



2nd of August Celebration 2021



Many people have wondered how a little community like Mountain can pull off a celebration like the 2nd of August celebration (the Deuce) every year. It is pretty amazing, to be certain. But the answer to that question is pretty straightforward: there is a small group of people that work hard every year to plan a celebration and then they go to work to get the job done. When the actual celebration comes around, everyone is in the ‘you know the drill’ mode and things start happening. But it’s not just that weekend, it’s the

weeks before and after the event that this dedicated crew is working behind the scenes to make it happen. Long before the first visitors arrive, the work is going on to start getting the bleachers set up for the tractor pull and the track prepared (it takes *many, many* hours of work). The week of the celebration, the traffic increases and more signs of the celebration start showing up. Someone makes the trip to Grand Forks to get the bandstand. There’s a work night in the Community Center to set up tables and the stage for the Heritage program. Gates for blocking off the street show up. By mid-week, the **Bjornson-Sigfusson Legion Post** crew is setting up tents and awnings for the fish fry. By Friday people are starting to trickle in—the campsites are filling up. A crew starts putting out the flags. Friday night is the Legion Walleye Fry; the cooks for the fish fry spend the day making 40 pounds of coleslaw, setting up 6 roasters of potatoes, getting 13 cakes and 30 dozen buns cut and ready to serve along with



setting up a serving line on the lawn. **The American Legion Auxiliary** crew shows up to help with set up and the lines start forming. Visiting and some lawn games help make the wait time started bread-quick work of fast with served in 2 hours. The



ing and laughing told the story of friends and family enjoying a chance to be together again. Thanks to an amazing dish washing crew behind the scenes, dirty roasters and bowls left the serving area and returned to the garage cleaned and ready to put away. While the fish fry is workers got the street ready for the Friday night visiting/partying went on into the wee hours.



ing the fish, and the hot grills made 130 lbs. of walleye. The line moved around 400 people sounds of people talk-



ing area and and ready to finishing up, dance and the



Early Saturday morning, the flag crew was out again (the flags are put up and taken down daily), and there’s a hum of activity as everyone starts getting ready for the parade at 10:30 and for the **Vikur Salad Luncheon** that starts right after it. There’s a crew working on the bandstand getting the speaker system ready to use for the parade. Tables got pulled from storage and set up for various vendors and organizations.





Dori Heck and Kathie Johnson set up shop for the ICA with a wide variety of souvenirs—t-shirts, aprons, magnets, cups, books, jewelry—for people to purchase to remember the event by and show their Icelandic pride. It was good news when word came that the hard fish had arrived in time to have it for sale!



The Vikur LCW set up on Main Street selling raffle tickets for a beautiful hand made quilt. The lucky winner of the quilt this year was Denise Thomasson. The Vikur LCW said they missed not having the visitors from Iceland who al-
eon , but still had a very good turnout. salad luncheon is used to support Vikur Congregation. This year some of the installation of a dishwasher in the Vikur during future events in the church, includ-
'Big thanks to everyone who supports our group through the events at the Deuce.'



ways love coming to the salad lunch- Money raised from the quilt raffle and Church and Pembina Hills Lutheran funds will be used for purchase and church kitchen. It will be a great help ing the salad luncheon. They send



Other vendors start setting up shop—Icelandic Goodies, the Mountain-Thingvalla Volunteer Fire Department and the Chalet all had tasty stuff to feed the crowd. Scandinavian folk artist Pieper Bloomquist set up her easel and worked on art work that would be used in the Hallson Church.



Cars lined all of the streets to grab a spot to watch the parade. Parade entries lined up west of the Chalet and volunteers helped get them lined up.



At 10:30 the parade started with a lead car with flags and a squad car with sirens



blaring. Parade Grand Marshals Richard and Janyce Bjornson joined the line in their shiny red convertible (provided by Duane Geir), followed by the family of Honorary Grand Marshals Chris & Stina Gudmundson.

The parade north, then before travel-
down Main Street. Class reunions, floats, business floats, Shriners, (old and new), classic cars, and on horseback entertained the for over an hour. Parade entries briefly in front of the bandstand on Main so that announcers could tell the fans listening on KXPO about them.



traveled east, ing family tractors riders crowds stopped





The afternoon speeds by—after the parade, some folks go to the Vikur Salad Luncheon, others seek out food from vendors for lunch. Kids (of all ages) got involved in the kids games set up in the north end of town. Some kids visited the face painter and came away with art-gathered as family and



work celebrating their Viking heritage. A crowd at the Kids Pedal Pull and the cheering was loud friends encouraged those kids to pedal hard!!



