

LÖGBERG HEIMSKRINGLA

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Canada 150 - Winterlude at Confederation Park

ICELANDERS AND THE CANADIAN MOSAIC

Stefan Jonasson

This year, the first day of July marks the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation, the creation of a new country – indeed, a new *kind* of country – from among the British colonies in North America. Four provinces initially came together to form the new country in 1867 and Manitoba was created three years later while British Columbia joined Confederation a year after that. Today, Canada has grown to include ten provinces and three northern territories under the motto *Mari usque ad Mare* – “From Sea to Sea.”

This new dominion within the British Empire, which later became the Commonwealth of Nations, brought a level of independence comparable to the sovereignty Iceland achieved in 1918, except that Canada was a decentralized country with several provinces, a vast territory, and an open door to mass immigration. While most Americans speak of a “melting pot” to describe the incorporation of immigrants into their society, Canadians have favoured the metaphor of the “multicultural mosaic” to reflect how those who have made Canada their home, whether descended from the earliest European settlers or more recent arrivals from around the world, along with the Indigenous peoples whose ancestors have dwelt here for millennia, have fashioned a society drawing upon many cultures and languages, diverse in expression but unified in spirit.

Icelandic immigration to Canada commenced just five years after Confederation when a lone immigrant, Sigtryggur Jónasson, landed in Quebec City on his way to Ontario. In the flood of immigration that commenced the following year, he proved to be instrumental in diverting the majority of Icelanders to Canada rather than the United States. Although most Icelandic immigrants came from 1875 until 1914, Icelandic immigration

has continued to the present day, albeit in diminished numbers, and people of Icelandic descent can be found in every province and territory. It's estimated that at least one in 300 Canadians has Icelandic ancestors – and the number is likely greater, given how well hidden some ancestors can be.

Among the first ethnic immigrants to Western Canada, the Icelanders quickly established themselves and became integrated into the larger society and, in the years since, Icelandic immigrants and their descendants have had an influence far beyond their numbers in nearly every aspect of Canadian life. Law and medicine, music and the arts, science and technology, industry and commerce, education and research, journalism and broadcasting, agriculture and the environment, politics and government – there is no field of endeavour in which Icelanders have not distinguished themselves.

It is impossible to enumerate all of the Canadians of Icelandic descent who have made noteworthy contributions of local, provincial, national, or even global significance, but a few representative individuals highlight the importance of Icelandic Canadians' contributions. Thomas H. Johnson was a Manitoba cabinet minister who was instrumental in passing ground-breaking legislation, including the bill that enfranchised women, making Manitoba the first province to do so. Margrét J. Benediktsson was a journalist and women's suffrage leader who led the fight for women's rights in the early years of the twentieth century. Byron “Boss” Johnson was the premier of British Columbia who introduced compulsory health insurance and expanded the province's highway and hydroelectric systems. Laura Goodman Salverson achieved fame writing about Icelandic and immigrant themes in the English language, twice winning the Governor General's Literary Award.

... continued on page 5



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RETIRING THE INLNA QUILT AND UNVEILING THE INLNA BANNERS

Bev Arason-Gaudet
*2nd Vice President,
Icelandic National League
of North America*

The Icelandic National League of North America (INLNA) Quilt started as a vision in 2006 by Iris Torfason of the Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club (LEIC) of Calgary. Iris was attending the 2006 convention and was thinking of a way to unite the INLNA chapter clubs and the idea of a quilt was born. She asked each chapter to create a

nine-inch by nine-inch square that represented their chapter, their activities, or undertakings. By the 2007 convention, eight blocks had been created and Iris asked Shelley McReynolds of the LEIC to take over the project. Shelley collected five more blocks and, by the 2008 convention in Calgary, the quilt was completed. It was assembled and pieced by Shelly McReynolds and machine quilted by Chris Tessier of Okotoks. The chapters represented on the Quilt are: Brúin, Selkirk;

Icelandic Canadian Club of Quebec; Lundar; Icelanders of Victoria; Esjan, Arborg; Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society, Markerville; Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton; Icelandic Canadian Frón, Winnipeg; Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary; Fálkinn, Icelandic Canadian Club of Western Manitoba; Gimli Icelandic Canadian Society; Vatnabyggð, Icelandic Club of Saskatchewan; and Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto.

The motto of the INLNA, “Römm er sú taug” (Strong is the Bond), is appliquéd to the bottom of the quilt. The quilt is a beautiful pictorial of the INLNA and its chapters as



represented in 2008 and the efforts of both Iris Torfason and Shelley McReynolds are very much appreciated by the INLNA. Upon its retirement, the quilt will be permanently displayed at the INLNA Office. In the past, the INLNA Quilt has been used to visually represent our chapter clubs during INLNA events and, although a beautiful representation, the quilt does not reflect all current members so the decision was made to retire the quilt. In the fall of 2016, the INLNA board discussed what vehicle could be used to replace the quilt that would be easy to update to add new clubs as they join the INLNA. The idea of using pennants or banners

was discussed and the INLNA banner project was born. Each chapter was asked to send their logo or emblem to me and to give the INLNA permission to replicate its logo or emblem on fabric. The logo or emblem would then be copied onto fabric and sewn together with other fabrics to create a banner. The Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton (ICCE) agreed to fund this project and their generosity is appreciated. The completed banners were unveiled at the 2017 INLNA convention in Grand Forks, ND.

Thank you to Gwen Mann and Shelley McReynolds of the LEIC for the supplying information on the history of the INLNA Quilt.

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Unveiling Friðrika memorial on Canada Day

The Friðrika Björnsdóttir Memorial restoration project team is hosting a dedication and unveiling ceremony to mark the completion of its decade-long project to honour Friðrika Björnsdóttir Árnason (1849-1884), a New Icelander with “royal” Danish connections. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the interpretive panel telling Friðrika’s story is scheduled to take place at the Riverton Centennial Memorial Park on Saturday, July 1, at 2:45 p.m.

Friðrika is believed to have been the granddaughter of King Frederick VI of Denmark, Norway, and Iceland. She and her husband, along with their three small children, were part of the Large Group that settled in New Iceland in 1876. Tragically, all three of their children were lost in the smallpox epidemic but they went on to have five more children. Friðrika died less than three weeks after the birth of their last child and she was buried on their farm Árskógur, where her grave can still be seen surrounded by its original picket fencing.

Joel Friðfinnsson will be leading historic tours of the Riverton, Sandy Bar, and Hnausa districts on the Saturday and Sunday of the Canada Day long weekend. The tours will be approximately two hours each and participants will travel on the handivan. As Joel reminds people, “There’s history all around us!”

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.LH-INC.CA

Viking Age chief found buried in ship with his sword and dog

Iceland Magazine – In June, archaeologists who are working at a large burial site in Eyjafjörður in north Iceland announced that they had discovered the remains of a ship burial dating back to the Viking Age. A wealthy chieftain seems to have been buried in one of his boats along with some of his worldly possessions, including a sword and his dog. More unexplored burial sites are believed to be located at the site.

The grave is believed to date back to the 9th or 10th centuries. The sword, which was found close to the surface, is in very poor condition. The archaeologists expect to remove the sword from the ground today.

The archaeological dig is taking place north of the town of Akureyri at a site which is believed to have been of enormous local importance during the Viking Age. A few hundred meters south of the burial site is Gáseyri, which was the primary trading post in Eyjafjörður during the Viking Age.

The area where the ship burial was found is known as Dysnes, a name which points to Viking age graves, as *dys* is an old word for burial mound. The word Dysnes could be translated to “Burial Ness.” The precise location

of the boat grave is then known as Kumlateigur, *kuml* being another old word for burial, and Kumlateigur translating as “Burial Stretch.” Both place names are ancient and point to more than one grave.

Eleven years ago a second boat burial was discovered at Kumlholt (Burial Hill) just south of the present site. The archaeologists working at the site expect to find more graves as they explore the site fully.

Last month’s discovery is important for a number of reasons. While it was common to bury wealthy chiefs in boat burials during the Viking Age, relatively few boat graves have been excavated in Iceland. One possible explanation is that boats were too valuable, with extremely limited domestic sources of timber for boatbuilding.

Discovering Viking Age graves with swords is similarly uncommon and both finds point to the burial site of a wealthy local chief. A second Viking Age sword was discovered in South Iceland in September of last year.

Undisturbed Viking Age graves are also rare, as many Viking Age burials discovered in Iceland have been disturbed and robbed. For example, the second boat grave, which was



PHOTO: AUBUNN, ICELAND MAGAZINE

Archaeologists at work excavating the Dysnes site.

discovered at Kumlholt eleven years ago, had been opened and disturbed at some point. It is impossible to know what valuables and artifacts have been removed from disturbed graves.

Archaeologists who spoke with the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service said they were working in a race against time, as the burial site is being eroded by the sea.

The waves have already destroyed half of the boat in the grave, washing away any artifacts which were contained within. The bones and the sword discovered were lying close to the surface.

“The ocean has washed away most of the boat, and probably some of its

contents. We have found human bones scattered in the surface, so we can determine that a man once lay in the boat. The fact that we found the sword suggests that this grave had not been disturbed by grave robbers. So, at some point we had a completely undisturbed Viking Age grave, which we lost to the ocean.”

Icelandic archaeologists have sounded alarms that many archeological sites around the coast of Iceland are being eroded by the ocean, which is washing invaluable remains out to sea.

This article originally appeared in Iceland Magazine (June 14, 2017) and is reprinted here with permission.




KARLAKÓRINN ERNIR

There was a full house at Fort Garry United Church in Winnipeg to hear Karlakórinn Ernir (The Eagle Male Choir) from the Westfjords on Monday, June 5. Conducted by Beáta Joó, who is originally from Szeged, Hungary, the choir offered a powerful and

energetic performance of Icelandic favourites and a few pieces that are exclusive to the Westfjords. Founded in 1988, when three choirs united, Karlakórinn Ernir is one of the finest choirs in a nation of outstanding choirs. The Winnipeg Male Chorus was

also on hand for the concert and, after the Winnipeg choir performed a set of their own, the two choirs came together to close the evening with a joint performance. Karlakórinn Ernir also performed at Mountain, ND, on June 4 and at Riverton, MB, on June 7.



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Stefan's Saga 150 YEARS OF CONFEDERATION



Stefan Jonasson
Editor

On the first day of 2017, CBC ran a story headlined: “Canada is celebrating 150 years of ... what, exactly?” It was accompanied by a short video asking, “how old is Canada, really?” The video reminded viewers that Canada’s Indigenous people have lived on this land for thousands upon thousands of years and then offered a series of milestone events in the evolution of the country we now know as Canada.

