



# Midnight Sun

ISSUE

3

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Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina



## Facts about Iceland

Capital: [Reykjavík](#)  
 Official language: Icelandic - a North Germanic Language  
 Government: Parliamentary republic  
 National Day: 17 June (became republic on this date in 1944)  
 National Anthem: [Lofsöngur \(Hymn\)](#)  
 Current President: Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson  
 Legislature: Alþingi  
 Area: 103,001 km<sup>2</sup> (39,770 sq mi)  
 Population 1 April 2012 (estimate): 320,060  
 GDP Per capita: USD 43,088



## Theme: Life in Iceland

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## Roots - at Home in Iceland

By Kari M. Frodesen

*It took me nearly sixty years to get there, but I have finally returned home. During the past few years I have reclaimed my Icelandic heritage, and it feels great!*

My mother was *Dóra Haraldsdóttir*, daughter of *Haraldur Björnsson*, Iceland's first professional actor, who married a Norwegian naval officer and moved to Norway in 1946. Over the years we only visited Iceland a few times, but my mother kept in touch with her family all her life, by mail and telephone and the occasional visit by relatives on vacation. However, my family settings were heavily Norwegian, and growing up my own relationship with my Icelandic heritage was virtually non-existent.

Therefore I was more than a little excited when I decided to pay them a visit in 2009. Maybe they would be skeptical to this distant relative who

thought she could just barge in after all these years?

I need not have worried. They welcomed me with open arms, and despite not having seen them since we were children, it was really like coming home! And although I scarcely understood a word they said on this first occasion, it was wonderful just to be with them – in my mother's home town, Reykjavík. And I've been back since – after taking a crash course in Icelandic.



There is something very calming for a Norwegian to be in Iceland. Coming from Oslo, a hustling city in very self-sufficient and "prosperous" Norway, I can feel my pulse settling when I land

*(Continued on page 6)*



## From the SCoR Board

### Interest, Term Deposit, Fund Availability

Initiated by a question at the AGM, This matter came up at the May Board meeting, In the treasurer's report, the interest was rolled into the general account. John Edwardson moved that we invest in a one year term redeemable after 90 days (1.0 %) to keep funds available for Mosaic. This was seconded by Pearl Baumgartner, and the motion was carried.

### SCoR Historian

The Board has started working with plans to establish a position of Club Historian to record and maintain SCoR records.

### Midnight Sun

As from this issue, your Newsletter is a Magazine:

**Midnight Sun** - Quarterly Magazine for The Scandinavian Club of Regina

# Members' Matters more on pp. 3 and 6

## Annual General Meeting

Two new members of the SCoR Board of Directors for 2012-2013



Ingrid Van Dusen



Greg Swanson

### Mosaic

The most important result of the 2 April AGM was that the members gave the Board of Directors a go-ahead for sorting out how the SCoR can participate in next year's Mosaic in Regina.

## Midsummer Fest



"- all the fun of the fair--"



## Syttende Mai

Big turnout for the SCoR celebration of Norway's Constitution Day. The weather was perfect, and people enjoyed the company, the food and the entertainment: songs by the Kjersten Hordern Singers and a Norwegian folk tale told by storyteller *Kevin MacKenzie*. Young trumpeter *Jenny Panchuk* lead the parade which was made up of children and adults alike, and they caught the attention of neighbours and passers-by in the Cathedral area. Hurra for Syttende Mai!



Speaker of the Day:  
Norwegian Honorary Consul  
Heather Goransson

40 adults and 7 children were present, but the local weather forecast probably scared quite a few people away. The morning was beautiful, however, sunny and warm. About 3:00 PM there was a very black cloud moving over us and we started cooking to beat the storm. It turned out to be only about a 30 minute sprinkle, and people found shelter under a few large trees. The sprinkle never slowed the children down as they spent most of their time in the playground. The sun started to shine again, the food was great, a good time was had by all.

We want to see every one and even more at the Corn Roast in late August!  
Larry Bristol



**Are you interested in working with the SCoR preparations for MOSAIC 2013?  
Contact John Edwardson at 584-2246 or Kim Gillis at 531-9794.**

## President's Corner

As summer gets into full swing we can look forward to our summer activities, but before I get to that I wanted to thank everyone who came out to the AGM. Having input from club members really helps our planning for the future. I also would like to welcome our two new board members Greg Swanson and Ingrid Van Dusen, it is wonderful to have new people with new ideas on the board.

We have been celebrating the annual Midsummer Fest, the Corn Roast is coming up in August, and I encourage everyone to bring a guest or even a few. This is a great way to show people some of our family events and in turn possibly increase membership. We have done a great job of bringing new people into the club which is necessary for the future. We have had many wonderful people give of their time to serve the club but we still need people to step up to the plate to ensure our club runs smoothly.