Amma's Garden invited kids to hear stories read in English and Icelandic. This year they read "Er ég lítl?" (Am I little?) Judging by the adults that stopped to listen to the story, it was interesting to them too!



At 2 pm, the Heritage Program started in the Mountain Community Center (it's air conditioned and felt great on a hot and hoft introduced the program. and Icelandic groups in the US. Selzer shared a variety of vocal



special rendition of an Icelandic lullaby 'Sofðu únga ástin mín/Sleep, my darling baby, sleep'. Robert Olgeirson shared his original poetry "The Third Generation: Speaking Ice-lish". Keynote speaker for the program this year was Wayne Gudmundson; he shared excerpts from his latest book 'A Song For Liv'. Wayne signed books for people after the program. There was more visiting through the afternoon. At dusk



windy day). Emcee Loretta Bern- There were greetings from Iceland Renata Olafson numbers including a



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down again. Later in the evening , peo- for the street dance with a band from group is a favorite for the dance crowd



the flags came ple gathered Fargo, the Front Fenders, playing. The and usually gets people on their feet.

Sunday began with a small but dedicated clean up crew, picking up the trash from the dance. The flag crew was out again putting up the flags and the workers start getting ready for the tractor pull as things are moved over to the pulling grounds —the fun continues! (Apologies to the tractor pull folks—this writer was too tuckered from Friday and Saturday to even think about going to the tractor pull, so no photos or story about it. Maybe next year!?)



ICA Officers for 2022

The annual meeting for the Icelandic Communities Association was held on January 15, 2022 at the Mountain Community Center. The following officers were elected:

President: Curtis Olafson
Vice President: Shirley Olgeirson
Treasurer: George Wright
Secretary: Judy Geir

Directors: Dori Heck
 Kathy Thorlakson
 Susan Sigurdson

Many thanks to outgoing board members John E. Johnson and Pat Morrison for their dedicated service.



A Message from the ICA President

As 2022 begins, it is a great time to reflect on our successes this past year and to say a *huge thank you* to all of our dedicated members and supporters for making it all happen.

Our Þorrablót in February 2021 was canceled due to the pandemic, and in its place an online auction was held. It was a smashing success! The gross revenue from the auction was \$10,351! The ICA owes Dennis Biliske of Resource Auction Company a tremendous amount of thanks and we want to express our sincere gratitude for his help for many years of staging auctions that have been a great source of support for our Association.

After assessing all information at our disposal, including the significantly increased vaccination rates in our area, the members attending our monthly meetings decided in the spring of 2021 to move forward with planning the 122nd Annual Deuce of August Icelandic Celebration. The event was very well attended, including the Heritage Program in the Mountain Community Center. Rest assured that the ICA leadership will continue to take very seriously the health and well being of our members and supporters and will try our level best to make good decisions regarding our events.

With that policy in mind, we have made some modifications to our Þorrablót, which is scheduled for March 12th. We are reducing the number of tickets for the event from just over 200 to around 150 to make it less crowded in the MCC. Therefore, if you want to attend, please contact Judy Geir at 701-993-8179 or Nancy Boe at 701-331-9813 or boes@polarcomm.com soon to get your tickets while they are still available.

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 15th. On behalf of all of the ICA members and supporters, I would like to express our sincere thanks for the exemplary service that has been provided by our retiring Board members, John E. Johnson and Pat Morrison. Both of them have done an amazing job for the ICA as Treasurer and Membership Director, respectively.

Finally, mark your calendar now for the 123rd Annual Deuce of August Icelandic Celebration, which will be held July 29th to the 31st, 2022. See you there!

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HERITAGE.

ICA to announce Heritage Grants

The Icelandic Communities Association continues to offer two types of grants: the Heritage Sites Grant and the Snorri Scholarship. The *Heritage Sites Grant* was started to help the ICA communities of north eastern North Dakota to maintain the historic churches, meeting halls, cemeteries and other historic sites that were established by the Icelandic families that first settled in this area. These buildings and sites are important to the Icelandic cultural heritage as they all have a story to teach the next generation about their Icelandic heritage. Many of these buildings are difficult to maintain with dwindling resources. This year, the ICA will offer four \$500 grants to help maintain these buildings/cemeteries and sites. *The Snorri Scholarship* is for participants in the Snorri Program. The funds for these grants were raised at the 2021 Þorrablót. Deadline for applications was December 31. Announcement of the recipients will be made in March at the Þorrablót.