In 1701, the British Crown entered into the first of many treaties to encourage peaceful relations between Indigenous people and European settlers and the Royal Proclamation of 1763 established the principles by which the Crown could acquire land from First Nations. These milestones are of enduring significance but there was, as yet, no Canada. A few point to 1840, when the Act of Union brought together Lower Canada (now Quebec) and Upper Canada (now Ontario) into a single Province of Canada, as the real beginning of Canada, but I’m not convinced.

Most Canadians reckon 1867 as the year in which Canada was born and so, a century later, Canadians enthusiastically celebrated 1967 as the country’s centennial

and, this year, most people will mark its sesquicentennial. Yet, Canada as we know it is a far different country in 2017 than it was in 1867 – and not just because of the advance of technology and the accumulation of history. Canada is more truly independent today than it was then and, as significantly, the nature of its people and culture is markedly different. So it is that, while we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation, Canada remains a work in progress.

In the years leading up to Confederation, Sir John A. Macdonald, who emerged as its leading proponent and became the first prime minister of Canada, addressing the many challenges then faced by the British colonies in North America, declared: “The only feasible scheme which represents itself to my mind as a remedy for the evils complained of, is a confederation of all the provinces.” His efforts, in collaboration with the other Fathers of Confederation, led to the passage of the British North America Act, which created the Dominion of Canada, a union of four provinces that has since grown to ten provinces and three territories.

Since then, there have been several milestones through which Canada became progressively more independent, including the Statute of Westminster in 1931 and the patriation of the Constitution of Canada in 1982. Along the way, British nobles gave way to Canadian citizens as governors general, Canada adopted a flag of its own, and *O Canada* replaced *God Save the Queen* as the national anthem. Canada became a self-governing country in 1867 but the process of *becoming* a country is something that has

never ceased. This reflects the dynamic and evolving nature of Confederation itself. Like our personal identities, the development of a country’s identity takes time.

In his insightful book *Blood and Belonging*, Michael Ignatieff wrote: “Federalism is not a political ideology. It is just a particular way of sharing political power among different peoples within a state. But it is nationalism’s political antithesis. Those who believe in federalism hold that different peoples do not need states of their own in order to enjoy self-determination. Peoples who share traditions, geography, or common economic space may agree to share a single state, while retaining substantial degrees of self-government over matters essential to their identity as peoples. Federalism is a politics that seeks to reconcile two competing principles: the ethnic principle, according to which people wish to be ruled by their own, with the civic principle, according to which strangers wish to come together to form a community of equals, based not on ethnicity but on citizenship.” This understanding is behind the development of Canada as a unified and collaborative country with more than one language and a rich multicultural mosaic.

Ignatieff went on to assert that, “if federalism can’t work in my Canada, it probably can’t work anywhere.” This country is rich in resources, abundant

in opportunities, flexible and pragmatic in its social attitudes, and possessed of democratic institutions that provide for the orderly and mostly fair management of competing interests.

Beyond all of this, though, there is a distinctive and unifying Canadian spirit that we often fail to appreciate. As Robertson Davies once said, “I am convinced that Canada has a soul, and should get on better terms with it, because at the moment it is a sadly neglected part of our inheritance.” Behind Confederation there is a spirit of hopefulness, tolerance, inclusivity, pragmatism, and a concern for the common good that, when practiced, gives strength and shape to our country.

In the early days of Confederation, Sir John A. Macdonald said: “No one can look into futurity and say what will be the destiny of this country. Changes come over nations and peoples in the course of ages.” For 150 years, Canadians have faced the challenges and negotiated the many changes that have been necessary to maintain the “peace, order, and good government” of this diverse but unified country. The efforts of past generations have shaped “the True North strong and free,” in reality as well as in song, and we continue to shape this inheritance and add to it as we move towards the unfolding future. This is an achievement worth celebrating.

Letter to the Editor

Dear editor,

I just can’t imagine not receiving my copy of *L-H* every couple of weeks. Love it all: history articles, Stefan’s Saga, and feeling connected to Icelanders across North America and Iceland.

Kathleen Murray
Toronto, ON



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Sandra Björg Ernudóttir

Five Snorri West participants touring Alberta, Utah, and Saskatchewan

Jody Arman-Jones
Snorri West Director
Icelandic National League
of North America

This year, the Snorri West Program will be visiting the Midwest corridor of Alberta and Saskatchewan, in Canada, and Utah, in the United States. Five young people from Iceland, two men and three women, will spend four weeks experiencing the wonders of North America and following in the footsteps of their family members who came here before them.

Egill Sveinbjörnsson, 25, a junior software developer for Qlik, describes himself as interested in “meeting new people, experiencing new things in my own and other cultures, traveling, good coffee, good scotch, good whisky, good music, CrossFit, kayaking, Frisbee golf, and problem solving.”

Guðmundur Ragnar Frímann Vignisson, 24, a student of political science at the University of Iceland, states he is “endlessly learning, full of good intentions, easy-going, and ambitious.” His interests include soccer, team handball, arts and culture, social discourse of current events, outdoor activities, nature, social justice,

feminism, being open-minded, consistent, tolerant, making deliberative decisions, and overcoming challenges that life throws you.

Lína Dóra Hannesdóttir, 19, just graduated from Menntaskólinn við Hamrahlíð this past month. She is certified in CPR, first aid, and lifeguarding and her interests include maintaining a healthy mind, body and soul, sports, including badminton (played for 10 years), sailing, cooking, baking, making things, listening to music (favorite band is the Icelandic reggae band Amabadama), and recently took up knitting. Lína Dóra has two siblings who have traveled on the Snorri West program in previous years.

Marta María Halldórsdóttir, 19, graduated last month from Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík. Her interests include acting/theater, singing, music (plays guitar, piano, favorite genre is jazz), and songwriting. She was the editor of her school paper, likes hanging out with friends, socializing, is fascinated by politics, languages (speaks Icelandic, English, Danish, and some German), history, books, outdoor activities, different cultures, and traveling.

Sandra Björg Ernudóttir, 23, just completed her second year

at the University of Iceland, studying folklore and ethnology. Hobbies and interests include photography, being outdoors, swimming – especially sea swimming at Nauthólsvík – and lifting weights.

All participants currently reside in the greater Reykjavík area.

The group arrived in Edmonton on June 13 and will leave from there on July 16. In between, they have enjoyed the Historic Markerville area, including Sautjándi júní celebrations, before driving on to Drumheller for a day trip, and then to Calgary for a flight to Salt Lake City. From Salt Lake City, they drove to Spanish Fork, one of the oldest Icelandic settlements from the emigration period. Among other local activities, they will participate in the Fire and Ice Festival (Utah’s Iceland Days). From Salt Lake City the group was scheduled to fly to Saskatoon, then wind their way through the Vatnabyggð area and on to Regina, where they will celebrate Canada 150. After flying to Calgary, they will enjoy what the area has to offer, including the Calgary Stampede and Banff, before driving to Edmonton for the final leg of their North American stay.

Sincere thanks and

appreciation go to the many volunteers, donors, clubs and organizations for their generous support and assistance of Snorri West 2017, without whom the program would not be possible:

- Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton,
- Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society, Markerville, Alberta,
- Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Canadian Club of Calgary,
- Icelandic Association of Utah,
- Vatnabyggð Icelandic Club of Saskatchewan,
- Snorri Foundation and Ásta Sól Kristjánsdóttir,
- Icelandic Roots,
- Icelandic National League in Iceland, and
- Icelandic National League of North America.

Like its sister programs, Snorri and Snorri Plus, the primary purpose of Snorri West is to strengthen the bonds between the people of Iceland and people of Icelandic descent in North America. It is designed for Icelanders 18 to 28 years of age. The Snorri West Program was first held in Manitoba, Canada, from 2001-

2010, under the direction of the United Icelandic Appeal, with Wanda Anderson as project manager.

In 2012, under the guidance of Gail Einarson-McCleery of Toronto, Ontario, the Icelandic National League of North America (INLNA) took on the leadership and organizational roles for the Snorri West program. Jody Arman-Jones (Minnesota, USA) joined Gail in 2016 and has since taken over the supervision of the program.

Planning is already underway for the Snorri West 2018 trip to the East Coast corridor including visits to Washington, DC, Ottawa, Toronto, Halifax, and L’Anse aux Meadows. A late February application deadline is anticipated. For more information about Snorri West, please go to the website: <http://www.snorri.is/snorri-west.html>. In 2019, the program will move to the Pacific Coast corridor of British Columbia, Vancouver, Washington state, and in 2020 return to the Central corridor of Minnesota, North Dakota, and Manitoba.

Icelanders and the Canadian Mosaic ... continued from page 1

Sir William Stephenson, a World War I flying ace, inventor, and industrialist, achieved worldwide fame as a spymaster during World War II. Thorbergur Thorvaldson led the team of scientists who developed a sulphate-resistant cement in 1919 while Baldur R. Stefánsson is recognized as the “Father of Canola” for his role in transforming one of the world’s oldest crops into one of its newest. Among the noteworthy individuals whose Icelandic roots may come as a surprise to some are musicians Tom Cochrane and k.d. lang. If Planet Earth isn’t a large enough sphere of influence,

there’s Icelandic Canadian astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason. And then there’s the Winnipeg Falcons, the first winners of Olympic gold in hockey. The list of Icelandic Canadians who have made a difference is endless. (However, that hasn’t stopped us from naming several of them on pages 6, 7 and 12.)

As Canadians celebrate the sesquicentennial of Confederation, Icelandic Canadians proudly claim their place in the growth and development of a remarkable land, having contributed tens of thousands of tiles to the vibrant Canadian mosaic.



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TILES IN THE MOSAIC

150 Icelandic Canadians of distinction

In celebration of Canada 150 – the 150th anniversary of Confederation – we recognize 150 distinguished Canadians of Icelandic ancestry who have made noteworthy contributions to Canada.

This list is by no means exhaustive. We could have easily named 150 more individuals and another 150 after that. These individuals are representative of the manifold contributions that people of Icelandic descent have made to this country in a variety of fields.

Please note that the positions listed are those for which the individuals were known and, in the case of living individuals, they may represent positions formerly held but not currently held.

Olafur T. Anderson (1890-1958) – Mathematician and educator; Dean of Arts and Science at United College, now the University of Winnipeg.

Frimann B. Anderson – Editor and educator; the first Icelander to graduate from a post-secondary institution in Canada; hydroelectric pioneer.

Mary Anderson – Educator and the first Icelandic Canadian woman to graduate from college.

Victor B. Anderson (1882-1970) – President of the International Typographical Union in Manitoba and Secretary of the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council.

