



# PÓSTURINN

The Icelandic-American Community of Minnesota Newsletter

## **2011 ICELANDIC INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION!**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25<sup>th</sup>, AT BRYANT LAKE REGIONAL PARK**

*Located in Eden Prairie between Hwy 212 AND Hwy 62, Shady Oak Road to Rowland.  
DIRECTIONS and MAP BELOW!*

## **MINNESOTA CELEBRATES ICELANDIC INDEPENDENCE DAY!**

This year brings a Minnesota Celebration!

*We meet at the Pavilion. There is adequate parking and handicap accessibility.*

**11:00 am** *Welcome* Time for Meeting and Greeting Old Friends! New Friends! Icelandic Friends!

**12:30 pm** *Greetings from: Honorary Consul Orn Arnar, Icelandic Hekla Club President Dorrie Johnson and Icelandic American Association President Claire Eckley*

**Followed by Potluck Lunch** Everyone brings food that can be shared. This can include: your special dish, salads, desserts, fruit, something of your choosing. The Icelandic organizations will provide coffee, lemonade, hotdogs, hamburgers, and paper products. Donations of \$5.00 will be appreciated.

**1:30 pm** (after Lunch)

**Afternoon at Bryant Lake Regional Park:**

Includes: swimming, playing, Volleyball, acquainted and getting with our Icelandic visitors.

There are many opportunities for everyone to enjoy.

They include: Boat Launch, Boat Rental (Canoes, kayaks, paddle boats and rowboats), Beach, Creative Play Area, Fishing Pier

**Directions:**

>494 to 62 East to Shady Oak Road;  
South to Rowland Rd; turn to go to Park

>169 South to 62 East to Shady Oak Rd;  
South to Rowland Rd; turn to go to Park

>From Minneapolis/St. Paul:  
62 West to Shady Oak Road  
South to Rowland Rd; turn to go to Park

See Map at

<http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/parks/bryantlakeregional.cfm>

For additional information about the park go to:

<http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/parks/bryantlakeregional.cfm>

[org/parks/bryantlakeregional.cfm](http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org/parks/bryantlakeregional.cfm)

## **The Minnesota Icelandic Community Celebrates Iceland's Independence!**

The Icelandic Hekla Club and The Icelandic American Association of Minnesota come together to celebrate Icelandic Independence. This is an excellent time to renew old friendships and to make new ones. The gathering is for All Ages to come and celebrate. There will be opportunity to catch up with friends, learn about Iceland, boat, swim, play volleyball and other activities. Of course, the Icelandic Barbecue Chef's will return and there will be many good foods brought to share, some of which may be Icelandic. Once again, the Celebration will be held at Bryant Lake Park in Eden Prairie. Join the Icelandic community in celebrating Iceland's Independence Day on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at Bryant Lake Park, 6800 Rowland R

## **The International Soccer Tournament at Schwann Center, Blaine!**

Last year three teams came to Minnesota from Iceland for the International Soccer Tournament. It seems that Iceland will be represented again this year! Information is being researched. As of the time of printing, we are not certain which teams will be arriving except for a team from Selfoss. The date to celebrate with the teams is **July 20<sup>th</sup> 4 pm to 7:00 pm**. The tournament will be held **July 19<sup>th</sup> to July 23rd**. Once again, Minnesota Icelanders will host a picnic in Blaine. Let us know if you would like to assist!

## **The PÓSTURINN** newsletter of the Icelandic American Association of Minnesota Email: IcelandMN@gmail.com

Editor: Claire Eckley 7646 E Borman Way, Inver Grove Heights, MN

### Board of Directors:

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## **Update on the Icelandic**

### **Economy**

#### ***Örn Bödvarsson***

#### **ICELAND'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY APPEARS FIRM**

The recovery of the Icelandic economy from the collapse of the country's banking sector in 2008 appears firm at this point. According to the National Statistics office, Iceland's economy grew at its fastest pace in almost 3 years during the quarter ending March 31, 2011. Real GDP, which measures the value of new, finished goods produced within the country's borders, grew at an annual rate of 2.2%, compared to an annual rate of just 0.1% during the quarter ending December 31, 2010. The growth rate

experienced during the first quarter of 2011 was the strongest since the second

quarter of 2008, when real GDP grew at an annual rate of 7.3% just months before the collapse of the banking sector. The krona has continued to stabilize and the costs of financial institutions purchasing insurance to hedge against the risk of Icelandic government debt securities defaulting has fallen. However, unemployment remains historically high and inflation is up. Foreign investment in the country continues to be low because of capital controls. Iceland continues to be in dispute with the UK and the Netherlands over more than US \$5 billion in debts from the Icesave savings accounts offered by one of the country's banks that went insolvent. Last week, the IMF approved a \$225 million loan, part of the \$2.1 billion aid package agreed to following the economy's collapse.