At the AGM we discussed the possibility of joining Mosaic in the future, but to do this we need your help. Mosaic is Regina's most attended cultural event and I think it makes sense that our club is there to represent our Scandinavian countries. We will be sending out a Mosaic newsletter periodically to let the membership know how we are working to



make Mosaic happen for our club. If you are interested in helping with planning for Mosaic please call John Edwardson at 584-2246 or myself at 531-9794. We know joining Mosaic will be a lot of work - but anything worthwhile is.

Have a great summer.

*Kim Gillies*

## Cooking Class!

***In cooperation with  
Hillsdale Community  
Association, SCOR  
will start up  
Scandinavian  
cooking classes this  
fall!***

### **Mondays:**

September 24;  
October 1, 22,  
November 5, 26.

**Time:** 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Carrefour des  
Plaines, 3850 Hillsdale  
Street (Ecole  
Monseigneur de Laval)

### **Cost of program:**

\$85.00 per person for 5  
classes (supplies  
included)

### **Registration:**

For the best chance to  
secure a place in the  
class, register in  
person on Tuesday 11  
September from 7:00  
to 8:00 pm with  
Hillsdale Community  
Association,  
McVeety School, 38  
Turgeon Cres, in the  
gym.

### **Additional Info.:**

Taught with assistance  
of teachers from the  
SCoR, each class will  
highlight dishes from  
one of the five  
Scandinavian countries:  
Denmark, Finland,  
Iceland, Norway and  
Sweden.

## Editorial



**What's cooking?** Coming up this fall we will likely have Scandinavian dishes cooking on many a Regina stove. Food traditions are among the strongest bearers of culture, and our Scandinavian background caters for interesting and tasty dishes based on special (and exotic?) ingredients. One of the more challenging aspects of transferring recipes between continents can also be to experiment with introducing new raw materials into traditional dishes. Much can already be found in Regina stores, but there is always the possibility of bringing new merchandise to local stores by increasing the demand. Together we

could be able to make more Scandinavian goods available in Regina!

This new club activity is very welcome indeed. Meeting over meals is nice and social - doing things together creates a great forum for developing friendship and bringing new generations to our events. This could also be a good way of extending knowledge about Scandinavian culture and increasing club membership.

With experience from small scale test classes, Greg Swanson has made arrangements for these regular cooking classes. Let us fill up the first class this fall!



## Remembrance Grove



The first steps towards creating a grove honouring the people who were murdered in Oslo and Utøya on July 22 last year, were taken in Mid June in Vatnsmyrin near the Nordic House in Reykjavík.

Shortly after the tragedy, the Nordic Association in Iceland discussed creating a memorial for the victims. The idea of *P. S. Þorvaldsson*, former urban planning director of Reykjavík, of a memorial grove was presented to the Reykjavík Forestry Association.

The plan is to plant large rowans (mountain ashes) symbolizing each of the Nordic countries, and 77 birches for each of the murder victims. A memorial stone will also be placed in the grove.

*Siri Marie Sønstelié*, survivor of the Utøya massacre, and her father Erik, were present when the first trees were planted.

*Fréttablaðið / Iceland Review*

# Growing up in Reykjavík

By *Guðrún ( Úlú ) Mjöll Guðbergsdóttir*

*I was born at Grundarstígur 10 in Reykjavík, Iceland. It is a house with a soul. The house was bought in 1928 by my maternal grandparents and by my mother's oldest siblings. It was built in 1915 by the governor of Iceland, which was at that time ruled by Denmark.*



*A house with a soul*

My mother was the youngest of 13 siblings. My *amma* also brought up two grandchildren as their mother died at a very young age. When I was born my grandparents were still alive, and four aunts and a cousin lived in the house along with my parents and two older brothers. We were twelve. Plenty of love.

When I was little I went camping with my parents, while my brothers at an early age went to farms. My dad did not have a car so we took a taxi to *Pingvellir*, the birth place of the Icelandic Parliament in 1930, an hour's drive from Reykjavík. There were always some cousins that came with us, so we had three tents. We would dress up and eat supper at hotel *Valhöll*. Two of my aunts on my mother's side and one of my mother's brothers lived on farms so we visited there.

My youngest brother was born in 1950 making up the four siblings of three boys and a girl. My father died when my youngest brother was four and I

was eleven. At that age I felt very strongly that I had to help support myself, and I took on two morning paper routes which I delivered before school. Delivering the papers was the easy part, collecting another story. We had school in the morning, home economics, swimming and gym in the afternoon.

Our street was full of wonderful friends. We played all kinds of games, age did not matter. We also lived a few

minutes from the pond, which was great for skating in the winter time. One of my aunts worked at a bakery, and I would go there with my friends to warm up with hot chocolate and *vínarbrauð*, Danish pastry, pretty nice.



