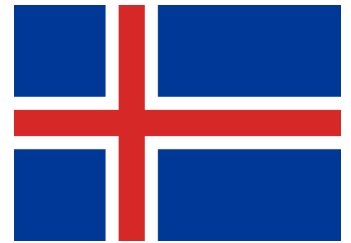


Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia

2021 Newsletter



November, 2022

novascotiaicelanders.ca

I hope this message finds you well and happy. It is hard to believe another summer has passed already. We are always pleasantly surprised to read the number of guests who have visited throughout the season and this year was a good year for visitors. It is so interesting to read the comments in our guest book at the entrance and to have had guests who are in Markland for the first-time comment on the site. We have received guests from throughout Canada and USA and many local visitors.

This year the Society and members have been lobbying government to repair the section of the road leading to the settlement. It does not receive the attention it deserves, even though it is leading to a historic settlement. There have been some repairs done to make it more passable from the Moose River end, but the road is not passable from Caribou Mines and this is disappointing, especially for visitors who have traveled a distance to visit and must turn around and go back the other way. We continue to try to draw attention to the site and the need for a safe road, as Markland is one of the only Tourism sites in the area.

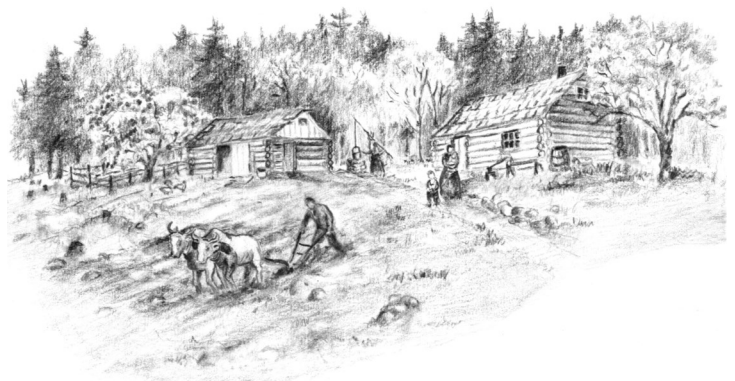
Our Society was successful in receiving a \$ 2500 Community History Grant from HRM this year. We will be erecting new interpretive signs on the Fairbanks Lake Road leading to the settlement. These signs will be visible and will give more information about the families whose lots were along that part of the road. We will have new signage at the entrance to Markland for hikers, with distances between the lots. Also signs for the Old Iceland Road, school, and Iceland house. We are having them made by a local sign maker and hope to have them erected by Spring 2023. Over the upcoming years it is our hope that we can continue to add to them, making the visit more informational and bringing the history of Markland to life. We are very grateful to have received this assistance from the HRM Grants Committee.

We were very sorry to hear of the passing of one of our oldest members, Captain Olafur Egilsson just one month before his 91st birthday. Olafur and his wife, Carola had been members of the Society since 2011. They lived in their family home in Pictou and Olafur would make the long drive to attend our annual event with his daughter, Julie whenever possible. Olafur's daughters, are also dedicated members of the Society and attend events on a regular basis. We are so grateful that we were able to publish Olafur's amazing story about his coming to Canada from Iceland in 1949. We send our sincere sympathy to Olafur's family.

I want to thank members Harley and Beverley Redden for their dedication and work in the settlement, especially this past season. Harley and Beverley have been strong advocates for repairing the road and have met countless times with local officials to bring the state of the road to their attention and stress the safety of the travelling public. Spreading gravel, cutting fallen trees and clearing brush are just some of the other tasks they continue to take on without hesitation or expectation of thanks. Thank you from all of us for your hard work and dedication.

As the year draws to a close, I want to thank you for your support. I encourage you to renew your membership as we do rely on these funds for our projects. As always we welcome your stories, news and family photos to add to our collection. With all good wishes for the New Year.

