

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER



Scandinavian Centre,
739 – 20th Ave. NW,
Calgary, AB, T3M 1E2, Canada
Phone (403) 284 1620,
<http://www.inlofna.org/Calgary>



Margaret Grisdale
Editor and Publisher
Phone (403) 251-7018 Email grisdal9@telus.net

Volume 14 Issue 1
January 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bob Baker

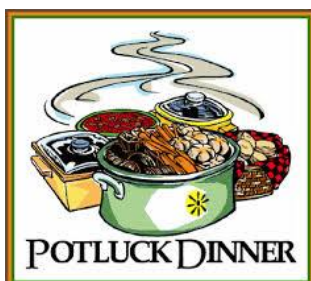
January is Membership Month!

Membership in the **Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary** is open to all those who share an interest in Icelandic culture and heritage and includes those of Icelandic descent, immigrants from Iceland, and friends in the community. If you are looking for a great social outlet to make friends, or maybe a positive volunteer experience, a wide variety of activities for all ages, and you have an interest in travel to Iceland or Iceland's culture and heritage, this club is for you.

- *Membership has its benefits. Annually our club hosts a wide variety of activities, many of them free or at a minimal cost to members thanks to the efforts of our casino volunteers including....*
 - ✓ Traditional Icelandic celebrations such as our Spring Dinner, Fall Feast and Christmas Party
 - ✓ Seniors lunch open to all members and friends over 60
 - ✓ Our Annual Markerville Festival family day picnic (bus charter, meal, kids program) free to members and friends
 - ✓ An Icelandic Film Series featuring movies produced in Iceland
 - ✓ Our speaker series featuring presentations by distinguished speakers
 - ✓ Children's Events are provided at various times throughout the year
 - ✓ A comprehensive Library containing video and books about Iceland for all ages
 - ✓ Sponsor local young adults of Icelandic descent to the Snorri exchange program where they travel to Iceland for 40 days
 - ✓ Genealogy Research support
 - ✓ Our timely online newsletter
 - ✓ Members receive a complimentary subscription to the **Lögberg-Heimskringla**, North America's longest continuous published ethnic newsletter filled with news, stories and information about Iceland and descendants of Iceland in North America. (This subscription alone would cost more than our membership fee).

Best of all its only \$20 per year for a single membership or \$40 per year for a family membership.

Send payment to: **Keith Baker, LEIC Treasurer at treasurerleic@gmail.com**
3803 – 24th St. NW, Calgary, AB T2L 0Y8



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on **Sunday, January 26th** at the Scan Centre.

There will be a **POTLUCK SUPPER** prior to the meeting.
We are offering a **"No Blizzard Guarantee"** this year after weathering heavy snowfalls the past two years on that weekend.

Doors open at 5:00 pm.

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER

CASINO DATES – Mark your calendars for our next Casino which will be held on **February 20 & 21**. We are delighted to have **Paula Finnson** as our Casino Representative for the club. Paula is doing a great job lining up people for our casino.

2020 ICELANDIC CLASS

**ICELANDIC CLASSES WILL BEGIN
ON SUNDAY, FEB. 2, WITH EMANNUAL
GISLASON
AS INSTRUCTOR**

If you are interested in attending these classes as a drop in on Sunday afternoon, please feel welcome to come and enjoy getting to know a little Icelandic! There is **NO CHARGE** for these classes.
To register call Margaret Grisdale 403-251-7018

**Classes will be in the Heritage Room from
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m on Feb. 2, 9, 23.**

**Classes will be in the Vallhalla Room on Mar. 8,
No class on Heritage Day weekend
Heritage Room Mar. 15, 22, 29.**

Limit for the Heritage Room is 17 people.

THE SNORRI PROGRAM

The Snorri Foundation is a non-profit organization that operates two major programs: the Snorri Program & Snorri Plus. Co-operative partners are the [Nordic Association](#) and the [Icelandic National League of Iceland](#). The Foundation also co-operates with the Snorri West Program which is operated by the [Icelandic National League of North America](#), the Snorri Alumni Internship and Snorri Deaf.

This is a unique opportunity for young people (18-28) of Icelandic origin living in Canada and the United States of America, to discover their roots in a five-week summer program in Iceland.

Application deadline is January 8, 2020 - Find the application form at www.snorri.is

SCHOLARSHIPS are available from the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary for young people in Southern Alberta call [Bob Baker at \(403\) 992-5906](tel:403-992-5906).

SAVE THE DATE – APRIL 23 – 26, 2020

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 101ST INLofNA CONVENTION IN GIMLI, MANITOBA AT THE LAKESIDE RESORT.

Information at: www.inlofna.org/conventions



THE DONALD K. JOHNSON FILM SERIES

**The Icelandic National League of North America
and Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary
PRESENT**

WOMAN AT WAR Kona fer í stríð
(In Icelandic with English subtitles).