**Hjemkomst!** The Nordic Clubs from Fargo – Moorhead join together yearly to celebrate Nordic art, genealogy and ancestry, food, films, customs, and awareness. This year it is Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup>. For additional information, and the full program, you can go to the internet at [www.nordicclubs.org](http://www.nordicclubs.org)

## Grimsvotn

May 22nd 2011

### Eruption in Icelandic volcano

Iceland's most active volcano Grimsvotn has erupted, sending a plume of white ash 18,000 feet into the air. The volcano lies under the Vatnajokull glacier in southeast Iceland, an area which is uninhabited. This eruption comes just one year after the Eyjafjallajokull volcano erupted, sending a cloud of ash over Europe that impeded air travel. Iceland is 103,000 km<sup>2</sup> and the eruption affects only a relatively small area around the volcano

### Iceland Volcano Erupts

Photograph from AFP/Getty Images

A cloud of smoke and ash billows from **Iceland's Grímsvötn volcano** on Saturday. The country's most active volcano, Grímsvötn sits beneath the Vatnajökull ice cap in the southeastern part of the island. The current eruption is the first for this peak since 2004, according to the *New York Times*.

May 25th 2011

### Grímsvötn Volcanic Eruption

Professor Magnús Tumi Guðmundsson, geophysicist at the University of Iceland, has confirmed that volcanic activity in Grímsvötn has peaked, and while the eruption has not been declared over, it will most likely not reach previous volumes. The eruption continued yesterday, but the volcano has only emitted a fraction of the material it previously spewed. Today, it has been projecting about 100 tons of material per second, down from 1,000 tons of material last night and 10,000 tons of material on Sunday. The ash plume now reaches 3-5 km in the air, down from 8-10 km yesterday. **North Sailing, Husavik, IS**

Grimsvotn has been in the news! It spewed ash for a few days and now seems to have gone to rest. It is a part of the glacial area that includes Eyjafjatlayokull. Once again it created some activity for Europe. Additional information can be found at: [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grímsvötn](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grímsvötn)

Ash constitute a significant health hazard for people living in neighboring counties. For more information, see a special volcano report at [www.iceland.is](http://www.iceland.is)."

Grímsvötn's 12-mile-high (19-kilometer-high) ash cloud prompted the country's four international airports to cancel flights on Sunday. Winds are pushing the ash westward toward the United Kingdom, where airline officials are preparing for possible impacts to London's Heathrow Airport by the end of the week, the *Guardian* newspaper reported. (Read more about why ash is so dangerous to airplanes.)

Even so, Grímsvötn is not expected to hinder air traffic across Europe with the same severity as Eyjafjallajökull's

2010 eruption, the *Times* reported. For example, the weight of Grímsvötn's ash particles will make them drop to the ground faster, according to the newspaper. Published May 23, 2011

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/05/pictures/110523-iceland-grimsvotn-volcano-erupts-lightning-ash-airport-closed/?source=link\\_fb20110523icelandvolcano#/iceland-grimsvotn-volcano-erupts-house\\_35844\\_600x450.jpg](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/05/pictures/110523-iceland-grimsvotn-volcano-erupts-lightning-ash-airport-closed/?source=link_fb20110523icelandvolcano#/iceland-grimsvotn-volcano-erupts-house_35844_600x450.jpg)

**Pictures: Iceland Volcano Spews Ash, Sparks Lightning** [news.nationalgeographic.com](http://news.nationalgeographic.com)

A 12-mile-high ash cloud rising from an Iceland volcano is creating a spectacle but isn't expected to widely disable European air traffic.

The worst thing about this eruption is watching the animals suffer, and the distraught farmers who stand helplessly by. So heartbreaking.

## Icelandic National League of North America

### **INLNA Edmonton Convention Photos:**

Below are a few photos of our Minnesota attendees at the INLNA Convention in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Steve & Rosemary selling wares! Lyle's cousin talking to Claire; MN Delegation at Banquet; INLNA Board of Directors; MN Delegation to Edmonton!