Icelandic Communities Association Membership Form

The 2022 Membership Drive is underway!

Dues are \$15 per person for the calendar year, January through December.

(2022 memberships are due by January 1, 2022!)

NOTE: Membership dues are not tax deductible, but any contributions over and above that are tax deductible. ICA has 501 c 3 (tax-exempt non-profit) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ (This is a new address____)

E-Mail: _____

Additional Memorial in remembrance of: _____ \$_____

***Mail this form (with check payable to I.C.A.; indicate the year/s that you are paying dues for) to:

I.C. A., P. O. Box 63, Mountain, ND 58262-0063

- ◆ **Please send this form with your dues. It helps us update our membership list and e-mail addresses. Thanks, in advance!**
- ◆ **Check your preference:** Newsletter by mail _____ By E-mail _____
Membership Year (circle one) : 2022 2023 2024 2025

You may also use Pay Pal to update your membership on the ICA website.

Just so you know: The ICA meets at 10 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Mountain Community Center. The folks that gather are a dedicated bunch that plan and execute the 2nd of August Celebration, the Þorrablót, and an occasional movie or speaker. Like all small groups, it would welcome more volunteers with open arms. The volunteer options are varied: selling raffle tickets, setup of tables and chairs, putting up/taking down flags daily, souvenir sales, working the gates at the kid’s games, dance and tractor pull, planning for the 125th celebration, and everyone’s favorite—garbage pick up after the dance. Please consider giving a few hours of your time to help out. Contact Susan Sigurdson (ssigurd262@outlook.com) for more information.

Memorabilia from the Icelandic Communities : Akra



Pictured above is the Akra baseball team of 1906.
Front row: Th. Olson and Walde Thorwaldson.
Second row: Carl Einarson, Arthur Scheving,
William Olson and B.S. Thorwaldson.
Back Row: G.B. Gunlogson, B.H. Hjalmarson,
John Olson, Wilmar Thorwaldson and
John Nelson.



Provided by the Pembina County Historical Museum.



ICA Membership as of January 16, 2022

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Abrahamson, Andrea | Gudmundson, Keith | Ness, Kim Byron |
| Abrahamson, Eric | Gudmundson, Shirley | Ness, Kathy & Timothy |
| Abrahamson, Jana | Hall, Alfred | Northfield, Amy |
| Abrahamson, Jonathan | Hall, Greg | Northfield, Wayne |
| Abrahamson, Karen | Hall, Warren | Olafson, Anne |
| Abrahamson, Karie | Halldorson, Dennis | Olafson, Curtis |
| Abrahamson, Karl | Halldorson, Jeanne | Olafson, Drew & Samantha Swanson |
| Anderson, Emilia | Halldorson, John | Olafson, Eugene |
| Atwood, Sue & Gary | Halldorson, Kenneth & Karen | Olafson, Kristi |
| Benjaminson, George | Halldorson, Mike | Renata Olafson & Greg Selzer |
| Benjaminson, Jim | Hannesson, Franklin | Olgeirson, Robert |
| Bernhoft, Neil & Melanie | Hardy, James & Charlotte | Olgeirson, Shirley |
| Bernhoft, Ryan & Stacie | Heck, Dori Kate | Olson, Marie |
| Bernhoft, Wayne & Loretta | Heigaard, Steve | Paulson, Gary & Catherine |
| Bernhoft, Kimberly | Helgisdóttir, Amanita M. | Powers, Tim & Susan Sigurdson |
| Bjornson, Brent & Linda | Helgoe, Lee & Viola | Renick, Sandra |
| Bjornson, Dana | Helt, Dennis | Rud, Andrea Strand |
| Bjornson, DeAnn | Herzog, Douglas | Sherry, Pauline Johnson |
| Bjornson, June | Hillman, David | Smith, Linda Stephanson |
| Bjornson, Matt | Hillman, R.S. Lyle & Diane | Snider, Karl |
| Bjornson, Richard & Janyce | Hillman, Robert | Stanford, Dave & Cheri |
| Bjornson, Roger | Jacobson, Susan | Steinolfson, Steingrimur |
| Bjornstad, Dr. Jeanette | Jenson, Jodi, Stacey, Sierra | Strand, Candace |
| Boe, Nancy | Johannesson, C.M. Clancy | Sturlaugson, Nadine |
| Bohn, Monica | Johannesson, Corey | Thompson, Norma Laxdal |
| Bowles, Helen Heigaard | Johnson, James & Marilyn | Thompson, Deb |
| Briese, Gloria | Johnson, John E. & Kathleen | Thorfinnson, Rosa |
| Brown, Diane | Johnson, John H. | Thorlacius, Ethel Byron |
| Byron, Andy & Gwennie | Johnson, Lyle & Margie | Thorlakson, Kathy |
| Byron, Dwight | Jonasson, Duane | Tiedeman, George Valdimar |
| Byron, Dr. Eugene B. & Meridith | Josephson, Cathy Ann | Tiffany, Norma |
| Byron, Tyrone | Karel, Penny | Trenbeath, Constance |
| Cameron, Lori A. | Kidd, Sharon | Troftgruben, Marilyn |
| Carson, Jeanne | Kristjanson, Emily | Vatnsdal, Judy |
| Christianson, Gerald | Lawson, John | Watson, JoAnn |
| Davidson, Ronald | Laxdal, Edward & Elaine | Wild, Shirley |
| Einarson, Harold P. | Lorenzen, Margaret Olgeirson | Williamson, Marvel |
| Finnson, Beth | Machacek, Asta | Wright, Sandra & George |
| Fleming, Joanne Halldorson | Marjerus, Phyllis | Yost, Susan Indridason |
| Flesher, Tudy Snyder | Marcil, Michael | Your membership in the ICA |
| Geiger, Joe Ann Johnson | Marston, Doreen Kristjanson | helps support the work of the |
| Geir, Leslie | Melstad, Waldemar | ICA in presenting programs and |
| Geir, Richard & Judy | Morrell, Jan Myrdal | events that preserve our unique |
| Gratton, Kelly | Morrison, Dennis & Pat | Icelandic heritage. Thank you |
| Graveline, Bob | Morrison, John | for being a part of the Icelandic |
| Gudmundson, Chad | Muldoon, William & Janet | Communities Association! |