David Arnason – Novelist, poet, shorty story writer, and professor.

Einar Arnason, OBE (1910-2000) – Electrical engineer and military officer who developed advanced weaponry and served as advisor to General H.D.G. Crerar, Commander of the Canadian Army, in World War II; Lieutenant Colonel; editor of *Lögberg-Heimskringla*.

John Arnason (1925-1998) – Electrical engineer; President of Manitoba Hydro.

Baldwin L. Baldwinsson (1856-1936) – Immigration agent and newspaper editor; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; Deputy Provincial Secretary of Manitoba.

Arinbjörn S. Bardal (1866-1951) – Undertaker and transportation company operator; municipal councillor in North Kildonan; active leader in the Icelandic community.

Neil O. Bardal, OM, OF (1940-2010) – Undertaker and philanthropist; a founder of the Western School of Funeral Service; President of the Rotary Club of Winnipeg; Consul General of Iceland in Manitoba.

Paul Bardal (1889-1966) – Winnipeg alderman and Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Margrét J. Benedictsson (1866-1956) – Journalist and women's rights activist; editor of *Freyja*; organizer of the Icelandic women's suffrage society in Winnipeg.

William M. Benidickson, OF (1911-1985) – Lawyer; Member of Parliament; Minister of Mines; Senator.

Stephan V. Benediktsson – Businessman, publisher, and patron of the arts; Chairman and CEO of Daleco Resources; Principal of Benson Ranch, a publishing house.

Hjalmar A. Bergman, KC, OF (1881-1948) – Lawyer and community



Clockwise from top left: Margrét Benedictsson. Sir William Stephenson. Laura Goodman Salverson. Bjarni Tryggvason. Guðrún H. Finnsdóttir. Thorbergur Thorvaldson. Byron (Boss) Johnson. Baldur R. Stefansson.

leader; President of the Manitoba Bar Association; President of the Law Society of Manitoba; Chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba; Justice of the Manitoba Court of Appeal.

Rev. Friðrik J. Bergmann (1858-1918) – Minister, editor, and educator; first instructor in Icelandic studies at Wesley College.

Dr. Haraldur Bessason, OF (1931-2009) – First chair of the Icelandic department at the University of Manitoba; editor of *Lögberg-Heimskringla*; first President of the University of Akureyri.

Jón J. Bildfell, OF (1870-1955) – Teacher and real estate businessman; editor of *Lögberg*; organizer of the North American delegation to the Alþingi millennial celebration in 1930.

Bryan H. Bjarnason – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Jóhann Magnús Bjarnason, OF (1866-1945) – Teacher, poet, short story writer, and novelist.

Rev. Jón Bjarnason (1844-1914) – Lutheran pastor, editor, educator, and community leader; founding President of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Dr. Olafur Bjornson (1869-1937) – Obstetrician; the first Icelander to graduate in medicine in Canada; Lecturer in Obstetrics at the Manitoba Medical College.

Oscar F. Bjornson (1906-1972) – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Peter Bjornson – Teacher; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba;

Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth; Minister of Entrepreneurship, Training and Trade.

Skapti (Scotty) Borgford (1916-1984) – Engineer and public servant; professor at the University of Manitoba; President of the Coop Housing Association of Manitoba; President of the Association of Professional Engineers; President of the Indian and Métis Congress; Winnipeg school trustee.

Thorsteinn Borgford (1874-1959) – Vice President of James McDiarmid Company and superintendent of construction for the Manitoba Legislative Building.

Dr. Brandur J. Brandson, OF (1878-1944) – Physician and surgeon, philanthropist, community leader; Professor of Surgery at the Manitoba Medical College; Chief Surgeon at the Winnipeg General Hospital.

Martha Brooks – Award-winning author, playwright, and musician.

Joan Eyolfson Cadham (1940-2015) – Author, journalist, broadcaster, and editor of *Lögberg-Heimskringla*.

John Christianson (1923-2010) – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; Minister of Public Welfare.

Tom Cochrane, OC, OM – Singer-songwriter; lead singer for Red Rider; famous for the song *Life Is a Highway*.

Holmfríður Danielson (1920-2003) – Dramatist and community leader; instructor, writer, producer, director, adjudicator, and editor.

Signy Eaton, OF (1913-1992) – Philanthropist and wife of John David

Eaton, owner of the T. Eaton Company.

Arni G. Eggertson, QC, OF (1896-1969) – Lawyer, philanthropist, and community leader.

Arni Eggertsson, OF (1873-1942) – Businessman; Winnipeg city alderman and member of various civic boards and committees. A founder of the Icelandic Steamship Company (*Eimskipafélag Íslands*).

Henry J. Einarson (1918-1992) – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Violet Einarson – Mayor of Gimli.

Magnus Eliason, OF (1911-2005) – Winnipeg city councillor; long-time political activist and organizer; insurance agent and businessman.

Lady Margaret Elton (1915-1995) – Historian, author, and philanthropist.

Rev. Valdimar J. Eylands, DD, OF (1910-1983) – Lutheran pastor, church historian and author.

Doug Eyolfson – Member of Parliament.

Guðrún H. Finnsdóttir (1884-1946) – Essayist, short story writer, and lecturer. Member of the editorial committee that produced *Minningarrit Íslenzkra hermanna*, a memorial book honouring the women and men of Icelandic heritage who had served in the armed forces during World War I.

Gudmundur Fjeldsted – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Frank Fredrickson, OF (1895-1979) – Aviator and ice hockey player with the Winnipeg Falcons when they won Olympic gold and later with the Victoria Cougars when they won the Stanley Cup. He later played with the Boston Bruins and Pittsburgh Pirates, where he became the NHL's first player-coach. He was a Vancouver city alderman and school board member.

Nelson Gerrard, OF – Teacher and genealogist

Richard Gillis – Trumpeter and conductor; Professor of Music at the University of Manitoba; Artistic Director of the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra.

David Gislason, OM, OF – Farmer-poet; Reeve of Bifrost.

Elma Gislason (1910-1987) – Singer, piano teacher, composer, choir director; among among her students were some of the most prominent musicians in Manitoba, including Robbie Robertson and Loreena McKennitt.

Paul W. Goodman (1905-1959) – Hockey player with the Chicago Black Hawks; electrical contractor; Winnipeg alderman.

Kristjana Gunnars – Poet, novelist, and translator.

Caroline Gunnarsson – Journalist with the *Winnipeg Free Press* and *Winnipeg Tribune*; news editor for the *Shaunavon Standard*; women's editor with the *Free Press Weekly*; editor of *Lögberg-Heimskringla*.

Sturla Gunnarsson – Award-winning film director, whose works include *After the Axe*, *The Diary of Evelyn Lau*, *Rare Birds*, *Boewulf and Grendel*, and *Monsoon*.

Elman Guttormson (1929-2001) – Journalist; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Guttormur J. Guttormsson, OF (1878-1966) – Farmer-poet, playwright, musician, and orator.

Haldor (Slim) Halderson (1898-1965) – Hockey player who played with the Winnipeg Falcons when they won Olympic gold and then played with the Victoria Cougars when they won the Stanley Cup.

Steingrímur K. Hall (1877-1969) – Choirmaster and composer.

Christian Halldorson (1891-1956) – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Salome Halldorson (1887-1970) – Educator; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

H. Marino Hannesson (1884-1958) – Lawyer and military officer; Member of Parliament.

Stefan Hansen (1910-1961) – Actuary and insurance industry executive; Vice President of the Great-West Life Assurance Company; Fort Garry school trustee; member of the MacFarlane Royal Commission on Education.

John Harvard, OM, OF (1938-2016) – Broadcast journalist; Member of Parliament; Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba.

Dr. Sigridur (Sigga) Houston – Physician; the first Icelandic Canadian woman to become a doctor, she was the oldest living physician in Saskatchewan at the time of her death.

Ingimar Ingaldson (1888-1934) – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Heather Alda Ireland, OF – Mezzo soprano; owner of Sentinel Marketing; Honorary Consul-General.

Konnie Johannesson (1896-1968) – Hockey player and pioneer aviator; he played with the Winnipeg Falcons when they won Olympic gold; operator of the Johannesson Flying Service; manager of the Winnipeg Flying Club.

Dr. Sigurður Júlíus Jóhannesson (1868-1956) – Physician, poet, and editor.

Wallace (Wally) Johannson – Educator and politician; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Ásmundur P. Jóhannsson, OF (1875-1953) – Winnipeg builder; his 1945 gift of \$50,000 to the endowment was the largest single gift leading to establishment of the Icelandic chair at the University of Manitoba in 1951.

Byron “Boss” Johnson (1890-1964) – Businessman; Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia; Premier of British Columbia.

Donald K. Johnson, OC – Electrical engineer, investment executive, and philanthropist. Past Chairman of Council for Business and the Arts in Canada.

Eldon A. Johnson – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

George Johnson, OC, OF (1920-1995) – Physician, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; Minister of Health, responsible for introducing medicare in the province; Minister of Public Welfare; Minister of

Education, overseeing the consolidation and modernization of the province's schools; Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba.

Janis Johnson, OF – Public policy and communications consultant; Senator; founder of the Gimli Film Festival.

Percival Johnson, CM (1907-1983) – Chief of Staff, Flin Flon General Hospital; President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba.

Sigrid Johnson – Librarian of the Icelandic Collection at the University of Manitoba; former editor of *The Icelandic Canadian*.

Skuli Johnson, OF (1888-1955) – Rhodes Scholar, the first Icelander to earn this honour; professor of classics at Wesley College; Dean of Arts at Wesley College; head of the classics department at the University of Manitoba; Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Thomas H. Johnson, OF, SOO (1870-1927) – Lawyer, educator, and census commissioner; chief legal counsel to Lord Strathcona and the Hudson's Bay Company; Winnipeg alderman and school trustee; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; Minister of Public Works; Attorney-General of Manitoba; Minister of Telephones and Telegraphs.

Thorvaldur Johnson, OC (1898-1979) – Agricultural scientist; President of the Canadian Phytopathological Society; Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Willis Merwyn (Merv) Johnson – Farmer and politician; Member of Parliament; Agent-General of Saskatchewan in the United Kingdom; President of the Saskatchewan CCF-NDP; President of the New Democratic Party of Canada.

Einar S. Jonasson (1887-1935) – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; Clerk of the Village of Gimli; Secretary-Treasurer of the RM of Gimli; Mayor of Gimli; chairman of the school board.

Eric L. Jonasson (1948-1998) – Publisher, genealogist and cartographer; St. James-Assiniboia school trustee; President of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees; President of the Canadian School Boards Association.