**April 29 to May 2**, the INLNA celebrated its **Annual Convention in Edmonton**. The Minnesota Icelanders were well represented by Steve Guttormsson, Rosemary Guttormsson, Keith Stinson, Dianne O'Konski and Claire Eckley. Steve Guttormsson was elected to his first year on the Board of Directors. There were many excellent sessions on a variety of topics about Iceland and North America. Steve and Rosemary went on the tour to Markerville, the first Icelandic settlement in Alberta and home of Stephan G. Stephanson, the well known poet. We met Halldor Arnason, the new president of the Snorri Foundation and also upcoming President of the Icelandic National League of Iceland. Additional information and details can be found on the web site: [www.inlofna.org](http://www.inlofna.org)

**Visit the INLNA website where there is a variety of information along with Iceland Radio for your listening pleasure.**

**SNORRI AND SNORRI PLUS! Many Snorri and Snorri Plus Graduates reside in, or are from, Minnesota. This is an opportunity to make many new friends, have many exciting experiences, and enjoy Iceland! Consider this experience for yourself, or the youth, in your family! Now is the time to begin planning to participate in the 2011 SNORRI Program! SNORRI is for those between the ages of 18 and 28. Over 28? Travel with SNORRI PLUS! Deadline January 31, 2012.**

**[www.snorri.is/snorri-plus.htm](http://www.snorri.is/snorri-plus.htm) or email Asta Sol,[info@snorri.is](mailto:info@snorri.is) for both programs.**

### ***Icelandic Camp in Manitoba***

An excellent experience for children interested in Icelandic heritage, providing an opportunity to: learn about the Country of Iceland; learn to speak the Icelandic language, Arts and crafts, and Sagas. Talk to Lyle Hillman who took his grandchildren and stayed to work and practice Icelandic. [www.icelandiccamp2010.com](http://www.icelandiccamp2010.com)

**MEET AND GREET 2011:** May 31st was the first MEET AND GREET for 2011. A group came from a child care facility in Reyjafjordur, Iceland. Staff and their families came to visit Minnesota Child Care Facilities, to shop, and to see the Twin Cities. Once again our Minnesota Icelanders met the tour led by Jonas Thor and provided a lunch. A good time was had by all! Yes, once there was a relative on the tour and a Minnesotan that were able to make connections. Minnesotans look for additional tours although at the moment the only one scheduled is in September. We hope that there will be additional opportunities. The price of fuel has slowed down the travel. Watch for additional information as they happen!

## ICELANDERS IN MINNESOTA

*This column shares information pertinent to the Icelanders in our area. Our hope is that you will share information. A beginning would be births, marriages, anniversaries, deaths, and other pertinent information.*

**NEW ARRIVALS:** Steve and Rosemary Guttormsson are proud new grandparents of, Mina, daughter of Jake Guttormsson. Wish they were closer than New York! Ryan & Angie Olson are new parents of Ryker. Grandma Valerie Olson and Great Grandma Petrina Cordes are proud as can be.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** *Jon Magnusson made the inaugural flight to Reykjavik for Delta Airlines! How exciting!* The Icelandic National League elections brought Minnesota: Chris Byron - Regional Representative, Claire Eckley – Second Vice president, and Members of the Board of Directors: Dianne O’Konski, Steve Guttormsson, and Pam Furstenu.

**GET WELL GREETINGS:** Ann Hobbs is doing very well after surgery a couple of months ago. Now she is looking for a new career.

**CONDOLENCES TO:** the family of **Stefan Ingvarsson**. **Stefan** passed away May 23rd, 2011 at the age of 89. Survivors include his sons Peter (Martha “Marti”) and Steve (Sherri) and daughter Carol (Tom Mungavan) Keers. Stefan left Iceland to go to school at the University of Minnesota where he met and married Donna who preceded him in death. Stefan was loyal to his heritage, returning numerous times over the years for visits and was an eager participant at Icelandic events. He was the first on the dance floor and always sang the Icelandic music with a flourish. Stefan always had a smile and a twinkle in his eye.

... to the family of **Alice Gunlogson**. Alice passed away May 31<sup>st</sup> at the age of 94. Alice was born in Southwest Minnesota, growing up in the Icelandic Community. She joined the Army as a Nurse, retiring as a Major to Minneapolis where she participated in Icelandic events and was a member of both The Icelandic Hekla Club and the IAAMN. She was a world traveler and a lifelong learner. When DECODE started she wanted information about it and the impact it would have. Alice is survived by many nieces, nephews, and grand nieces and nephews including Eric Gunlogson and Heidi Christensen Haines.

