



# BRÚIN CHAPTER, SELKIRK

ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE  
OF NORTH AMERICA



Newsletter  
Editor: Heather Schreiner

124<sup>th</sup> Sumardagurinn Fyrsti

Spring 2017  
Design/Layout: Kathy Dahlin

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How time flies. It's a year since we last got together. This year is our 124<sup>th</sup> annual Sumardagurinn Fyrsti in Selkirk, a tradition brought over from Iceland all those years ago. Our Brúin Chapter is so very proud and honoured to carry on with this tradition. Our club holds ten meetings a year and we start every meeting with the singing of 'Ó Guð Vors Lands', the Icelandic national anthem. Here are some of the activities and events we have attended, and our accomplishments from the past year.

Last year's 123<sup>rd</sup> Sumardagurinn Fyrsti was very successful. We enjoyed sharing the importance of the Icelandic National League as well as our language, culture, and heritage during the evening. Our Kaffi Tima Choir sang in Icelandic and English. Last year we again were entertained by local talent. We presented a bursary to a student from Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School. Our members provided coffee with a lot of Icelandic foods we made, such as vinarterta, pönnukökur, kleinur, mysostur, and skyr, following the concert. We also serve rúllupylsa, hangikjot and dainties. We have a silent auction and raffle. This event is our main fundraiser of the year.

The week after last year's concert, the Icelandic National League of North America held their annual convention in Richmond, BC. Presenters came from Canada, the United States and Iceland. Our club had seven representatives in attendance. We all learned much about our heritage. There were many presentations that were so enlightening. It's always fun to meet new people and catch up with friends at these events.

In June, we had a get-together before our summer break. There were a lot of summer plans discussed and reflections on different activities that we had participated in over the last year.

Icelandic Camp was held in July in Gimli, MB. Our club provides a partial sponsorship for two or three campers each year. Five members of our Brúin Chapter also volunteered at camp last year, helping in the kitchen. Our Brad Hirst is the Camp's Executive Director. Icelandic Camp is a fantastic way for kids to learn about their Icelandic language, culture, music and heritage. They learn all these things in a really fun atmosphere. This is achieved while forming wonderful relationships with friends, family and fellow campers. This can inspire further exploration of our heritage and interest in the Icelandic Community. These children are our future. Keep up the good work, Brad.

In October, Brúin Chapter hosted the Selkirk Betel Home Foundation birthday party for those residents who have October birthdays, as we do each year. Our Kaffi Tima choir entertained by singing in Icelandic and English. We played polka music and moved the residents around in their wheelchairs so they would feel like they were dancing. We also presented them with birthday gifts and helped to serve coffee afterwards. All the residents seemed to enjoy the evening.

In November, we entered an Icelandic themed Christmas tree in Selkirk's annual Festival of Trees. All of our decorations were homemade. We chose items which people would recognize as being Icelandic, such as Icelandic flags, vinarterta, Icelandic sheep, puffins, Fjallkona pictures, etc. We all had a great time getting together to make these ornaments.

Our Kaffi Tima choir sang Christmas carols in Icelandic at a December church service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Selkirk. It was a pleasure singing in the church started by the Icelandic pioneers of Selkirk. Also in December, we celebrated with a Christmas party, where we played games, exchanged small presents and enjoyed our fellowship. It's always so much fun having this kind of evening.

We are so very proud of our Icelandic connection. We grow as a group through our initiatives and attend events held by other INL Chapters as often as we can. Support of other clubs is essential.

We always welcome new members. Please join us, we have a lot of fun. Thank you for your presence this evening, I hope you enjoy yourselves.

Maria Bear

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The annual membership fee is \$20. We will happily accept new members at Sumardagurinn Fyrsti, just ask the ticket sales ladies to direct you to Helene Davis.

## CURRENT CLUB EXECUTIVE

President - Maria Bear  
Vice-President - Lorraine Hirst  
Secretary /Treasurer -Helene Davis  
Past President - Brad Hirst

## BRÚIN CHAPTER BURSARY

Erik Olson received Brúin Chapter's 2016 bursary upon his graduation from Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive High School. Congratulations, Erik!

## **INLOfNA CONVENTION 2016 RECAP**

The 97<sup>th</sup> INLOfNA Convention was held from April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 in Vancouver, BC and was attended by seven members of our Brúin Chapter. The theme of the convention was “Strandarsage - A Coast Story”.