2021 Memorials



January 1- December 7, 2021

In Memory of or In Honor of:

Matthew Wright
Ida Melstad
Palmi & Kristine Hannesson
Marcella Austfjord
Doran Olafson
Louis & Myrtle Byron
Duane Halldorson
Oscar Byron
Bjorn & Gudny Thorwaldson
Richard Thorfinnson
Cobie Bjornson Axelson
Robert S. T. Johnson
Skafti Indridson
Rosemarie Myrdal
Kristin Jona Frídríksdóttir
John and Emma Johnson
Björk Eriksdóttir Olafson

Penny Northfield
Willis Busse
Kenny Gudmundson
Marie Bjornson
Richard Holand

By

George and Sandra Wright
Waldemar Melstad
Monica Bohn
Franklin Hannesson
Eugene Olafson
Eugene & Meredith Byron
Jeanne Halldorson
Kim Byron Ness
Andrea Strand Rud
Rosa Thorfinnson
Amanita Helgisdóttir
Tim and Kathleen Ness
Susan Yost
Jan Morrell
George V. Tiedemann
Pauline Johnson Sherry
John and Kathleen Johnson, Bruce Gjovig
Steve & Margaret Bjornson Holm, Les
Geir, Kathleen Thorlakson, Jim &
Charlotte Hardy, June Bjornson, Richard
& Judy Geir, Karen Abrahamson, Vera &
Elroy Brandvold, Sue and Gary Atwood,
Dennis and Sue Biliske, Nancy Boe
Marvel Williamson
Kathleen Thorlakson
Keith Gudmundson
June Bjornson
Carol Rinde Lewis

WE HONOR AND REMEMBER THE
PEOPLE WHO SHARED THEIR LIVES
AND STORIES WITH US. WE ARE
FOREVER GRATEFUL



Icelandic
Communities
Association

P.O Box 63
Mountain, ND 58262-0063



Við erum fjölskylda. We are family.

ÞORRABLÓT

A MIDWINTER ICELANDIC FEAST

5-6 PM SOCIAL/CASH BAR /6:30 BUFFET

MARCH 12, 2022

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CENTER

Program, Live & Silent Auction & Buffet Supper:

Cod or Chicken with side dishes

\$30 per person. For tickets contact Judy Geir 701-993-8179

Nancy Boe 701-331-9813

Enjoy traditional old
Icelandic cuisine:

Fermented Shark , Brennevín,
Harðfiskur, Rúllupylsa,
Hangikjót, Hrútspungar,
Pickled Herring, Smoked
Salmon and many baked
delicacies

Do you have a donation for the live/silent auction? Contact Dori at dorikatemt@hotmail.com