... to the family of **Ingo Metusalem**, born in Iceland, graduated from Minneota High School and the University of Minnesota was living in Palm Springs, California. Some of you may remember Ingo when he was in Minneota or at the University. His death was a surprise to everyone. Ingo is survived by his wife Jennifer Taylor, sons David of Minneapolis and Dean of Texas. A memorial service may be held in Minnesota at a later date.

## MINNESOTA GATHERINGS

### **Minneota & Duluth,**

Details are being sorted out for Meetings in Minneota and in Duluth. Watch for additional information!

### **BOXELDER BUG DAYS**

Minneota, Minnesota September 10, 11, 12

Once again, The Icelandic Community will be represented at BOXELDER BUG DAYS! There will be information about Minnesota Icelanders as well as information about Iceland. Many opportunities will be shared with the community.

### **North Dakota Celebrates August the Deuce!**

**July 29, 30, 31,**

Icelanders in North Dakota go to Mountain to celebrate August the Deuce! When Denmark handed Iceland a new constitution and the process of Independence began, to end in 1944. Icelanders come from across North America and Iceland to join in this celebration.

It is worthy of your time to join in the weekend celebration.

### **ISLENDINGADAGURINN, Gimli, Manitoba**

**July 29, 30, 31, August 1,**

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba is dedicated to promoting and sustaining interest in Icelandic culture and heritage. It is the same weekend as August the Deuce but continues through Monday which is a Canadian holiday. The weather is good! The Icelandic presence abounds! There is a Run, walk, funblade, and road race. It is easy to attend both the North Dakota and Gimli celebrations as they are just close enough to each other to attend one, one day and the other the next. They provide one weekend filled with Icelanders and those of Icelandic descent. One hears Icelandic being spoken throughout. **This year there will be tours at the events in Mountain and Gimli with people from Vopnafjordur and Eastern Iceland.**

**Icelandic River Roast Coffee** Good Icelandic CoffeeBeans! Available in Manitoba

[www.icelandicriver.com](http://www.icelandicriver.com). Email: [eyrarbakki@hotmail.com](mailto:eyrarbakki@hotmail.com) Phone:204-378-2758

Interested in ordering? We can place a large order and save a bit.

**WHOLE FOODS** carries Icelandic cheese, Skyr, fish, chocolates – St. Paul, St. Louis Park, and others

**North Sailing www.** Whale and Bird Tours, Sailing, out of Husavik, Iceland.

# Minnesota Icelanders!

## WELCOME THE ICELANDIC SOCCER TEAMS!

Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 3:00 to 7:30 pm

*Participating in the Schwann's International Soccer Tournament, Blaine*

The Icelandic American Association of Minnesota will be holding a "MEET and GREET" on Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at **Lakeside Commons Park and Beach** in **Blaine**. The park has been reserved from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. There will be a barbecue picnic at dinner time.

**Join us at the park: DINNER** swimming, splash pad, beach house, volleyball  
Boathouse with canoe & kayak rental, playground,

**MAP and Information** about Lakeside Commons Park and Beach can be found at:  
<http://www.ci.blaine.mn.us/index.cfm?id=900797?send=yes>

Additional information is coming from Iceland! Watch for upcoming alerts!

## WELCOME ICELAND FARMER TOUR

**August 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM** Welcome the Icelanders touring with Ragnheidur and Margret!

Dinner at the LOCAL (Hollow) 931 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis; Order off Menu, separate tabs. A great opportunity to celebrate with the Icelanders in their style! **DON'T MISS IT!**

**MATTS WIBE**, courtesy of the Icelandic National League of North America International Visits Program will arrive in Minnesota, from Iceland to share with us his collection of aerial photographs of the family farms that our ancestors left. Request that you send us the name of your family farm so that your farm can be included in his presentation and so that he can make the photo available to you! **Please send your name, immigrant name, and name of family farm to Iceland [MN@gmail.com](mailto:MN@gmail.com), or call Stony at 952-881-3326 with information and the name of your immigrant family farms.**

## Leifur Eiriksson Celebration

**Saturday, October 8, 2011**

**5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Dinner**

**SPEAKER: A SURPRISE! To be contracted soon!**

## 2011 Leifur Eiriksson Celebration Reservations

Name/Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address and Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations (\$30.00@) \_\_\_\_\_ Total Dinner Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Raffle Tickets 1 for \$5.00/3 for 10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Included \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership \$15.00 per year per family \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Icelandic American Association of Minnesota \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks payable to IAAMN.** TOTAL Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail 2011 Leifur Eiriksson Celebration Reservations to:**

