 27th. Attendance by invitation. Samkoma means gathering, and it is a special annual event in the Hekla Club calendar when members and friends come together to visit, dine and celebrate Icelandic culture. For this special year, the club is honoured to host, as special guest from Iceland - Margrét Hallgrímsdóttir, Director General in the Office of the Prime Minister of Iceland and former Director General of the National Museum of Iceland.

Leif Eiriksson Club of Calgary hosts First Icelandic Carnival

On Saturday March 8th the Leif Eiriksson Club of Calgary (LEIC) held a party. The club called it "Carnival", it was an amalgamation of the 3 Icelandic holidays of Bolludagur, Springidagur and Öskudagur.

The event was focused on children and, just like in Iceland, it had amazing cream filled buns, children dressed in costumes, and the children had an opportunity to make the bolluvöndur.

The only missing piece was having the salted lamb and pea soup, perhaps an addition for next year!

Most of the children came dressed in costume. Many of them were Vikings, this was wonderful as they visited with and had mock battles with the Ulfraendi, a Viking reenactment troupe from Calgary.



The party was enhanced by the non-Icelandic people from the community who joined us after hearing us being interviewed on a CBC morning radio show about the event. As it was truly loved by children of all ages, it will certainly become an annual event in Calgary

This is a great way to introduce the next generation to some of the joys of being a Western Icelander, or even just a lover of Icelandic culture.

Mark Petursson,
President, Leif Eiriksson Calgary

INLNA 2025 Convention

Lots to Experience!

ÞÓ LÍÐI ÁR OG ÖLD
THOUGH YEARS AND CENTURIES PASS

HISTORICAL, ART, CULTURAL SPEAKERS

RYAN EYFORD -HISTORIAN, UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

KRISTIN M JOHANNSDOTTIR, LINGUIST, EDUCATOR, UNIVERSITY OF AKUREYRI

ELIZA REID – FORMER ICELANDIC FIRST LADY, THE INLNA GALA KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MUSICAL ARTISTS & BANDS ENTERTAIN

FERÐAREFILL (TRAVELLING TAPESTRY)
EMBROIDERY OF NJÁL'S SAGA

FILM PRODUCERS PAMELA HOGAN AND HRAFNHILDUR GUNNARSDÓTTIR WITH ZOOM PRESENTATION ON 'THE DAY ICELAND STOOD STILL'

SPECIAL ONLINE VIEWING OF THE FILM 'THE DAY ICELAND STOOD STILL' HOSTED BY THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN FRÓN REGISTER ONLINE AT ICF **SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2025 AT 2:30 PM CST.**

VENDOR'S ROOM - VISIT THE INLNA TABLE TO WIN A DRAW!

WORKSHOP ACCESS TO ICELANDIC ROOTS GENEALOGY DATABASE

TERGENSEN'S BOOK LAUNCH OF ELIZA REID'S BOOK 'DEATH ON THE ISLAND'

BUS TOUR OF NEW ICELAND SUN. MAY 4TH

SOUVENIR CONVENTION PROGRAM WITH ALL THE DETAILS YOU WILL WANT TO REMEMBER



OFFICIAL OPENING RECEPTION AT THE ICELANDIC HERITAGE MUSEUM THURSDAY, MAY 1ST 7 PM

INLNA ICELANDIC TRIVIA CONTEST AT THE INTERLAKE BREWERY, THURSDAY, MAY 1ST 5 – 7 PM - PRIZES TO BE HAD FOR WINNERS!

INLNA AWARDS CEREMONY MAY 2ND 6:30 PM WITH GUEST SPEAKER WILLIAM VALGARDSON, FJALLKONA KERRINE WILSON, COFFEE & ASSORTED DAINTIES, OPEN BAR, HORS'DOEUVRES, MUSIC AND MORE

INLNA SPONSORED SNORRI & GUESTS AFTERPARTY AT THE SHIP & PLOUGH PUB FRI. MAY 2 AT 9PM-12AM

INLNA AGM MAY 3RD AFTERNOON WITH ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

GALA DINNER SATURDAY MAY 3RD 6 PM

SNORRI HIKE AND EARLY MORNING MINDFUL YOGA

OUR FAVOURITE ICELANDIC FOODS AND KAFFITÍMI KAFFITÍMI KAFFITÍMI



Welcome to the 2025 INLNA Convention
Bringing Generations Together
To Celebrate Icelandic Heritage

INLNA ARTIST RESIDENCY GRANT

The INLNA is committed to preserving and promoting Icelandic history and culture. The Buttermaker's House Artist Residency Program of the Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society is one such way to carry this out. The INLNA voted at the AGM held in Banff to support the SGSIS by providing an award to artist taking part in the residency.

The Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society have done the work in setting up the artist residency eligibility criteria and selection process. The INLNA board wishes to express how grateful we are to the volunteers in Markerville for taking on the administration of the INLNA artist residence grant. We are very excited to see the caliber of artists taking part, and to see the program begin to 'take off'. For the coming year, we have plans for how the artist residents will share their work with INLNA chapters and members through in creative ways online or otherwise.

For more information, please go to <http://www.historicmarkerville.com/residency-award.html>

The Buttermaker's House Markerville, Alberta



The Buttermaker's House is situated in Historic Markerville. Here you will discover a constellation of restored historic properties including a church, a community hall, a one room schoolhouse, an original creamery and the restored residence of the great poet Stephan G. Stephansson. Historic Markerville gives you a living history. Their latest project to restore the heritage 1913 Buttermaker's House, with the intention to make it into an artist residency where creative souls could come to be inspired by the river and meadows that enthused Stephansson. The Buttermaker's House has been meticulously renovated with new furniture and appliances which maintain a classic aesthetic while providing modern comfort. The house has a bedroom, living room, full kitchen, bathroom, and a small studio for working. The house sits on a tree-lined lot along the slowly flowing Medicine River in the vibrant and dynamic rural community of Markerville. It's an excellent place to rest, reflect, connect and create.

Stephan G. Stephansson was one of the great poets of modern Iceland despite living most of his life in North America. He emigrated to Wisconsin at 19, and to Markerville, Alberta at 35, not returning to Iceland until he was in his 60s. He was a self-educated poet who often wrote after a day's work as a farmer, or at night, when persistent insomnia kept him from sleeping. Like many Icelanders, he remained deeply connected with his roots despite living his life in a new place. He wrote his poetry in Icelandic, often on themes of nature, clearly inspired by the harsh and beautiful surroundings of his adopted homeland. Today, his story is kept alive in Canada in the Stephan G. Stephansson House Museum, which is part of Historic Markerville. More than buildings, Historic Markerville supports history and culture through year-round educational and artistic activities. This is very much in line with the values of the Icelandic settlers of the region, who built a local lending library and supported musicians and authors. The Icelandic National League of North America is proud to continue this tradition.

There is more information on the artists awarded the Artist in Residency and the work they have done with the support of the Icelandic National League of North America, to be found in the INLNA AGM report and online on the INLNA website.

Stephan G. Stephansson





Spaces Available on Snorri & Snorri Plus

A few spaces remain available on both Snorri and Snorri Plus, despite application deadlines having passed.

- Snorri Program for North Americans of Icelandic descent ages 20 - 30 to spend five weeks in Iceland. The Adventure Tour week will visit Westman Islands, Hofsós, Reykholt, and Snæfellsnes Peninsula. Arrive in Iceland early morning June 14, depart July 21.
- Snorri Plus Program for anyone over the age of 30 to travel to Iceland as individuals, couples, families, etc.; no need to be of Icelandic descent. The week-long Adventure Tour plans to visit Northeast, North and West

For more information and how to apply, please see the website at www.snorri.is or contact Julie@snorris.is

INLNA SUMMER READS IS BACK!



Find more information on the INLNA Summer Reads contest at <https://inlofna.org/inlna-reads>

The Interlake Brewery and INLNA presents

Icelandic Trivia



**Join INLNA for some fun Icelandic trivia.
Form a Team to increase your Wins!**

**Thursday, May 1st, Trivia starts at 5 PM
Prizes | Mini games | Raffle**

  **@interlakebrewing**

T. 204-642-8313 for Reservations of 8 or more