Don't miss your chance to see Benedikt Erlingsson's 2018 film, Woman at War, a worldwide festival favorite. Fighting the construction of an aluminum smelter as a secret activist, Halla finds her life takes an unexpected turn after she receives a letter.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020 7:00 P.M.

**RIVER PARK CHURCH
3818 14A ST S.W. CALGARY**

***Free Admission to all.
Free parking available.***

LEIC will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Veterans Food Bank. Contribution is optional.

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Nordic Storytelling/Literary Events in Calgary

For more information see the Storytelling
Alberta Website: www.talesalberta.org

Kvöedvala fpr Þorrablöt)An Icelandic Evening Wake ö a Feast of Words

7 pm – Wednesday January 29, 2020

Shelf Life Books

100 – 1302 4 St SW

Calgary

Suggested donation: \$10.

STORIED CITY; Early Calgary Through the Eyes of Writers

A Literary Exhibit at Calgary's Historic Lougheed House

Opening Night – Thursday, January 30, 5:30 – 8 pm
707 13 Ave. S.W. Calgary

Phone: 1(403) 244-6333

Exhibit runs January 30 – April 26, 2020

*(Includes a tribute to Governor General award
winning Icelandic writer Laura Goodman
Salverson)*

SPEAKING OF THE PAST;

Walking with the Ancestors

(Presentation series in Gasoline Alley, Heritage

Park), 1900 Heritage Drive S.W. Calgary

Thursday, February 20, 2020 2:00 pm

Included with paid admission to Gasoline Alley
Museum. Free to those with an annual Heritage
Park pass. Travel vicariously with storyteller Karen
Gummo in the footsteps of her Icelandic ancestors
Ofeigur Sigurdsson and Astridur Tomasdottir who
arrived in Calgary in 1889. You are all invited.

WORLD STORYTELLING DAYS 2020 – CALGARY

a) VOYAGES: Nordic Journeys

Saturday, March 14th – 7pm Viking Hall Scandinavian Centre

739 20th Ave. N.W. Calgary Tickets \$20.00

b) Voyages: Arctic Tales by the Fireside

House Concert Featuring Stina Fagurtun; Arctic
Storyteller

Sunday, March 15th – 2 pm

Home of Mary Hays

Phone (403) 556-5831 \$10 at the door

Good morning & Happy New Year! From Markerville

Saturday January 18th is approaching
quickly & we're sure you don't want to miss
the first Fensala concert of 2020!

6 Minute Warning is a Canadian vocal group
based out of Edmonton, Alberta. The group
consists of six members with extensive
backgrounds in rock, pop, jazz, classical, and
choral music. Their love for singing and their ability
to create a soundscape with their voices continues
to inspire audiences both young and old.

Tickets are available

at http://www.historicmarkerville.com/store/p50/6_Minute_Warning.html



CONGRATULATIONS to
Matt and Jane Beauchamp
on the birth of their baby
boy, **Ryker Jack
Beauchamp** on July 15,
2019, a baby brother for
Clara. Proud grandparents
are **Shelley and Gary
McReynolds**



Shelley and Gary McReynolds announce the birth
of their twin grandsons, **Ben Robert Strukoff** and
Sam John Strukoff born on November 14, 2019.
Proud parents are **Beth and Josh Strukoff**.
Congratulations to the happy family.

Both Beth and Jane are Snorri Alumni.

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER



KEITH SVEINSON AND THE FAMILY OF EDNA ANNE SVEINSON

On November 24, 2019, Edna Anne Sveinson (nee Holt) passed away in Agape Hospice at the age of 83 years. Edna was born in Innisfail, AB May 14, 1936 to her parents, Blanche and Clarence Holt, and raised to age 15 on the family farm at Knee Hill Valley. Edna was a bright and beautiful child who learned quickly, made lasting friends easily, and greeted any challenge with enthusiasm.

Edna started school at age 5 years and rode horseback along with her brother Stan and sister Ethel to the one room Knee Hill Valley school, some 1 ½ miles distance.