Sigtryggur Jónasson (1852-1942) – Immigration agent, businessman, editor, and author; Member of the Legislative Assembly on Manitoba, the first person of Icelandic ancestry to serve in a Canadian provincial legislature; “Father of New Iceland.”

Ingibjörg Jónsson, OF – Former editor of *Lögberg-Heimskringla*.

Dr. Leo F. Kristjanson, CM (1932-2005) – President of the University of Saskatchewan.

Wilhelm (Will) Kristjanson (1896-1979) – Historian, military officer, teacher, and principal; President of the Manitoba Government Employees' Association; editor of *The Icelandic Canadian*; and author of *The Icelandic People in Manitoba*.

Rev. Albert E. Kristjansson, OF – Unitarian minister; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Kristine Kristofferson (1914-1997) – Educator and author.

Margaret Ellen Lahey – Former Consul of Iceland in Ottawa.

k.d. lang – Award-winning country and pop musician, perhaps best known for her song, *Constant Craving*.

Jorunn Hinrikson Lindal (1895-1941) – Lawyer; member of the Advisory Council on Employment; representative of the federal government on the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Council.

Walter J. Lindal, OF (1887-1976) – Lawyer, military officer, and judge; author of *Two Ways of Life: Freedom or Tyranny, Canadian Citizenship and Our Wider Loyalties, The Saskatchewan Icelanders*, and *The Icelanders in Canada*; founding President of the Citizenship Council of Manitoba

Asmundur Loftson (1885-1972) – Reeve of Saltcoats; Mayor of Bredenbury; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Guy Maddin, OM – Film director, cinematographer, screenwriter, and author. His *Tales from Gimli Hospital* is a cult classic for viewers around the world.

Svava L. Magnusson, MBE – Diplomat and defence staff member who served with the British Army in Washington, DC, the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Powers in Europe, and the Trade Commissioner for New Zealand in Washington.

Rev. Runólfur Marteinsson, DD, OF (1870-1959) – Lutheran pastor and educator; Lecturer in Icelandic at Wesley College; Principal of the Jón Bjarnason Academy.

Grant Nordman – Winnipeg city councillor.

Rurik (Ric) Nordman (1919-1996) – Businessman and military officer; Winnipeg city councillor; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; President of the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities.

Oddur Olafson (1888-1972) – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Olafur Olafson – Founder of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association and President of the Moose Jaw Stock Yards.

Jón Ólafsson – Chief Chemist and Metallurgist at Vulcan Iron Works.

Dr. Tryggvi J. Oleson (1912-1963) – Historian, medievalist, and educator; Professor of History at the University of Manitoba; author of *The Early Voyages and Northern Approaches*, the first volume of *A History of Canada*.

Wilhelm H. Paulson (1857-1935) – Hardware merchant; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Rev. Philip M. Petursson, DD, OF (1902-1988) – Unitarian minister, denominational executive, and politician; Winnipeg school trustee; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba;

Minister of Cultural Affairs.

Rev. Rögnvaldur Pétursson, DD, OF (1877-1940) – Unitarian minister, denominational executive, editor, and author; founding President of the Icelandic National League of North America.

James (Jim) Pitblado – Businessman and philanthropist; Vice President of Dominion Securities and later Chairman of RBC Dominion Securities; Chairman of the National Ballet of Canada; President of the Canadian Club.

Sandra Pitblado – Philanthropist and leader of arts organizations; Chair of Toronto's Tarragon Theatre; Chair of the Stratford Festival

Gordon Reykdal – Financier, entrepreneur, and philanthropist; President of RTO Asset Management; Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of RTF Financial Holdings; Chairman and CEO of Cash Store Financial; Honorary Consul.

Hartley T. Richardson, OC, OM – President of James Richardson and Sons Limited; community servant and philanthropist.

Laura Goodman Salverson (1890-1970) – Author and twice winner of the Governor General's Literary Award – once for fiction, once for nonfiction. Editor of *The Icelandic Canadian*. Her works include: *The Viking Heart, When Sparrows Fall, Wayside Gleams, Land of the Silver Dragons, The Dark Weaver*, and *Confessions of an Immigrant's Daughter*.

Jon K. Samson – Musician and poet; he was the frontman for The Weakerthans.

Skuli Sigfusson (1870-1969) – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Sveinn Sigfusson, CM (1912-1992) – Athlete; bronze medalist at the 1950 British Empire Games; Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame; transportation company operator in northern Manitoba; author of *Sigfusson's Roads*.

Rev. Haraldur Sigmar, OF (1885-1963) – Lutheran pastor; President of the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

John F. Sigurdson, OF – President of the Sigurdson Millwork Company; Consul.

John P. Sigvaldason – Teacher and military officer; Canadian Ambassador to Norway and Iceland.

Johanna Gudrun Skaptason (1878-1960) – Founding Regent of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE.

Eric Stefanson (1913-1977) – Member of Parliament.

Eric Stefanson, OF – Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; Minister of Finance.

Kristjan F. Stefanson (1944-2016) – Lawyer and crown attorney; Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Manitoba; Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench.

Stefan J. Stefanson, OF – Chief Sheriff for the Province of Manitoba, the first non-lawyer to hold the office; Reeve of the RM of Gimli; President of the Manitoba Farmers Union. ... **page 12**



PHOTO: DONALD GISLASON

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Pickarel Fillets Stuffed with Scallops

Thanks to Lee Major, a gourmet chef and one of the '2 Grumpy Guys in the Kitchen,' for sharing this wonderful recipe, passed along from Master Chef Tony Murakami of the St. Charles Country Club.

| | |
|---|--|
| 6 Freshwater Fish pickerel fillets (about 8 oz. each) | |
| 1 lb scallops | 2 cups fish stock or 3/4 cup Clamato juice |
| 2 tbsp cream | 1/2 cup white wine |
| 1 medium white onion | 4 tbsp frozen butter |
| Juice of 1 lemon | 4 tbsp whipping cream |
| 1 tbsp butter | |

In a blender, chop the scallops. Add cream, onion, lemon juice and 1 tbsp butter. Blend until smooth. Place a portion of the scallop mixture on each pickerel fillet and roll the fillet.

Place pickerel rolls in a fish poacher or pan. Add Clamato or fish stock and white wine. Cover and bake for 20 minutes at 450°F. Remove rolls and keep them warm.

Transfer fish broth to the stove top and reduce by three-quarters. Add frozen butter and cream until thick. Add lemon juice and pour over fish rolls.

Serves 6



For this and other great recipes visit www.freshwaterfish.com

Alicyn Goodman
Winnipeg, MB

Lögberg-Heimskringla was out in full force in Lundar for its 65th annual Fair and Exhibition. We were delighted to meet the folks from Lundar and area at our booth on Friday and Saturday. On Saturday, we had our float in the parade and got to chat with lots of folks along the parade route. Then we sat back and enjoyed the entertainment at the free stage. We couldn't catch everything but really enjoyed the Patsy Cline tribute show with Laurie Sutherland. We also took in some of the horse show. At the end of the day on Saturday, we got to see Christine Kilpatrick, Miss Teulon, crowned as Miss Interlake. We missed the baby contest but hope to catch it next year.

The Lundar Fair and Exhibition is a great family event and the midway was busy all day. We look forward to seeing you next year. A big thank you for your warm welcome.



PHOTO: ALICYN GOODMAN



PHOTO: ALICYN GOODMAN



PHOTO: LINDA F. SIGURDSON COLLETTE



PHOTO: ALICYN GOODMAN



PHOTO: LINDA F. SIGURDSON COLLETTE

Above: The horses Digger and Gus ready for the show. Lunder fair cattle show. L-H President, Peter Johnson greeting Helga Sigurdson. Christine Kilpatrick, Miss Teulon, crowned as Miss Interlake. Alicyn Goodman and the L-H float. Opposite page: The midway, cattle show, parade floats and tractors dressed up for Canada's 150th anniversary.

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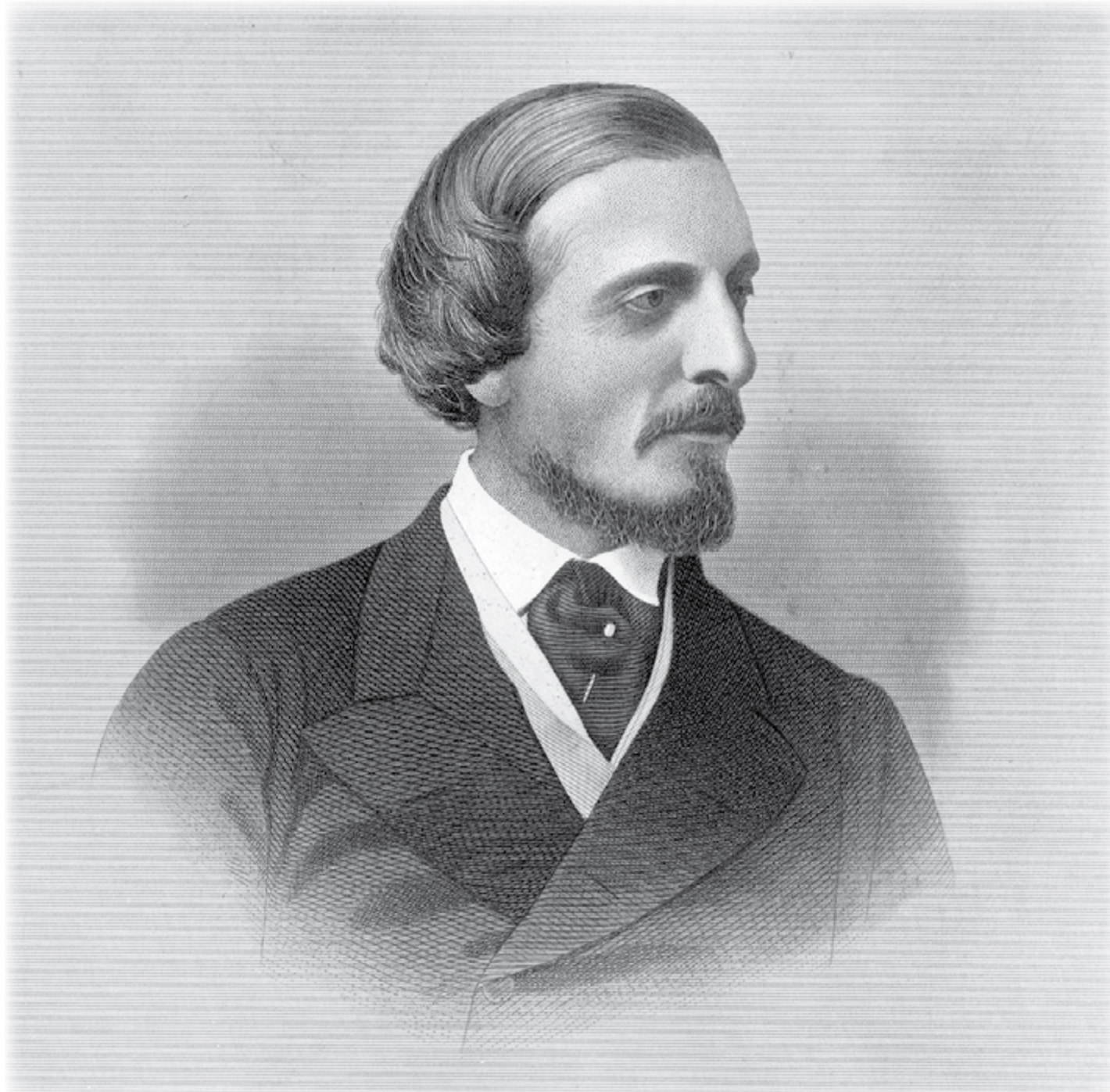
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Lord Dufferin's address to the Icelanders at Gimli