*Amma and Afi with twelve of their children*

We were by no means wealthy, but we lived a very rich life. Entertainment was theater and concerts and from an early age my mother took us to museums and art shows that were usually free.

I was very street wise at an early age. I

*(Continued on page 6)*

# My visit to Iceland 2006

By Jónína Einars

*A dream came true. Throughout my youth, I wondered about half of my heritage as I visited with my Icelandic cousins in Manitoba, because I felt that I had been deprived of something. A typical youth reaction, I guess.*



*From my maternal grandmother's homestead at Gunnolfsvík on the Langanes Peninsula in NE Iceland*

When I flew into *Keflavík*, I knew that I was 'home' – fields of purple lupines welcomed us. I felt the connection and the feeling that I had been there before. My concern was for naught.

My cousin, Shawn, who was to graduate from the University of Island, came to meet his mother Margie, cousin Einar and me and whisked us away to the Icelandic Independence Day Celebrations – June 17th. We had a whirlwind visit as Margie only had 10 days of vacation, but it was so memorable.

We drove north (amazing tunnels) to the [Snorri Sturluson](#) Centre and to [Eric the Red and Leif Eiriksson's](#) homestead. We also visited [Hofsós](#), the Cultural Centre of Icelandic History,

where we stayed the night at the Manse.

The next day, on my birthday, we travelled east to our cousin, Stefan Bjarnasson's farm – *Thera*, near [Akureyri](#). Old volcanos surround it on the south side and the Arctic Ocean on the north. A piece of heaven – no wonder they never left for Canada.

So much to say but there would have to be instalments.

It was the most wonderful experience that I ever had and it was not complete. I want to go back someday and re-visit the same places but be better prepared with many questions. I am sure that all of you who went back to your homelands feel the same.

## Quit being so shellfish!

Give the wild  
salmon a try.



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## Bottle Drive

This year's SCoR Bottle Drive didn't catch quite the same attention as in 2011. Could the reason be the late re-scheduling and the less than pleasant weather? We made \$209.86 - let's at least double that next time!

## Picture credits

P.1: (Thingvellir, the great rift; Portrait)

K.M.Frodesen; Puffins (I.Parker)

P.2: (Portraits) K.Mitchell;

(Child) L.Bristol; (Consul) M.Mitchell

P.3: (Kim Gillies) J.Gillies

P.4: (House; family) courtesy of G.M.Guðbergsdóttir

P.5: J.Einars

P.6: (Bottles) J.Edwardson; (Portrait) K.M.Frodesen

P.7: (Family pictures) courtesy of G.M.Guðbergsdóttir

Other: Public domain

(Continued from page 1)

on Keflavík airport and go by bus into Reykjavík. From the very first minute I cherish the sound of the language, the landscape, the open sky and the way the Icelandic people communicate. Maybe it's just in my head, but they seem to "see" each other in a way we don't in Oslo. And knowing how independently they have handled the effects of the financial crisis, it makes me very proud to have Icelandic blood in my veins!

As an amateur genealogist I have also started digging into my Icelandic ancestry. And as the Icelanders are very keen on kinship, this is a perfect place for genealogy. My family database is growing by the hundreds as I include family members from the *Vedramotætt*, the *Hraunkotsætt* and the *Skutustadaætt*.

## Roots...

And more is to come. I have already received messages from relatives in both Canada and USA, not to mention distant cousins living in Norway, something many Icelanders have chosen to do over the years.

Being of mixed heritage, you should have thought that I would have felt divided growing up. But the Icelandic half of me got somewhat lost in my Norwegian life, and so I didn't really know that there was something missing.

Regaining my wonderful Icelandic family after so many years I feel both grateful and privileged – and not just a little proud of my heritage! I know my mother would have been very pleased.



Kari in Icelandic national costume

Home at last!

If you like, you can find my family database here:

<http://www.frodesen.name/>

(Continued from page 4)

## Growing up...

walked long distances or took the bus to visit aunts. One of the aunts gave me my first banana, they were not in the stores then. I took one bite with the peel on, yuck!!!!, and threw it out into the field as far as I could. Later that day I learned how to eat bananas and since then they have been my favorite fruit.

We had to learn many languages: Icelandic, English and Danish in elementary school with French, German and Latin added on in college.

At the age of 14, I got a new job as an usher in a movie theatre. Four months

later the owner asked me to take over the concessions which meant keeping track of stocks and ordering the candies. There were three shows, 5, 7 and 9 with intermission at 10, so there was not much free time. I did that with school until I graduated from commercial college at 20.

When I was 16 one of my aunts, or should I say one of my four mothers, gave me a trip to England to go to school for the summer to learn English. That was a wonderful surprise and experience.

I came to North America at 21 years of age with a 3 months old son Haukur Hávar.