Edna's father died tragically when she was 13 **years** old, so she and her mother eventually left the farm and moved to Innisfail where her mom gained employment. Edna went on to attend Red Deer Composite High School, graduating with distinction in May 1953. Edna made many lifelong friends in high school, and most notable are Mary Lawrence, Marilyn Oak, Grace Smith, Anne Rudy, Eleanor Goldstrom and Rita Hodgkinson. Edna excelled in high school secretarial courses and was hired during her tenure by oil and gas landmen to keep minutes of their weekly meetings in Red Deer. After graduation she was immediately hired by Stanolind Oil and Gas where she worked for the next six years. It was during this period that Edna met and made lifelong friends from the business secretarial and recreational communities, namely Irma McKinnon, Rich Verner, Fran Halsted, Frank Fedor, Gloria Nielson, Fri Rodli, Virginia Borys, and many more. Edna married her high school sweetheart, Keith on December 7, 1957 and their permanent residence has been in Calgary ever since. Together they raised their three children, Bryan (Sandra), Jill (Murray) and John (Jody) and to Edna nothing was as important as caring for her family. She loved planning family gatherings and dinners, and the dining table expanded to include five grandchildren: Dana, Stefan, Rachel, Colton and Taneson. Edna made the decision to become a "stay at home mom" upon the birth of her first child, and she remained so until her last child finished high school and went away to post-secondary. When Edna became an empty nester, she rejoined the workforce in 1986, and served as personal secretary to senior officers of Sovereign General Insurance Company until her retirement in 1995. Keith and Edna travelled extensively during their marriage, although Edna preferred being home spending time in her garden. Edna contributed greatly to her community, readily volunteering for worthy causes such as the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Daffodil Day, Calgary Meals on Wheels and Canadian Diabetes Association. Despite a life changing illness that began in 2005, Edna was positive in nature and a joy to be around.

She was an elegant, gracious, determined, tenacious woman with a quick wit right to the end.

Our family wishes to extend a special than you to Agape Hospice for the loving care and support given to Edna during her time there. The genuine care and concern of these special people made an everlasting impact on our entire family.

If friends so desire, memorial tributes may be made directly to the Salvation Army (Agape Hospice), 1731 – 29th St. SW, Calgary, AB, T3C 1M6, on line at www.salvationarmy.ca or by phone (403) 410-1112 or to the Canadian Cancer Society, 200 – 325 Manning Rd. NE, Calgary, AB, T2E 2P5. Phone (403) 205-3966, email donorservices@cancer.ab.

LEIF EIRIKSSON ICELANDIC CLUB OF CALGARY NEWSLETTER

Stephan Benediktson sent me this article he had written for his sister, Iris's 80th Birthday. Now it is her 90th birthday but still an interesting read. He wrote as follows: -

“IRIS:

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be here today and to have this opportunity to talk to you about my dear sister, Helga Iris. At 80 she is still full of surprises but always the same in personality. I would say that Iris's biggest asset is her personality, she is always positive and optimistic, and I love that about her.

As most of you know, we were four kids, Iris and I, Ted and Conrad, may they rest in peace. When we were born, we lived on the Benediktson homestead, one mile south of Hecla School, half a mile north of the Dickson Dam. Toth Iris and I started school at Heckla. Life there was very pleasant for us; we had no idea the Great Depression was on: we were safe and secure in our little family unit with great neighbors and lots of family nearby. I remember that the Second Great War started, and that Dad was always listening to the news on the radio in the evenings. I remember thinking when the war ended, they would stop broadcasting the news as there would be nothing to talk about. I was very wrong there.

The summer before he died, Dad sold the Benediktson homestead and bought a farm two miles east of the Tindastoll School. Things were a lot harder without him, but Mother was a tower of strength and we survived tough times.

We kids would ride our horses to the Tindastoll one room country schoolhouse. The prairies were dotted with these country schools. They all looked alike, a rectangle with peaked roof, bell tower over the door, coal furnace in one corner at the back and two out houses, a girls and a boys, all painted white. Most schools had from 20 to 30 students and the teacher taught them all from Grades 1 to 9. Both Iris and I graduated from grad nine at the Tindastoll School. AS I recall, Iris did grade ten at the high school in Markerville, riding her horse the five miles each way every school day. She then went on to finish high school in Innisfail.

As I recall, her horses' name was Prince. Now horses have always been important to Iris; you can never have too many horses and Iris has always demanded respect for them. A few years ago, Kenny Sveinson told me about an incident during Iris's Markerville school days. Apparently, David Giles was disrespectful to Iris's horse so according to Kenny she put David down and rubbed his face with a horse turd!

Now during those high school years, Iris's ambition was to be a reporter. I think she would have been a good one, but as it happens in life, our plans sometimes get detoured. In Iris's case, she got detoured by a tall good looking fellow named Alfred Bourne. Come to think of it, she might still become a reporter one of these days, though, I don't really know. When she met Alfred, he had recently been discharged from the air force, it was love for life. Alfred played the accordion, the guitar and the bass violin and had a very nice singing voice. He had a great, cheerful personality and was a pleasure to be around. You could talk to Alfred about anything from politics to farming. I was the best man and Alfred's sister Iris was the brides maid at their wedding in 1947. The rest is history. They had, more or less 50 years together, five fine children, a flock of grandchildren and they loved each other to the end.”

A graphic with the words "Happy New Year" in a blue, 3D-style font. The letters are decorated with colorful streamers and confetti, giving it a festive appearance.