Frederick Hamilton-Temple-Blackwood, the Earl of Dufferin, was Governor General of Canada from 1872 until 1878. During his official visit to Manitoba in 1877, he ventured north of what was then the provincial boundary to tour the Icelandic settlement along the western shore of Lake Winnipeg. He was the first vice-regal representative to visit New Iceland. As a young man, Lord Dufferin visited Iceland and wrote about the experience in his book, *Letters from High Latitudes*, which was first published in 1857. A special Canadian edition was published in 1873, after Lord Dufferin became Governor General, which was coincidentally the same year that 115 Icelandic immigrants settled in the Muskoka region of Ontario.

Reporting on Lord Dufferin's visit, the *Manitoba Guide for Immigrants* (1878) stated: "This colony had not been settled two years at the time of His Excellency's visit and, in fact, the larger portion of the colonists had only arrived the previous autumn. They had suffered a very severe affliction from an epidemic of smallpox and the ravages of scurvy. Both these diseases were aggravated by the insufficient preparations which the Icelanders had been able to make for the winter and very rigorous quarantine regulations had only been removed five or six weeks before the arrival of

His Excellency. It may be remarked that the colony contained at that time about 1,500 souls, and extended from the N. Boundary of Manitoba for about 30 miles on the west shore of the Lake. The colony however in the face of these great discouragements was found to be in a fairly successful condition. 200 commodious houses had been erected, roads had been cut, and from 2 to 10 acres cleared by each settler. There were 600 head of cattle in the colony, and the cows were in good condition and well taken care of. There had not been time to plant much grain, but that which was planted was successful. There were good crops of potatoes; and the soil, after clearing, was found to be rich black alluvium. The fish supply from the lake was abundant, and altogether the Icelandic colonists were in a satisfied and flourishing condition writing to their friends in Iceland to join them."

In mid-September, Lord Dufferin's party sailed north on Lake Winnipeg aboard the *S.S. Colville* and, despite plans to visit Lundi (now Riverton), the boat was unable to land and returned to Lower Fort Garry. The following day – September 14, 1877 – the party proceeded north again and arrived at Gimli around nine o'clock in the morning. Lord Dufferin toured the tiny village and some of the surrounding homesteads in the company of Friðjón

Friðriksson and John Taylor, returning to Gimli in the afternoon. By four o'clock, about a hundred people had gathered in a public square that had been created in anticipation of the Governor General's visit. Friðjón Friðriksson addressed the crowd in Icelandic and Lord Dufferin then responded. Some of the Governor General's words on that occasion have often been quoted with pride in the years since. Perhaps a little patronizing at times, Lord Dufferin's words nevertheless reflect his broad sympathy and warm regard for the Icelandic settlers and his fondness for their homeland. As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation and remember Lord Dufferin's visit to New Iceland 140 years ago, *Lögberg-Heimskringla* is pleased to present Lord Dufferin's address in its entirety.

Men and women of Iceland, now citizens of Canada, and fellow subjects of Her Majesty the Queen:

When it was my good fortune twenty years ago to visit your island, I never thought that the day would come when I should be called upon, as the representative of the British Crown, to receive you in this country; but the opportunities I have thus had of becoming acquainted with your dramatic history,

with your picturesque literature, and the kindness I have experienced at the hands of your countrymen, now enable me with the greater cordiality to bid you welcome. I have learnt with extreme sorrow of the terrible trials to which you have been exposed so soon after your arrival by the unexpected ravages of a terrible epidemic. Such a visitation was well calculated to damp your spirits and to benumb your energies, aggravating as it did those inevitable hardships which attend the first efforts of all colonists to establish themselves in a new land. The precautions which the Local Government was reluctantly compelled to take to prevent the spreading of the contagion through the Province must also have been both galling and disadvantageous, but I trust that the discouragements which attended your advent amongst us have now forever passed away, and that you are fairly embarked on a career of happiness and prosperity.

Indeed, I understand that there is not one amongst you who is not perfectly content with his new lot and fully satisfied that the change which has taken place in his destiny is for the better.

During a hasty visit like the present, I cannot pretend to acquire more than a superficial insight into your condition, but so far as I have observed, things appear to be going sufficiently well with you. The homesteads I have visited seem well built and commodious, and are certainly far superior to any of the farmhouses I remember in Iceland, while the gardens and little clearings which have begun to surround them show that you have already tapped an inexhaustible store of wealth in the rich alluvial soil on which we stand. The three arts most necessary to a Canadian colonist are the felling of timber, the ploughing of land, and the construction of highways, but as in your own country none of you had ever seen a tree, a cornfield, or a road, it is not to be expected that you should immediately exhibit any expertness in these accomplishments, but practice and experience will soon make you the masters of all three, for you possess in a far greater degree than is probably imagined that which is the essence and foundation of all superiority – intelligence, education and intellectual activity. In fact, I have not entered a single hut or cottage in the settlement which did not contain, no matter how bare its walls or scanty its furniture, a library of twenty or thirty volumes; and I am informed that there is scarcely a child amongst you who cannot read and write.

Secluded as you have been for hundreds of years from all contact with the civilization of Europe, you may in many respects be a little rusty and behind the rest of the world; nor perhaps have the conditions under which you used to live at home – where months have to be spent in the enforced idleness of a sunless winter – accustomed you to those habits of continued and unflagging industry which you will find necessary to your new existence; but in our brighter, drier, and more exhilarating climate you will become animated with fresh vitality, and your continually expanding prosperity will encourage you year by



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Left: Lord Dufferin in 1878. Lord and Lady Dufferin in Manitoba.

year to still greater exertions.

Beneath the genial influence of the fresh young world to which you have come, the dormant capacities of your race, which adverse climatic and geographical conditions may have somewhat stunted and benumbed, will bud and burgeon forth in all their pristine exuberance, as the germs which have been for centuries buried beneath the pyramids and catacombs of Egypt are said to excel in the exuberance and succulence of their growth the corn-seeds of last year's harvest. But, as sun and air and light are necessary to produce this miracle, so it will be necessary for you to profit as much as possible by the example and by the intercourse of your more knowledgeable neighbours.

I have learnt with great satisfaction that numbers of your young women have entered the household of various Canadian families, where they will not only acquire the English language, which it is most desirable you should all know, and which they will be able to teach their brothers and sisters, and – I trust I may add, in the course of time, their children – but will also learn those lessons of domestic economy and housewifely neat-handedness which are so necessary to the well-being, health and cheerfulness of our homes.

I am also happy to be able to add that I have received the best accounts from a great number of people of the good conduct, handiness and docility of these young Ingeborgs, Ragnhildas,

Thoras, and Gudruns who I trust will do credit to the epical ancestresses from whom they have inherited their names. Many of the houses I visited today bore evident signs in their airiness, neatness and well-ordered appearance, of possessing a housewife who had already profited from her contact with the outer world.

And while I am upon this subject there is one practical hint which I shall venture to make to you. Every single house I visited today, many of them being mere temporary huts, with at the most two small chambers, was furnished with a large close iron cooking-stove, evidently used not merely for cooking purposes, but also for heating habitation. I believe that this arrangement is anything but desirable, and that, at all events, in those houses where a separate kitchen cannot be obtained an open fireplace should be introduced. I am quite certain that if I to come amongst you in winter I should find these stoves in full operation, and every crevice in your shanties sealed up from the outer air. Now, you are surrounded by an inexhaustible supply of the best possible fuel, which can be obtained with comparatively little labour, and consequently economy of coal, which is their chief recommendation, need not drive you to an excessive use of these unwholesome appliances. Our winter air, though sufficiently keen, is healthy and bracing, and a most potent incentive to physical exertion, whereas the mephitic vapours of an over-heated, closely

packed chamber paralyze our physical as well as our mental activities. A constitution nursed upon the oxygen of our bright winter atmosphere makes its owner feel as though he could toss about the pine trees in his glee, whereas to the sluggard simmering over his stove-pipe it is horror and a nameless hardship to put his nose outside the door.

I need not tell you that in a country like this the one virtue preeminently necessary to every man is self-reliance, energy, and a determination to conquer an independent living for himself, his wife, and children, by the unassisted strength of his own right arm. Unless each member of the settlement is possessed and dominated by this feeling, there can be no salvation for anyone.

But why need I speak to Icelanders – to you men and women of the grand old Norse race – of the necessity of patience under hardship, courage in the face of danger, dogged determination in the presence of difficulties? The annals of your country are bright with the records of your forefathers' noble endurance. The sons and daughters of the men and women who crossed the Arctic Ocean in open boats, and preferred to make their homes amid the snows and cinders of a volcano rather than enjoy peace and plenty under the iron sway of

a despot, may afford to smile at anyone who talks to them of hardship or rough living beneath the pleasant shade of these murmuring branches, and beside the laughing ripples of yonder shining lake.

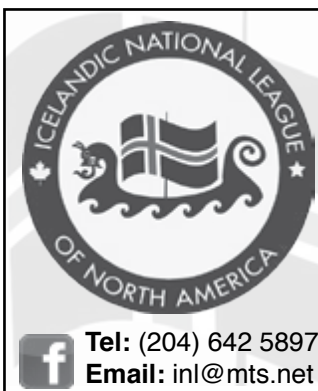
The change now taking place in your fortunes is the very converse and opposite of that which befell your forefathers. They fled from their pleasant homes and golden cornfields into a howling wilderness of storm and darkness, ice and lava, but you I am welcoming to the healthiest climate on the continent, and to a soil of unexampled fertility, which a little honest industry on your part will soon turn into a garden of plenty. Nor do we forget that no race has a better right to come amongst us than yourselves, for it is probably to the hardihood of the Icelandic navigators that the world is indebted for the discovery of this continent. Had not Columbus visited your island and discovered in your records a practical and absolute confirmation of his own brilliant speculations in regard to the existence of a western land, it is possible he might never have had the enterprise to tempt the unknown Atlantic.