**Lei fur Eriksson 2011**

Steingrimur Steinolfson

2901 W. 112<sup>th</sup> St.

Bloomington, MN 55431

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: Sept. 23, 2010. SEE YOU AT THE Leifur Eiriksson Celebration!**

## ***Icelandic American Association of Minnesota Membership***

Your Membership is important! It brings you many opportunities to keep up with the happenings in the Icelandic Community in Minnesota and across North America! Your membership will assist in our bringing additional programs, events, and information your way. Currently the IAAM has begun a library which now has received donations of 35 books relating to Iceland and our heritage. Some of these books are in Icelandic. A committee is beginning to discuss the preservation of Icelandic history in Minnesota as well as to discuss the library. The Icelandic American Association is a member of The Icelandic National League of North America. The INL of NA assists us in bringing you programs and communication that we have not previously had, as well as assisting us in keeping current with news and happenings in Iceland. The INL of NA has a web page: [www.inlofna.org](http://www.inlofna.org). Take a look at the variety of information. You may reach the Icelandic American Association of Minnesota website at that site, [www.inlofna.org](http://www.inlofna.org) where we are listed under the chapters. Our website is currently being update and will be providing additional information specific to Minnesota.

**MEMBERSHIP: Remember to send your Membership so that you continue to receive all mailings!**

### **Join the Icelandic American Association of Minnesota!**

Mission:

- ❖ To promote Icelandic culture, past and present
- ❖ To support events that celebrate Icelandic culture
- ❖ To provide an organization for anyone interested in Iceland
- ❖ Benefits of Membership:
  - Assist in promoting Icelandic Culture
  - An opportunity to learn more about Icelandic Culture
  - An opportunity to meet Icelanders visiting from Iceland or other parts of North America
  - Celebrate Icelandic Culture
  - Keep current on what is happening in Minnesota
  - Communication through Posturinn, email, and web site INLoFNA.org

### **Icelandic American Association of Minnesota 2010 Application Form**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership \$15.00 Family and Single Person      Names of Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in volunteering. \_\_\_\_\_

Send form with \$15.00 to: Doug Rutford, IAAM Treasurer, 5085 Morehead Ave. White Bear Lake, MN55110

*The Icelandic Community in Minnesota has a number of volunteer positions! The positions include the PÓSTURINN looking for reporters, people that would like to write for the paper; someone willing to assist in maintaining our data; mailing preparation, publicity, and someone to assist Harvey and Holly with our website. Contact: [IcelandMN@gmail.com](mailto:IcelandMN@gmail.com)*

#### **Websites to take a look at:**

Daily news from Iceland at [www.icelandreview.com](http://www.icelandreview.com)

Beautiful photos of Iceland at: [http://www.typolover.com/\\_travel/iceland\\_2009/day\\_0.htm](http://www.typolover.com/_travel/iceland_2009/day_0.htm)



**ICELAND IS MORE AWAKE THAN EVER  
NOW IS THE TIME TO VISIT.**

**Consider Travelling!**

*Please share websites that you think others might be interested in!*

2011 DATES TO REMEMBER:

June 25: Icelandic Independence Day Celebration in Minnesota  
June 24,25: Hjemkomst, Moorhead, MN  
July 14 IAAM Board Meeting  
July/August *Watch for Date!* Meeting in Duluth  
July 20 International Soccer Tournament *Picnic with IS Soccer Teams*  
July 30, 31, August 1 The Deuce of August, Mountain, ND  
July 30, 31, August 1, 2 Islendingadagurinn, Gimli, MB  
August 8 Greet Icelandic Farmer Tour, 7:00 pm Dinner at Cow Hollow RSVP Needed  
August 18: IAAM Board Meeting  
September 9, 10, 11: Boxelder Bug Days, Minneota,  
September 15: IAAM Board Meeting  
September 17: 10:30 am Hekla Club Meeting  
September/October *Watch for Date!* Mats Wibe with Photos of Farms in Iceland  
October 8: 5:30 pm Leif Eriksson Celebration  
October 15: 10:30 am Hekla Club Meeting  
October 20: IAAM Board Meeting  
November 17: IAAM Annual Meeting  
November 19: 10:30 am Hekla Club Meeting  
December 4: Jolabarnabal, Knights of Columbus, Bloomington  
December 18: Icelandic Christmas Service, Luther Seminary, St. Paul



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Icelandic American Association of Minnesota  
7646 E Borman Way  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076