

Stephan G. Stephansson Icelandic Society Est. 1974

Winter—Spring 2022

48th Annual General Meeting

Friday, March 18, 2022

Fensala Hall, 7 PM

Member / Volunteer Dinner, 6 PM

RSVP by March 14

(or the cook gets very grumpy)

to admin@historicmarkerville.com

Remember to renew your membership—\$25 / year, \$100 / 5 years



10 Years!

In recognition of ten years of service the SGSIS Board recently presented **Manager Brooke Henrikson** with a gift which included this beautiful, unique wall art created by local artisan Doug Taylor.

Cook Family Scholarship

- open to Spruce View School students, or children of current SGSIS members attending other schools
- application deadline is **June 10, 2022**
- application form available from

Darcy.j.gamble@gmail.com or

Spruce View School



Historicmarkerville.com



Treasures Unearthed



The Buttermaker’s House basement yielded a variety of interesting objects



Manager’s Message

Grants, grants, grants!

The fall and winter months were busy, busy, applying for funding.

In November, we were successful in three Red Deer County Capital Assistance grants. Fensala Hall received new sound equipment and updated toilets. The Creamery was able to complete painting and the Buttermaker’s House applied for the installation of a new septic tank. Thank you to Red Deer County for their continued support!

In December, we were successful for the Alberta Museums Association Operational Staffing grant which supports the Manager position for our Society. Thank you to the AMA and Province of Alberta for their support!

This winter we received the Museum Assistance Program Relaunch grant. Thank you to the Government of Canada for this funding which is designated to the reopening of the Museum in 2022.

January 2022, we applied for Young Canada Works (Canadian Museums Association program) which assists us with our seasonal staff as will Canada Summer Jobs (Government of Canada funding). Decisions are pending.

We applied to the Alberta Historic Resources Foundation for additional funding for the Buttermaker’s House and the Creamery Museum. Decision is pending.

Thank you to the Spruce View Recreation Board and Red Deer County for funding for our 2022 summer events and Fensala Concert Series.

We were successful in renewing our Recognized Museum status with the Alberta Museums Association.

I’m excited and beginning to look to the future and predicting a great summer filled with events. Fingers crossed!

This spring, I will be working on museum inventory and planning our summer exhibit, Daniel Morkeberg. If you have a favourite story about Dan, I would love to connect with you.

We look forward to seeing you this summer at one or all of our summer events.

Brooke Henrikson

President's Message

February 12 saw another "Friday at Fensala Hall". Sixty some people attended and enjoyed Allan and Arnell play their hearts out. This was the third concert of four scheduled for the season. Next act, Kayla Williams on March 12 with some tickets still available. If you haven't attended a concert I highly recommend it. It is an experience you will not soon forget. The entertainers eat up the opportunity to play this small intimate hall to an attentive audience. The audience gets to enjoy top entertainment and be with friends not to mention the popcorn and treats! As you sit and listen to the music you can just imagine the settlers who built this hall (the oldest active hall in Alberta) tapping their feet as they listened to the music. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Thanks to those who help organize the concert series. Your commitment gives opportunity for entertainers to perform and showcase their talents. This old hall is being used for what it was designed for and the activity breathes life into our community. Thank you for volunteering for the society and the community.

The Buttermaker's House restoration continues to progress nicely. The outside was completed last fall. The basement is framed and insulated and the portion of the chimney with WH Jackson's initials on it has been placed back. Our volunteers have once again stepped forward to help move this project ahead. Without their help we would be over budget and late on project completion.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up on March 18. Please come as we will start with a dinner followed by the meeting.

Manager Brooke Henrikson has been busy filling out grant applications and will soon be back at the Creamery with the Alberta government loosening up COVID restrictions. She makes things happen and will be hiring staff in the not too distant future.

I look forward to seeing you at the Creamery for coffee at 10:00. Thanks,
Al Gamble

More Treasures!



W.H. Jackson's initials and those of another worker were found carved into the basement chimney support





Right—
Tim Isberg

Centre—
Sarah Hiltz and
T. Buckley Trio

Bottom—Allan
and Arnell



Presented with
the support of



Fensala Concert Series

"THE SHOW MUST GO ON" seems to be the driving force that keeps the Fensala Concert Series alive and well! With postponing, then limited capacity and the ever changing COVID restrictions, the Concert Committee checks out all possibilities, revises and adapts to the changes and carries on. Our 2021-2022 Series kicked off November 13 with **Tim Isberg**, a veteran soldier, singer, guitar player, songwriter and storyteller as the feature entertainer. **John and Janina of SomeAre Solstice Flutes** opened the concert with music sounds from Norse instruments. It was an enjoyable evening which left many of us eager to attend the next one.

January 28, a restricted "sell-out" crowd again, featured contemporary folk artist **Sarah Hiltz** from Toronto to open the concert for Main Stage performer **T. Buckley**, Alberta musician and singer songwriter. Joining Tim were **Jesse Dollimont** on mandolin and back up vocals, and **Mitch Jay** on banjo and guitars. In addition to a long standing ovation, the Buckley Trio were honoured with a special concert shooter named "Buckley's" and we are glad to report it tasted much better than Buckley's cough syrup!

February 12, a great evening for a Valentine date as Alberta musicians **Jane Allan and Lance Arnell** played songs that brought back memories, inspired adventure and warmed our spirits. They were accompanied by **Rhonda Shippy** on upright bass and **Jarred Albright** on the fiddle. Opening musicians were "**Pure country (minus 4)**" with Gary Giesbrecht on fiddle, Bill Lamport on guitar and vocals, Jerry Hall on guitar and Dean Sandham on banjo.

We have been fortunate to have such a variety of musicians come to Markerville since our Concert Series began back in 2017. The enthusiasm and pleasure expressed by all these entertainers has been heartwarming and encouraging for the committee, but also a special opportunity for we attendees to take in a little culture, entertainment and community connections.