The participants were welcomed to Vancouver at the start of the convention on Friday by the Tsatsu Stalqayu-Coastal Wolf Pack, a traditional Salish song and dance group. Presentations on Friday morning conveyed the hardships Icelanders experienced in getting to British Columbia and finding a place to settle.

Brúin Chapter's convention delegate, Maria Kanne, really enjoyed the “Survival on the Edge, Seawomen of Iceland” presentation. She learned that fisherwomen made up 1/3 to 1/2 of the fishing fleet in Iceland. They were a rugged lot and earned equal pay for equal work. And they could toss the men into the waves if need be!

Along with other sessions, Marie attended a performance by the band Still Creek Crows on Friday, as well as the official opening ceremonies and banquet on Friday evening.

Saturday sessions included ‘BirdLife Iceland’, ‘Four Plays by Guttormur J. Guttormsson’, and a presentation by Bill Valgardson entitled ‘Coming West’. Saturday's events also included the annual General Meeting and Gala Banquet.

Sunday's activities consisted of two bus tours to area points of interest.

## **LAURENCE JOHNSON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Laurence Johnson Lifetime Achievement award is designed to honour the memory of our late Past-President and longtime Icelandic National League of North America member Larry Johnson. This acknowledgement is given to a person who has made a significant contribution to society over a long period of time, as Larry did.

The recipient of the award in 2016 was Garry Oddleifson. How wonderful that the recipient was one of our own club's members! Larry's granddaughter, Dr. Lorelei Johnson, was in attendance to help make the presentation at the INLOfNA Convention in Vancouver, BC in April 2016.

The award will again be bestowed upon a deserving recipient at the next INLOfNA Convention, in Grand Forks, ND, early next month. Larry's daughters, Patsy Zdrill and Kathy Dahlin, will represent the family at that event.

## **IN MEMORIUM**

Our deepest condolences to Marie and Gordon Kanne on the passing of Marie's mother, and to Kathy Dahlin on the recent passing of her mother-in-law. Marie, Gordon and Kathy are all long-time members of Brúin chapter.

## **ÍSLENSKAR SUMARBÚÐIR ICELANDIC CAMP 2017**

It seems like yesterday we were in Gimli with 52 kids showcasing our Icelandic Heritage at the Icelandic Camp. For 2017 we have a lofty goal of securing 60 kids at this summer's camp.

To achieve this goal I need all of you to spread the word about our camp. This year we will be running from Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday August 4<sup>th</sup>. If you can let all of your members, friends and family know that this camp is an amazing place for young vikings to come and ignite their Icelandic pride, that would be awesome.

As always, the best way to support the camp is to sponsor a camper. The more campers we can have attend, the more we can make lifetime experiences for our young ones. To sponsor a camper ranges from \$200 for a Junior Counselor (ages 15-17), \$300 for a day camper (no overnight) and \$350 for a full camper (stays overnight at camp). Full or partial scholarships from either a club or person are encouraged.

We will also accept monetary donations or donations in kind. Ways in which you may help without much effort would be to broker a meeting or phone call to people who may be able to provide us discounted materials. Our biggest expense outside of the camp rental is our food. We spend over \$2500 to provide the children with healthy and delicious food. If you know someone who has the authority to donate or discount grocery items such as meat, bread and/or produce, that would help us immensely. We are also looking for ideas for activities, events or games to teach or play with the campers. We are a creative bunch at the camp but always love to hear from others with a different perspective. So please feel free to email any ideas you may have to my attention at: icelandiccamp@gmail.com.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of you who have supported our camp in the past and I am very thankful to all who are willing to support us now and in the future!

Sincerely,  
Brad Hirst

## **MEMBER NEWS**

Gord Kanne, along with 12 other local artists, displayed some of his carvings at the Gwen Fox Art Gallery from March 7<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>. He also submitted a wonderful painting of a fish and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the fishing stamp competition. The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner has the honour of having their painting displayed on the current years' provincial fishing licenses.

Wanda Bruenig was nominated by her colleagues as “Leader of the Year” for the Manitoba Child Care Association and won! She will be receiving her award at the Association's May 26<sup>th</sup> banquet.