# An Icelander Born in Denmark

Jón Örn Jónsson, Honorary Consul for Iceland in Saskatchewan



Jón Örn at 18 months, surrounded by three generations of family women.

I was born in Viborg Denmark in March 1938. My father, after receiving his medical degree, was asked by the Icelandic government to specialize in dentistry with the aim of establishing a college of dentistry at the University of Iceland.

He was interning in Copenhagen when the Germans occupied Denmark. To this day no one knows why the Germans agreed to allow Icelanders in Denmark to return to Iceland. It is speculated that the Germans having occupied Norway and Denmark would soon occupy Iceland. Fortunately the British beat them to it.

There were 258 Icelanders that took the ferry from Copenhagen to Malmö in Sweden, and then by train to Petsamo on the northern tip of Finland, which is now part of Russia. There we boarded a small passenger ship, *Esjan*, and arrived in Reykjavík on October 15, 1940.

My mother and I went straight to *Siglu fjörður* in north Iceland to see her parents, her Norwegian father Ole Tynes and my *amma* Indiana, while my

father went to the university to begin establishing the dental college.

I am the eldest of five siblings, four boys and a girl 18 years younger than I. I had happy and carefree growing up years. The days of boys in Iceland, long before today's computers and internet and iphones, revolved around playing cowboys and Indians. The great favorites were Roy Rogers and his trusty steed Trigger and the Lone Ranger and his hi ho Silver. We also engaged in sword play with wooden sabers. We made our own kites and spent hours flying them, there was never a shortage of wind.

The one activity that boys spent endless time on was soccer.

At the tender age of 6 I was outsourced to one of the biggest and most prosperous farms in north Iceland. At that time it was common practice to place urban children, more so boys than girls, on farms in the summer. The farm I went to, Geitaskarð, Goat's Pass, was a mixed farm with hundreds of sheep, a large number of dairy cows, and horses. For a city boy it was a wondrous and adventurous place, and for six springs I could not wait to



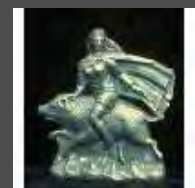
Family just as Jón Örn (2nd from left) was leaving for USA

get out of the city to the farm.

After Geitaskarð I was old enough to earn some money in summer jobs such as delivery man, ship yard worker, building construction and the one I enjoyed the most: the two summers when I worked on road construction in north Iceland. There were country dances every weekend and us city boys never lacked for country girls as dance partners.

In those days in Iceland you had to decide at the age of 15 whether you were going the academic route leading to university or through trades training. I chose the academic stream and attended the Learned School for four years, graduating in 1958. I received a Bingham scholarship to attend the University of Wisconsin in Madison. After three years of continuous stay I received a BA in economics in 1963 and returned home in June.

In September I met Guðrún Mjöll, better known as *Úlú*, proposed to her on December 1st and we were married on 22 March 1964 and have one son Haukur Hávar. We have lived in Canada since 1970.



## Life in Sweden



Calling all Swedes! Do you have a special story from growing up in the Old Country? May be from an unforgettable visit? For no. 4 we want your input to our theme series "Life in..."!

## Please observe

We would like to remind our members that guest numbers for catered events are submitted one week in advance. The caterer will order the food and SCoR will be charged accordingly. If you are unable to attend an event after you have been included in the final numbers, the club will have to bill you for your meal.

Thank you for your understanding

# Upcoming Events

## Corn Roast

**Date and venue: Sunday August 26 in Candy Cane Park**

**Time: 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Call Larry Bristol at 586-1799 for more information.**

**Tickets: Members: \$10.00; Members' guests: \$12.50; Children under 12 years: Free.**

**In case of rain at 10:00 AM the day of the function, it will be cancelled.**

## Salmon Supper

**Date: Sunday October 21**

**More information later on SCoR Website and Facebook page.**



## Scandinavian Cooking Class

**Register in person with Hillsdale Community Association on Tuesday September 11 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm**

**See detailed information on p. 3**



**Bring family and friends to SCoR events!**

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Quarterly Magazine for the Scandinavian Club of Regina

## 2012-2013 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT	Kim Gillies	531-9794
VICE PRESIDENT	Pearl Baumgartner	761-0678
PAST PRESIDENT	John Edwardson	584-2246
TREASURER	Fay Johnsen	522-0377
SECRETARY	Kelly Nelson	584-2562
DIRECTORS	Brian Beck	789-0662
	Larry Bristol	586-1799
	Greg Swanson	586-9737
	Ingrid Van Dusen	949-6064



SCANDINAVIAN CLUB OF REGINA  
P.O.Box 37182, Regina, SK S4S 7K4

## Membership Fees

Family membership \$ 30

Single membership \$ 20

**Membership starts January 1, expires December 31.**

## Contact us:

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**Any views expressed in individual articles do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Scandinavian Club of Regina.**