Again, then, I welcome you to this country – a country in which you will find yourselves freemen, serving no overlord, and being no man's men but your own; each master of his own farm, like the Udalmen

and "Boenders" of old days; and remember that in coming amongst us you will find yourselves associated with a race both kindhearted and cognate to your own; nor in becoming Englishmen and subjects of Queen Victoria need you forget your own time-honoured customs or the picturesque annals of your forefathers.

On the contrary, I trust you will continue to cherish for all time the heart-stirring literature of your nation, and that, from generation to generation, your little ones will continue to learn in your ancient Sagas that industry, energy, fortitude, perseverance and stubborn endurance have ever been the characteristics of the noble Icelandic race.

I have pledged my personal credit to my Canadian friends on the successful development of your settlement. My warmest and most affectionate sympathies attend you, and I have not the slightest misgiving but that, in spite of your enterprise being conducted under what of necessity are somewhat disadvantageous conditions, not only will your future prove bright and prosperous, but that it will be universally acknowledged that a more valuable accession to the intelligence, patriotism, loyalty, industry and strength of the country has never been introduced into the Dominion.



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"Lögberg poki" goes to Iceland

Maxine Ingalls
Hecla, MB

Each year, a child will come home from school with a little cardboard cut-out of a doll figure that is called "Flat Stanley." The idea is that you will take Flat Stanley with you when you travel, take his picture, and then the child can report where he has travelled. Well, John and I have "Full Lögberg." We received it at the INL convention in Grand Forks and a week later were carrying the *poki* (bag) onto Icelandair filled with family tree information as I had great ideas of spending a lot of time researching and writing the story of our family, who all came from Iceland in and around 1885. The problem with having such high expectations is that most of our time has been spent visiting the many friends and family we have in Reykjavík, Garðabær, and Hafnarfjörður.

A trip with Atli Ásmundsson and Þrúður Helgadóttir to Vestmannaeyjar was amazing. The Lögberg bag had to come along on the ferry *Baldur*, once again filled with our camera, an Iceland water bottle, chocolate-covered licorice candy bars, pamphlets from the volcano museum, books for our grandchildren from a book sale at the local book museum, and pieces of lava that I want to make into jewelry in my "spare" time.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MAXINE INGALLS

Above: John, Guðrún Ágústsdóttir, Maxine, and Svavar Gestsson. Right: Egill Helgason and John with the Lögberg poki between them. Maxine and John with a rough-looking friend.

In Reykjavík, a walk downtown to meet with Egill Helgason meant that the Lögberg bag also had to be included in the photo as Egill is known for his television appearances and also for the documentary series, *Vesturfara*. The Lögberg bag was not to be left out filled again with camera, purse, and trinkets. A walk through the local market on the Saturday meant that the Lögberg bag again held many wonderful items that we purchased, like an English-Icelandic / Íslensk-

Ensk translation book, a beautiful lava aurora necklace, and of course, *harðfiskur*.

It hardly leaves my side any more. John even makes sure that we take it along whenever we go to visit Edda Ársælsdóttir and it watched while she made "*mjög góður plokkskur*" for us. More food with Almar Grímsson and Anna Björg in Hafnarfjörður. It had to simply watch as we devoured *humar* (lobster) soup and hangikjöt and smoked salmon lunch with Svavar Gestsson, Guðrún Ágústsdóttir, and Hulda and Guy Stewart,



former associate editor for *Lögberg-Heimskringla*.

It carried a gift to Halldór Árnason and Anna Björg Eyjólfssdóttir and sat on the sofa patiently waiting for us as we listened to Margrét Hannesdóttir sing a spine-thrilling rendition of *Draumalandið* and had afternoon coffee with her mother, Agnes Sigurðardóttir, the Lutheran Bishop of Iceland. Three days in the summerhouse at Bórganes with Friðrik and Vilborg Schram, carrying the

camera to Deildartunguhver hot springs, a visit to Snorri Sturlason's hot tub at Reykholt, and then for coffee at Borgarnes Kaffihús.

So much to see in such a short time. Soon it will travel on Icelandair back to Canada to Edmonton, Calgary, and then back to Hecla Island.

If this "new Lögberg bag" could talk, it would have a tale to tell but, for now, you will just have to trust this "old Mikley bag" to tell you her story.

Canadians of Distinction ... from page 7

Baldur R. Stefansson, OC, OM, OF (1917-2002) – Agricultural scientist; member of the Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame and the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame; "Father of Canola."

Bjorn Stefansson (1888-1963) – Lawyer and World War I military officer; Family Court Judge; Police Magistrate.

Sigurbjörg Stefansson (1897-1985) – Teacher, scholar, library benefactor, and philanthropist. She was the driving force behind the publication of *Gimli Saga* and the elementary school in Gimli is named in her honour.

Vilhjalmur Stefansson, OF (1879-1962) – Arctic explorer and ethnologist; prolific author with 26 books to his credit and countless essays and articles.

Stephan G. Stephansson (1853-1927) – Farmer-poet, commonly known as the "Poet of the Rocky Mountains."

Helga Stephenson – Film industry executive; CEO of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.

Thor Eyolfur Stephenson – Engineer; President of the Canadian Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Company.

Sir William S. Stephenson, CC (1897-1989) – World War I flying ace, inventor, industrialist, World War II spymaster; wartime liaison between Sir Winston Churchill and Franklin D.

Roosevelt; first non-American to receive the Presidential Medal for Merit.

Lorna Tergesen – Merchant and long-time editor of *Icelandic Connection*, formerly *The Icelandic Canadian*.

Dr. Steinn O. Thompson – (1892-1972) Physician and politician; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Barney Thordarson (1904-1974) – Teacher and school principal; professor of arts, science and education at Brandon College; President of the Manitoba Teachers' Society.

Scott Thorkelson (1958-2007) – Member of Parliament.

Dr. T. Kenneth Thorlakson, OF – Physician and surgeon; President of the Canadian Association of Clinical Surgeons; Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Manitoba; Chair of the Valuing Icelandic Presence Millennium Campaign

Dr. Paul H.T. Thorlakson, CC, OF (1895-1989) – Physician and philanthropist, co-founder of the Winnipeg Clinic, organizer of the Manitoba Medical Centre (now the Health Sciences Centre); President of the National Cancer Institute of Canada and the Canadian Association of Clinical Surgeons; Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg.

Dr. Robert Henry Thorlakson, OC (1923-2011) – Physician and surgeon; President of the American College of Surgeons; President of the Manitoba

Opera; President of the Manitoba Conservatory of Music and Arts.

Charles (Cartoon Charlie) Thorson (1890-1966) – Artist and animator, honoured for his role in creating Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Bugs Bunny, Elmer the Safety Elephant, and many other cartoon creations.

Joseph T. Thorson, OF (1889-1978) – Rhodes Scholar, lawyer, and military officer; Dean of the Manitoba Law School; Member of Parliament; Minister of National War Service; President of the Exchequer Court of Canada (now the Federal Court); President of the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada; President of the World Council of Jurists.

Gunnar S. Thorvaldson, OF (1901-1969) – Lawyer; President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce; President of the Law Society of Manitoba; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba; Senator.

Sveinn Thorvaldson, MBE, OF (1872-1949) – Merchant; Reeve of the RM of Gimli; Reeve of the RM of Bifrost; Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Thorbergur Thorvaldson, OF (1883-1965) – Chemist; Professor of Chemistry at the University of Saskatchewan; Dean of Graduate Studies; he led the team that developed a sulphate-resistant cement.

Bjarni Tryggvason, OF – Astronaut.

W.D. Valgardson – Author, poet, and professor of creative writing at the University of Victoria; former editor of *Lögberg-Heimskringla*.

Axel Vopnfjord (1902-1993) – Teacher and school principal; President of the Western Manitoba Teachers' Association; President of the Winnipeg Teachers' Association; professor of education at the University of Manitoba; and editor of *The Icelandic Canadian*.

Lindy Vopnfjord – Singer-songwriter; former frontman for Major Maker.

John J. Vopni (1864-1956) – Winnipeg alderman, builder, real estate businessman, and founder of Art Press Limited.

William H. Vopni (1911-1973) – Newspaper publisher and Portage la Prairie alderman.

Cully Wilson (1892-1962) – Hockey player who played for teams across North America, including Stanley Cup winning teams in 1914 and 1917.

Betty Jane Wylie, CM – Prolific author of books including fiction, nonfiction, cookbooks, poetry, and inspirational works; playwright, screenwriter, and journalist.

Torhildur Þorsteinsdóttir Holm (1845-1918) – Teacher, folklorist, and author. She is generally considered the first Icelander to earn a living as an author and the first Icelandic woman novelist.

Þorsteinn Þ. Þorsteinsson (1879-1955) – Historian, poet, essayist, short story writer, and graphic designer.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Send information to appear in the Calendar of Events to catherine@lh-inc.ca. Please include date, place, time and other particulars. For more listings, visit our website at www.lh-inc.ca. Follow us on facebook.

Events

SUNDAY JUNE 25

Winnipeg, MB: Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra's High School Honour Jazz Bands will perform with guest saxophonist Mark DeJong (the three bands will be directed by Richard Gillis, Neil Watson and Ken Gold). Tickets are \$20 at Jazz Winnipeg. 3 pm at the West End Cultural Centre. 586 Ellice Ave. www.winnipegjazzorchestra.com
Ongoing events: Mardi Jazz (CCFM, 340 Provencher Blvd.) on Tuesdays at 8 pm. \$5 cover charge. Jazz at Inferno's (312 Des Meurons St.) on Saturdays from noon to 3 pm: Ken Gold and Ron Halldorson. Resto Gare restaurant (630 Des Meurons St.) on Thursdays at 6:30 pm: June 22, Helen White; June 29, Richard Gillis.

30 JUNE TO 2 JULY

Riverton, MB: *Riverton Reunion Days.* In honour of Canada 150 in 2017, we're bringing back a summer celebration to Riverton. A homecoming weekend filled with fun for the whole family and classic Riverton celebrations. Mark your calendar, stake your claim on Amma's spare room, and pack your sunscreen. Our community is rich with hard-working community members and organizations, and this year they've come together to plan this blast from the past weekend. There will be something for everyone with pancake breakfast, kids fishing derby, fireworks, beer garden, contests, entertainment and more. Facebook: @ReunionDays2017.