Many thanks to the committee, Marlene Linneberg, John and Adele McKechnie and Larry Kjearsgaard (who joined the committee in 2021) for their outreach and organizing of these evenings. The objective for the Concert Series is to make good use of our Historic Fensala Hall, a perfect venue for music concerts and to showcase live music in Alberta. **The Committee thanks** all who come out to support these events and everyone who works hard to make this an enjoyable and successful fund raising activity. All proceeds are used to support the ongoing operating costs of our five historic sites. A **special thanks** to those who took a chance and purchased Season Tickets. Yes, the show must go on!

Final Concert for this Series is March 12, featuring soulful pop, catchy melodies and full harmonies from Central Alberta's **Kayla Williams Band**. Tickets available at historicmarkerville.com.



Historic Markerville

Fensala Hall
CONCERT SERIES

24 MAIN AVENUE
MARKERVILLE, AB

Presents

KAYLA WILLIAMS BAND

Saturday,
March 12, 2022

Doors @ 7:00
Show @ 7:30

Tickets \$30
available at
historicmarkerville.com

The poster features a photograph of Kayla Williams, a woman with long dark hair, wearing an orange jacket and a red top, sitting and smiling. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts.

The Buttermaker's House Restoration

Well, our winter rest is over and our intrepid volunteer foremen John McKechnie and Al Gamble have been busy working inside the house. In January, Les Herron taught Al and John how to frame a basement and build a support for the historic initials of W.H. Jackson found scratched into the chimney. Jack Oszli lent a hand with the basement insulation and vapour barrier work and ripping out baseboard and window casing. Philip Johannson volunteered to spray the foam insulation in the stairwell ceiling. Now we are cozy warm to work through any kind of Alberta weather! We are preparing for ASK Environmental to come in and remove all hazardous building materials from the house so we can move forward on rehabilitating the inside rooms. As things are being ripped out we have found a few "treasures along the way" which always fosters speculation and conversation. Our manager, Brooke, has been working with AHRF's Sandy Aumonier to submit project proposals and grant applications for work approval and financial assistance that is vital for continuing this project. The committee would like to thank all who have volunteered, donated, and cheered the progress of The Buttermaker's House. We could not do this without you!

Left to right: Jack Oszli, the well-insulated porch, Al and Les framing the basement



Christmas Wine Survivor 2021

- 4th Place - Team Lucky Faye won 35 bottles
- 3rd Place - Team Sip Sip Hooray won 69 bottles
- 2nd Place - Team Cracklin' Rose won 103 bottles
- 1st Place - Team On Cloud Wine won 138 bottles

Thank you to all that participated in our Christmas Wine Survivor and helped raise \$6869.51 for this ongoing project! Thank you to Tim K, Brooke H, Chantal R, Bryon N and d'Arcy G. for organizing a fun event once again.

Mark your calendars for May 23, 2022 when we kick off our Spring Wine Survivor. Proceeds will go towards the inside restoration of the house. We are getting closer and closer to completing this project thanks to all of our supporters.

All Things Icelandic



The **Icelandic National League of North America** convention scheduled for April 2022 at Gimli, Manitoba has been cancelled due to uncertain COVID restrictions and facility regulations. The Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club of Calgary are looking forward to hosting the 2023 INLNA Convention at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. The theme will be “Icelanders and the Arts”.



Icelandic Roots is a non-profit, educational, heritage organization specializing in the genealogy, history, culture and traditions of people of Icelandic descent. In only eight years, the organization has grown in a phenomenal way with almost 80 volunteers doing a variety of tasks. It provides seminars, webinars, blogs, podcasts, workshops, social media and so much more. In 2021 Icelandic Roots gifted \$12,500 in grants and scholarships to heritage groups and individuals in Canada, the US and Iceland, including **\$625 to Markerville's SGSIS**. Some of our SGSIS

members have joined Icelandic Roots and regularly add to the database by submitting their own family information. Paid members of Icelandic Roots have access to the genealogical database, which includes family records plus a rich collection of maps, cemetery records, photographs, emigration passenger lists, and stories of our ancestors. Through Icelandic Roots, members can trace their genealogy back to the 1600s and even find connections to Leif Eiriksson and other people in the database.

Sunna Olafson Furstenau, President of Icelandic Roots, extends a special invitation for you to look at the Icelandic Roots website and consider joining the free mailing list to see the public offerings and the wonderful newsletters.

<https://www.icelandicroots.com/newsletters>

<https://www.icelandicroots.com/event-calendar>

Calendar of Events

March 12	Kayla Williams in Concert at Fensala Hall	June 18	Icelandic National Day Celebration at Community Leisure Grounds followed by Program, Crowning of the Fjallkona and Potluck Supper at Fensala Hall
March 18	48th Annual General Meeting and Member Dinner at Fensala Hall		
May 14	Opening Day, Creamery Museum Pancake Breakfast at Fensala Hall	July 1	Canada Day Celebrations at Creamery Museum

Historicmarkerville.com



We are seeking five (5) team members to fill our seasonal full time positions beginning early May through late August.

**Interested?
Love ice cream and kittens?
Available?**

Send your resume to
admin@historicmarkerville.com

We are an equal opportunity employer and encourage all who qualify to apply

Newsletter Acknowledgements

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SGSIS owns and operates Historic Markerville

- Historic Markerville Creamery Museum
- Fensala Hall
- Tindastoll Cemetery
- Markerville Church
- the Buttermaker's House and
- Iðunn Icelandic Library in support of our mission:

Honouring the legacy of Markerville's Icelandic pioneers in building a vibrant rural community and enriching the cultural tapestry of Alberta and Canada.

Contact us at:

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