Glenda Burrows, Chair





Olafur Elias Egilsson 1931 2022

Olafur Elias Egilsson (1931-2022)

Iceland / Pictou

We the family of Captain Olafur Egilsson are saddened to say that a Heart of Gold stopped beating a month before his 91st birthday. He passed away peacefully at home, as per his wishes, on October 18th. Having left Iceland at the age of 17, he spent most of the next 73 years in Nova Scotia on survey ships, fishing boats and with the Nova Scotia Government as the Supervisor of Nets and Gear Technology at the Pictou Fisheries School. He is survived by the love of his life, wife and dance partner of 66 years, Carola 'Lola' nee Boudreau; children, Greg (Brenda), Julie (Blair Battist), Mary Lou (Allan Samson), Michael 'Chuck' (September), and Daphne (Scott Leonard); 13 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son, Michael Joseph, in infancy; his adopted brother, Rafn Josefsson; and his siblings in Iceland, Jón, Þórður, Guðrún, Bjarni, Ásgrímur, Guðmundur, Ingibjörg, and a sister in infancy. A teacher, mentor and friend to all he met. The sea was in his blood and he never ventured far from the waves. In his retirement he enjoyed winters spent in Florida. Cremation has taken place. Interment will take place at Star of the Sea Cemetery in Petit de Grat at a later date. Words cannot express our family's gratitude to Dr. Omoifo, the Pictou County Palliative Care Society, the Victorian Order of Nurses, Continuing Care, and to all who provided excellent care to our dear father. Angels do walk among us.



Trails Day 2018. Olafur is second from the right.

International Trails Day June 4, 2022

On Saturday, June 4, nine members of the Icelandic Memorial Society gathered at the cairn in Markland for the first International Trails Day walk in two years. Wayne had discovered an easier way to hoist the three flags than climbing a ladder. They fluttered a welcome as the hikers arrived. The walk began at 10 a.m. on a beautiful breezy day with spring in the air and wild flowers blooming all along the roadside. A few kilometers in at the log cabin, people were excited to see the little apple tree planted in 2019 and the tiny sprout that had come from the original tree both had blossoms and had grown substantially. The walk continued on at a leisurely pace past the old school road, the store site and several family homesteads before reaching Bev and Harley Redden's camp on site 23. The hikers were greeted there with sandwiches, sweets, coffee and tea. An enjoyable afternoon was spent exchanging stories, and catching up on the past two years before reluctantly saying goodbyes and leaving for the long drive home. Members present were Glenda Burrows, Marshall Burgess, Julie Battist, Wayne Scott, Betty Belmore, Bev Redden, Harley Redden, William Scott and Bonnie Price.



Bev and Harley were presented with an original watercolour by artist and Society member Bonnie Price.



Wedding at Markland

October 8 was the scene of a fall wedding at Harley and Beverly Redden's camp on Lot 23 (18) Árnes, in Markland, where Sami MacInnis, granddaughter of the Reddens and Gregory Cole exchanged vows. The original homestead was owned by Ólafur Þórsteinsson and family. During their stay there the family hosted several weddings for the settlers, the last one being held in 1878.



Sami MacInnis and Gregory Cole
exchange vows at Markland



Harley and Beverley Redden working on the road
through the Markland Settlement

Lockeport Icelandic Settlement

East Green Harbour

The main settlement of the Icelandic families (1874-1881) was at Markland, Halifax County. The second settlement was at East Green Harbour which lies a few miles west of the town of Lockeport. In the year 2000 the Icelandic Memorial Society erected a memorial cairn in Lockeport on lands owned by Harold Huskilson. A historical plaque was also dedicated and placed at East Green Harbour where the 9 Icelandic families lived. Thanks to the late Mac Huskilson and his family for erecting the plaque at the lot where Erlendur Huskilson and his family once resided. This summer J. Marshall Burgess, KC visited the site, cleaned it up and planted flowers and bulbs.



Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia

Annual Financial Statement

Fiscal Period Ending Dec.31, 2021

Opening Balance, Jan.1, 2021	775.00
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Income:

Memberships	450.00
Donations	406.00
Sales, Books, DVD, CD	176.00
Total Income	1032.00

Expenses:

Bank account Fees	181.00
Newsletters, Postage	240.00
Brochures, labels	250.00
Property Tax	29.00
Cabin Insurance	534.00
Website maintenance	247.00
Joint Stock fees	31.00
INLNA membership	100.00

Total Expenses	1612.00
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Closing Balance Dec.31, 2021	190.00
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Glenda Burrows, Chair

Bonnie Price, Treasurer

New publication
Icelandic Settlements in Nova Scotia- An Immigration Experiment
By J. Marshall Burgess

J. Marshall Burgess, QC is a founding member of the Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia, founded in 1998. His great grandfather Erlendur Hoskuldsson (1843-1928) and his wife, Gudbjorg Stefansdottir (1835-1919) moved to Markland and Lockeport in 1879 with their two daughters Torunn (1874-1915) and Sigríður Nikolina (1878-1962) . Their son Lewis was born in Lockeport (1882-1964) .