SATURDAY 1 JULY

Gimli, MB: Celebrate Canada 150 with Gimli this year! There will be live music playing your favourite Canadian songs, a parade, fireworks and much more.

Lundar, MB: Celebrate Canada 150 and Lundar 130 with us commencing at 4:30. Seven hours of family fun. Opening ceremonies, cake, BBQ, kids' games, scavenger hunt, golf, movie, fireworks and more.

Markerville, AB: Canada Day celebrations at the Markerville Creamery Museum, 10 am.

Riverton, MB: "Friðrika Björnsdóttir Project: Dedication and Unveiling Ceremony." Centennial Park, 2:45 pm. The Friðrika Björnsdóttir Memorial restoration project team will be hosting a dedication and unveiling ceremony to mark the completion of its decade-long project to honour Friðrika Björnsdóttir Árnason (1849-1884), a New Icelander with "royal" Danish connections. Please join us for the ribbon-cutting reveal of the Interpretative Panel installed at Centennial Park, as part of Riverton's "Reunion Days" and its Canada 150 celebrations. Open to all. For more info, please connect through the website: www.tindratales.wixsite.com/fridikamemorial, email fridikamemorial@gmail.com or "Facecbook" Friðrika Björnsdóttir. See also the listings with Canada 150 Alliance and Passport 2017.

5 TO 8 JULY

Siglufjörður, Iceland: Folk Music Festival of Siglufjörður. Folk Music Centre. Icelandic and Scandinavian folk music as well as world music and folk dances. 15 -20 concerts in different locations of the town, workshops, lectures etc. folkmusik.is/en.

26 TO 30 JULY

Gimli, MB: Gimli Film Festival – widely recognized as the most successful film festival in Manitoba. Over the last sixteen years, our audience, sponsors and partners have supported and shaped the festival into what it is today. We showcase narrative feature films, documentaries and short films from Manitoba, Canada and the world, that promise informative, fascinating and riveting entertainment. The 2017 Gimli Film Festival will celebrate the 17th edition of GFF and continue to showcase the best new films from Canada's and Manitoba's most promising directors and an exceptional selection of features, documentaries and shorts from

around the world. Five indoor venues and the popular free on-the-beach screenings; Industry workshops and seminars; Over \$10,000 awarded in pitch competitions and film competitions; Canadian and Manitoban Short Film Awards; networking events. Info: gimlifilm.com. Passes on sale now.

29 JULY TO 4 AUGUST

Camp Veselka, near Gimli, MB: Icelandic Camp 2017 *Íslenskur Sumarbuðir*. For more info on how to light this spark in your kids please visit www.icelandiccamp.com; e: Brad Hirst at icelandiccamp@gmail.com. Twitter @IcelandicCamp. Campers are immersed in all things Icelandic. From language lessons to viking crafts to writing their own saga the campers start to develop a love of their Icelandic ancestry.

SUNDAY 30 JULY

Blaine WA: The Blaine Icelandic Picnic at Peace Arch Park 1 - 4 pm. U.S. side. You can park on the Canadian side and walk through Peace Arch Park. Families find the picnic to be a great way to create an impromptu family reunion as well as spend an afternoon with other Icelandic descendants. You are invited to bring your picnic lunch (and tablecloths) and join in the fun. Cake is provided, a group photo is taken, and the weather is always beautiful at this time of year.

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY 4 TO 6 AUGUST

Mountain, ND: The Deuce of August, 118th annual Icelandic celebration. Northeast North Dakota is the home of a large Icelandic settlement, many historic sites. This weekend celebration is the oldest ethnic festival in North Dakota and the largest Icelandic event in the United States. We have a wonderful parade on Saturday morning which goes down the historic Main Street and past the Vikur Church. Vikur is the oldest Icelandic Church in all of North America. Activities for everyone in the family and lots of food. Street dances, fireworks, and kids games plus much more. Most of the weekend activities take place in Mountain including the very popular, high-octane, North Dakota State Pickup and Tractor Pull, which happens on Sunday. There is a Kids Pedal Tractor Pull, in the Saturday line-up of events and it is not to be missed! thedeuce.org.

FRIDAY TO MONDAY 4 TO 7 AUGUST

Gimli, MB: Íslendingadagurinn. The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba is a volunteer

organization dedicated to promoting and sustaining interest in Icelandic culture and descent, primarily through the presentation of an annual family oriented celebration, held every August long weekend in beautiful Gimli. Join us and enjoy food, music, entertainment, events/activities, Icelandic culture, and of course, Vikings! With the support of our sponsors, donors and volunteers we offer many festival events for free or low cost. www.icelandicfestival.com.

SATURDAY TO MONDAY 5 TO 7 AUGUST
Edmonton, AB: Heritage Festival.

SATURDAY 12 AUGUST

Reykjavík, Iceland: The Pride Parade.

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST

Reykjavík, Iceland: Reykjavík Marathon. 42.2 km, 21.1 km and 10 km. This event goes hand-in-hand with the Reykjavík Cultural Night. marathon.is/reykjavik-marathon.

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST

Reykjavík, Iceland: Reykjavík Culture Night will be held for the 22nd time on August 19, 2017. The event, which is both created and enjoyed by city residents, takes place all across Reykjavík.

27 - 30 SEPTEMBER

Minot, ND: Norsk Høstfest, 40 years of pure scandimonium! Norsk Høstfest is an annual festival held each fall in Minot, North Dakota. It is North America's largest Scandinavian festival. The event is held on the North Dakota State Fair grounds in Minot. Details: Hostfest.com.

SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

Calgary AB: The Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary Fall Feast featuring presentations of the Snorris' trip to Iceland. Scandinavian Centre, 739 - 20th Ave. NW.

Edmonton, AB: Icelandic Canadian Club of Edmonton Leifur Eiriksson Dinner.

Icelandic classes

MONDAYS

Toronto, ON: The Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto's spring session of Icelandic classes ends 29 May. Classes resume in the fall. Beginner 1, Beginner 2 and Intermediate classes. If you have some Icelandic knowledge, you may be able to join Beginner 1. New students being accepted in the fall. Watch www.icct.info/

language-classes for fall dates.

TUESDAYS

Winnipeg, MB: The Icelandic Canadian Frón language classes will resume 19 September to 21 November.

WEDNESDAYS

Gimli, MB: Gimli Icelandic Canadian Society's Wednesday Kaffitími Icelandic language sessions are suspended until further notice due to the closure of Alycia's Restaurant at the Gimli Waterfront Centre.

Music

KALEO

On tour in US and Europe. For info: www.officialkaleo.com/tour

WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE

Winnipeg, MB: Mise En Scene: *Still Life on Fire* Album Release w/ Louise Burns. Good Will Social Club, 625 Portage Ave. 9:30 - 11 pm. Tickets available at jazzwinnipeg.com. Female-fronted Winnipeg indie rock outfit Mise en Scene was founded by Stefanie Blondal Johnson (vocals and guitar) and Jodi Dunlop (drums), now joined by new friends Corey Hykawy (bass) and Dave Gagnon (guitar). miseensceneband.com. Watch the Exclusive Premiere of Mise en Scene's 'Closer' Music Video on [facebook.com/miseensceneband/](https://www.facebook.com/miseensceneband/)

JOHN K. SAMSON & THE WINTER WHEAT
7/7: Winnipeg Folk Festival, Bird's Hill Provincial Park, main stage, 8:25 pm.
7/15: Vancouver Folk Festival, Jericho Beach Park.
7/29: Calgary Folk Festival, Prince's Island Park.
www.johnksamson.com/shows.

1 TO 5 NOVEMBER

Reykjavík, Iceland: Iceland Airwaves has come a long way since its inception in an airplane hangar at Reykjavík Airport. Nowadays the festival is regarded as the biggest celebration of music in Iceland and boasts an unrivaled line-up of established and up-and-coming artists. From concerts in tiny record stores and

art museums to cool bars and beautiful churches, Airwaves-goers can expect to soak up the festival atmosphere in some of the city's most unique venues. And it's not just about the music; there will be plenty of opportunities to indulge in yummy Icelandic cuisine, sample the local beer, make new friends, relax in the hot pools and marvel at the aurora borealis. There's a reason music lovers flock to Reykjavík from all over the world, so come and join us (and them!) for 5 days of festival magic. www.icelandairwaves.is.

SIGUR RÓS

World tour and UK tour. Find more nformation: sigur-ros.co.uk/tour

26 - 31 DECEMBER

Reykjavík, Iceland: This December Sigur Rós will perform on six concerts across Christmas and New Year, where the band will set up residence in Harpa, to fill the shortest days with the brightest array of music, art and performance from Iceland and beyond. en.harpa.is/events.

Sports

SATURDAY 8 JULY

Lake Laugarvatn, Iceland: The Golden Circle Cycling Challenge is an annual cycling competition held in Iceland. There are three routes to suit both professional riders and beginners alike. The rides all start and finish at Lake Laugarvatn. www.goldencirclechallenge.com.

FRIDAY 4 AUGUST

Gimli, MB: The Annual Icelandic Open golf tournament, in support of *Lögberg-Heimskringla*. Links at the Lake Golf Course. Cocktails and dinner at Johnson Hall (limited seating). Additional dinner are tickets available. Early bird registration was \$150 until June 15th. For sponsorship and registration contact us: 204-284-5686, email: lh@lh-inc.ca, or at www.lh-inc.ca.

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST

Reykjavík, Iceland: Reykjavík Marathon. 42.2 km, 21.1 km and 10 km. This event goes hand-in-hand with the Reykjavík Cultural Night. marathon.is/reykjavik-marathon.



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Jón Sigurðsson, the Icelandic patriot

PART 3



SOURCE: JÓNSHÚS COPENHAGEN

Þjóðfundurinn (The National Assembly) in 1851 by Gunnlaugur Blöndal

The National Assembly met early in July 1851, but Jón Sigurðsson proved to be only too good a prophet as to the liberality of the National-Liberal party, which now was come to power in Denmark, for most of the deputies found the bill the government laid before the assembly quite inadmissible: a complete incorporation,

making Iceland a province of Denmark, was proposed; Iceland should be represented by six members in the Danish Parliament, which should decide all the most important questions and be entitled to lay taxes on Iceland at pleasure. The power and sphere of action of the Alþing should be like that of the local government in Denmark. Further, the royal

commissioner stated that it was of no use to make alterations in this bill, for no notice would be taken of them. If the National Assembly had agreed to this bill, the national rights of Iceland would have been utterly lost.