Marshall began doing research years ago about the 30 families that moved from Iceland to Nova Scotia in the mid-1870s and settled in a village they called Markland, east of Halifax and Lockeport, a fishing village west of Halifax. He prepared a research paper in 1989 and it was presented to the President of Iceland, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, in July 1989 during her visit to Nova Scotia. Marshall continued to do more research on this topic and Covid provided the perfect excuse to finally publish his book. Copies are available for \$ 30 with all proceeds going to the Icelandic Memorial Society. Contact marshallburgess@ns.sympatico.ca.

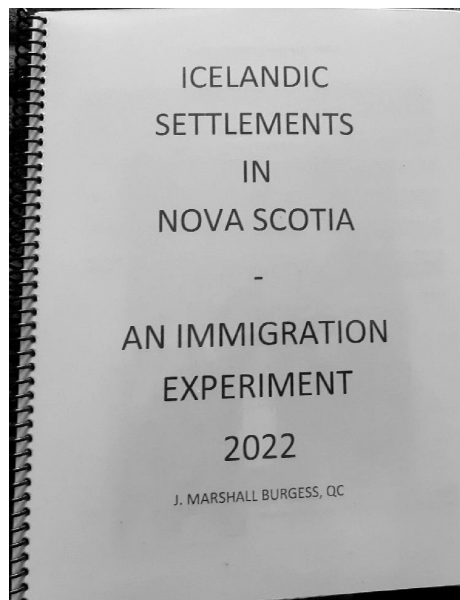


Photo: J. Marshall Burgess II, J. Marshall Burgess III QC, President of Iceland Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, Premier of NS, Hon .John Buchanan. July 1989.



Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia

Membership Application and Renewal Form November 2022

Name _____

Phone: () _____

Address _____

Email: _____

Postal / Zip Code _____

☐ Single Membership \$10

Family Names: _____

☐ Family Membership \$20

☐ Corporate Membership \$50

☐ Lifetime Membership \$100

☐ Membership Renewal

Please make cheque payable to:

Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia
Bonnie Price, Treasurer
219 Old Post Road, Smiths Cove
Digby, NS B0S 1S0

e- Transfers (Canadian residents) novascotiaicelanders@gmail.com

The Society continues to research family histories in Markland. If you have any articles, stories, photographs or artifacts, the Society would like to hear from you.

☐ Direct descendent of a Markland family: _____

(Family name)

☐ I have information or photos to share with the Society

☐ I would like to make a donation to the Society (A charitable receipt will be issued.)



Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia

Publication Order Form

Title/Author	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Markland Remembrance of the Years 1875 – 1881 by: Guðbrandur Erlendsson	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Errand Boy in the Mooseland Hills by Magnús Bjarnason translated by Borga Jakobson	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Story of Markland on CD Story by: Ken Burrows, Narration and music by: Bill Stevenson	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Log Cabin at Markland on DVD 32 minute documentary on the story of the Icelandic pioneers of Markland and the building of the log cabin in the old settlement.	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Young Iclander by: Jöðhann Magnus Bjarnason. Translated by Borga Jakobson from <i>Erikur Hansson: A Novel from Nova Scotia</i>	\$20.00

Shipping costs: Will be added at time of purchase

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code/Zip: _____

Email: _____

To order: novascotiaicelanders@gmail.com or mail to:

Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia
 C/o J. Marshall Burgess
 6296 Willow St.
 Halifax, NS B3L 1N9

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glendaburrows@eastlink.ca

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marshallburgess@ns.sympatico.ca

Bonnie Price – Treasurer/Membership Chair
219 Old Post Rd E.
Smith Cove, NS B0S 1S0
bon.price@eastlink.ca

Members at Large
Wayne Scott
Ken Burrows
Myra Jerome
Phyllis Parker



Icelandic Society Membership 2021

Family 14 Single 18

Lifetime 18 Corporate 0

Honorary Members 2

Total Membership 52



Our New Road Sign

Icelandic Memorial Society of Nova Scotia
6296 Willow St.
Halifax, NS
B3L 1N9