The committee appointed to consider the matter threw out altogether the government bill and formed a new one, based on the views Jón Sigurðsson formerly had set forth, and he became the mover of the bill. Now the royal commissioner (Jørgen D. Trampe) saw what was coming and wished by all means to hinder the discussion of the matter; the 9th of August the last meeting was held; that day the Danish soldiers made themselves more prominent than usual to overawe the members of the Assembly. The royal commissioner spoke at the beginning of the meeting, censuring the Assembly and the committee severely; he said that it lay beyond the power of the Assembly to take such a report as that into consideration and therefore he dissolved the Assembly. But at the moment the royal commissioner said, "and I proclaim in the king's name —," Jón Sigurðsson interrupted him and said: "May I ask for a hearing to defend the proceedings of the committee and the Assembly?" The president answered: "No." Then the royal commissioner concluded his sentence saying, "that the Assembly is dissolved." Jón Sigurðsson rose immediately and said: "Then I protest against this proceeding." As the royal

commissioner left his seat, along with the president, he said: "I hope that the members have heard that I dissolved the Assembly in the king's name." Then Jón Sigurðsson said: "And I protest in the name of the king and the people against this proceeding, and reserve to the Assembly the right to complain to our king of this breach of the laws." Then the members rose and said with one voice: "We all protest." In the meantime, the royal commissioner and the president retired from the chamber, but the members gave cheers for the king, as usual, and then left the house.

After that, the members of the Assembly wrote an address to the king and chose three deputies to lay it before him; the first of whom was Jón Sigurðsson. The king's answer was a proclamation, dated the 12th of May, 1852, decidedly ungracious in tone, refusing the claims of the Icelanders and in other respects decreeing that everything should remain unaltered; and the Danish government wrote to the Governor of Iceland that the officials who had signed the address should not be allowed to sit in the Alþing and made them feel its displeasure in other respects.

The result of the dauntless conduct of Jón Sigurðsson was that the government never again laid such a bill before the Icelandic deputies, nor made further attempts to carry it through. The nationality of Iceland had on this occasion been in great danger and it was chiefly due to one man that the

danger was prevented.

For a considerable time, this question made no progress. It is true, that every Alþing, except that of 1855, desired to have the question settled, but to this the government paid little attention. Still, Jón Sigurðsson lost no opportunity of defending the views of the Assembly and pressing the matter forward.

On the other hand, the Danes also thought it necessary to support by argument their theory of government as applied to Iceland and one of their ablest and most noted jurists, Professor J.E. Larsen, appeared in the arena in 1855 with a long dissertation intended to show that Iceland had long ago been legally incorporated into Denmark, which was translated into Icelandic by order of the government. Against this, Jón Sigurðsson wrote another treatise in Danish on the claims of Iceland as supported by historical and legal arguments; this essay is very highly esteemed and is written with such acuteness and thorough knowledge of the subject as to leave no room for addition or improvement; indeed Larsen never made any attempt to reply to it.

In the meantime, the public expenditure of Iceland was paid out of the Danish treasury and required every year the sanction of the Danishp. The amount increased year after year till the parliament took the alarm and insisted that the government should take steps to separate the finances of Iceland and Denmark. The king therefore

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Jón Sigurðsson in 1851, the year of the National Assembly

without the consent of Iceland in the same manner as it had made the law without their consent. The Alþing further maintained Iceland's claims to self-government and protested firmly against any enactment other than that to which the Icelanders had given their consent.

At this time, the Icelandic political question had begun to arouse attention in other countries and several men of note, such as Professor Conrad Maurer, Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, and others wrote on the subject, most of them taking part with Iceland. The Danish newspapers were full of violent attacks on Jón Sigurðsson. As the leader of the movement for Iceland's independence, he was charged with illegal and underhand agitation, and attempts were even made to deprive him of various grants of money bestowed in recompense for his literary labours, which formed the chief part of his income, for he held no salaried office, but supported himself by his own exertions.

Jón Sigurðsson had at this period a hard battle to fight and must have endured, without doubt, many a trial and vexation of which few can now form any idea. He was, it is true, the pride and darling of his own countrymen, but the mass of the Danes, and especially the National-Liberal party, which was then the most influential, looked on him with suspicion and dislike.

It was about this time (1870) that some of the people of Þingeyjarsýsla, in the north of Iceland, formed the idea of founding a society to maintain and advance the views of the majority in the Alþing, while at the same time they intended that the society should yield Jón Sigurðsson some assistance. This association was called the "Þjóðvinafélag" (Society of Friends of the People) and was regularly established when the Alþing met in 1871. Jón Sigurðsson was chosen the president and continued to hold that post till his death.

The society organized the holding of meetings all over Iceland and the constitutional question roused at that time intense excitement among the people. A great meeting was held at Þingvellir before the Alþing met in 1873, at which Jón Sigurðsson was present.

In the Alþing that year, the majority adhered to their former demands for self-government, but as an alternative agreed to petition the king to grant a constitution to the country next year. The reasons which led to the adoption of this alternative proposal were that people saw that the long-drawn constitutional struggle hindered the progress of the country and therefore they desired by all means to obtain a constitution of some kind, even though it did not in all respects fully satisfy their wishes, and, as the thousandth anniversary of the colonization of Iceland was to be celebrated next year, it was thought likely that the king and government would, on such an occasion, be more easily persuaded to do justice to Iceland. And indeed the result of the alternative proposal by the Alþing was that, on the 5th of January, 1874, the king granted a constitution to Iceland. For all the benefits which this reform conferred, the country was chiefly indebted to Jón Sigurðsson. The Alþing had now obtained legislative power and the command of the finances; the office of governor-general (*landshöfðingi*) had already,

in 1872, been established, with greater powers than the former governors (*stiftamtmenn*) had possessed, but responsible to the Alþing; and the yearly payment from Denmark, though less than Jón Sigurðsson considered right, was still not to be despised. Though Jón Sigurðsson pointed out clearly the defects of the constitution in an article in the magazine *Andvari* (which the Þjóðvinafélag issued as a continuation of the *Ný Félagsrit*), he did not in other respects move further in the matter. He was far from being satisfied with this new constitution and he has doubtless seen more clearly than many others that the performance would fall short of the promise.

Part 3 of 6 installments. This series was produced by someone identified as "one of his relatives," but whom the preface reveals to have been one of Jón Sigurðsson's many nephews, and translated into English W.G. Spence Paterson, who was the British Consul for Iceland, and Geir Zoega, professor of the College in Reykjavík. Published in Reykjavík by the Printing House of S. Eymundsson and S. Jónsson in 1887, this biographical sketch drew upon the essays "Yfirlit yfir æfi Jóns Sigurðssonar" by Rev. Eiríkur Briem (1880) and "Um vísindalega starfsemi Jóns Sigurðssonar" by Dr. Jón Þorkelsson (1882).

appointed a committee of five men to consider and report on the matter: three of them were Danes, the other two were the chief of the Icelandic department, Oddgeir Stephensen, and Jón Sigurðsson. Naturally enough, Jón Sigurðsson was the only member of this committee who advocated the cause of Iceland and, as was to be expected, he stood alone in supporting her claims. He maintained that Iceland was entitled to receive from the Danish treasury 120,000 *rigsdalers* per annum, besides certain funds devoted to special purposes, while on the other hand she should contribute 20,000 *rigsdalers* per annum to the common expenditure of the Danish realm.

In 1865, the government laid before the Alþing a bill giving the Alþing the control of the finances and granting a yearly payment from the Danish treasury of 42,000 *rigsdalers* for 12 years. The Alþing rejected this bill and requested that the whole question of the administration of Iceland should be laid before the people's representatives. In 1867 a new bill from the government came before the Alþing, the terms of which were considerably more favourable; this led to an agreement between the Alþing and the royal commissioner (then Governor Hilmar Finsen), who promised to advise the government to accede to the

alterations made on the bill by the Alþing.

But the matter now took quite a different course from what had been expected, for the government laid the question of the yearly payment to Iceland before the Danish Parliament in 1868 and the parliament not only took the matter into consideration, but even passed resolutions as to Iceland's constitutional position in the realm. The result of this was that, in 1869, the government laid before the Alþing a bill defining the constitutional position of Iceland, which was afterwards to be submitted to the Danish Parliament. Jón Sigurðsson objected strongly to this course and maintained his original view that the Danish parliament had no voice in the matter, but that the Icelanders were entitled to treat directly and solely with the king as to their position in the kingdom and all other matters relating to their government. The Alþing therefore rejected the bill totally, but, notwithstanding this, the government brought the matter before the Danish parliament, which issued an act as to the constitutional position of Iceland on the 2nd of January, 1871. The Alþing of 1871 declared itself unable to acknowledge the validity of this law, as it was enacted arbitrarily and without the assent or concurrence of the Icelanders, and as it would be within the power of the Danish legislature to alter the law

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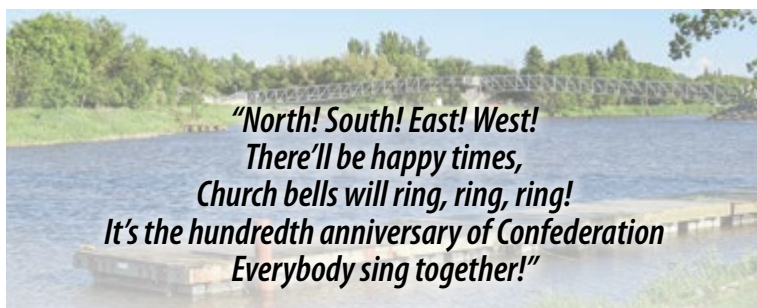
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RIVERTON'S CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL PARK AFTER 50 YEARS



Stefan Jonasson

As the 150th anniversary of Confederation has approached, I've been carried back half a century to that dramatic year when we celebrated Canada's centennial. From the Centennial Flame on Parliament Hill to the Centennial Train that crossed the country, from Expo 67 in Montreal to the Pan Am Games in Winnipeg, and from commemorative coins to the "Centennial Song" by Bobby Gimby, which still rings in my ears, a mood of celebration gripped the country.

In communities from coast to coast, local projects were initiated to mark the centennial. Libraries were built, roads were renamed, and, at the school

I attended in Winnipeg, trees were planted, although I'm not sure they grew as robustly as the Canadian population, which has increased from about 20 million then to 35 million today.

The community of Riverton, Manitoba, created the Riverton Centennial Memorial Park as its centennial project and erected a monument with three intertwined shapes representing the past, present, and future. The park is still there, a lovely oasis nestled next to the Icelandic River, celebrating the rich, storied past of the Riverton district, its Icelandic pioneers, and the nation itself, while reminding us that we are called to be good citizens in the present moment and ever hopeful for the unfolding future.



PHOTOS: STEFAN JONASSON

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