

# 100

JON SIGURDSSON

CHAPTER IODE  
HISTORY

1916-2016





# 100

JON SIGURDSSON

CHAPTER IODE

HISTORY

1916-2016

*Written and compiled by*

KAREN BORGFORD BOTTING



This logo of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire was created in the early 1900's.



This IODE logo reflects the name change of the organization in 1972.



A new logo and mission statement were adopted in 2000:

*"IODE is a Canadian women's charitable organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for children, youth and those in need, through educational, social services and citizenship programs."*



# CONTENTS

Forword

Introduction

## CHAPTER ONE

The Roots of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter

## CHAPTER TWO

The Beginning Years: 1916–1920

## CHAPTER THREE

The Interwar Years: 1920–1936

## CHAPTER FOUR

Leading To and During World War II: 1937–1946

## CHAPTER FIVE

A Period of Refocusing Following the War: 1947–1956

## CHAPTER SIX

Further Evolution: 1957–1963

## CHAPTER SEVEN

Modernization: 1964–1976

1976–1986

1987–1996

## CHAPTER EIGHT

Towards the Millennium and Beyond: 1997–2007

## CHAPTER NINE

Approaching 100 Years Old: 2007–2016

## CHAPTER TEN

2016 Centennial Year Activities

*Acknowledgements*

*Conclusion*

*Sources*

## APPENDICES

1. List of Past Regents/Presidents
2. List of IODE members who served as Fjallkona
3. Letters from Dignitaries - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
4. List of Scholarships and Winners: 1936–2016

## FOREWORD



Anna Birgis with her dog Coco.

Photo: Hjalmar W. Hannesson

**I**n June 2013 my husband Hjalmar and I opened up a new chapter in our lives. We moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba. This three year chapter turned out to be exciting, educational, and full of joy and friendship. I cherish a lot of memories about the women of the IODE Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, most of who are of Icelandic descent as were all of the founding members.

Soon after arriving in Winnipeg I was asked to be the Patron of the historic IODE Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, an honour which I gladly accepted. It gave me the opportunity not only to get to know all the great women of the Chapter but also to learn about the amazing things the Chapter has accomplished from its beginning in 1916. It is now the only remaining IODE chapter in Winnipeg.

As this book clearly shows the women of the IODE Jon Sigurdsson Chapter have contributed enormously through their volunteer work to many worthy causes. They worked tirelessly supporting the Canadian WWI and II efforts and they have been a valuable contributor to Manitoba society, for example through financial contributions and awards to students, donations to the Iceland Canada Foundation and Betel Foundation to honour war veterans, just to name a few of their many important and selfless offerings. Truly, this is a wonderful and important example of the extraordinary Canadian tradition of volunteers in society. In recent years the Chapter has recorded tens of thousands of hours of volunteer work yearly; a remarkable feat making us all proud.

On June 17, the National Day of Iceland, the Chapter joins with the Icelandic Consulate General and Icelandic Canadian Fron to organize the celebrations on the Legislative Grounds in Winnipeg and in the Art Gallery in the evening. These were joyous occasions that I remember fondly.

Of the many memorable IODE Jon Sigurdsson Chapter meetings I attended, I mention only two:

First-In March 2016 the Chapter donated \$10,000 to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation. The money was earmarked for special bicycles, known as adaptive bicycles for children with special needs. Keera Lyall, the 2015 Youth Ambassador for the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation, gave a thank you speech I shall never forget.

Second-Each year I attended the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE Scholarships celebrations when young students received scholarships for university studies in various fields. These were all fun gatherings giving both the contributors and the receivers great joy. When young Alec Baldwin from Gimli received his scholarship for Music in 2014 he played the piano for us exceptionally well. He was one of fourteen scholarship winners that year.

Now that I have moved back to Iceland I often thankfully think about my Winnipeg years, the IODE Jon Sigurdsson Chapter and its extraordinary women. To all of you I send my best and warmest wishes.

*Anna Birgis Hannesson*

Anna Birgis Hannesson was the Honorary Patron of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE from 2013 to 2016 when she and her husband, Ambassador Hjalmar W. Hannesson were posted in Winnipeg where Hjalmar was Consul General for Iceland in Winnipeg. Anna was Founder and President of the United Nations Women for Peace Organization.

## INTRODUCTION

**T**o celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of IODE, the members decided that a commemorative book should be written to highlight its history over the decades. This history will attempt to illustrate the evolution of this IODE chapter and its work through the decades.

The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of IODE is part of a larger national women's charitable organization that began in 1900, under the name Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. Today the organization's name has changed to IODE Canada and is made up of a National Chapter, Provincial Chapters and Primary Chapters.

At the time of Jon Sigurdsson's inaugural meeting in 1916, it was one of 48 Primary chapters in Manitoba. Together these Primary Chapters made up the Manitoba Provincial Chapter, which ultimately reported to the National Chapter. Today, just as other charitable organizations have waned, there are only three remaining Primary Chapters in Manitoba: two in rural Manitoba, leaving the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter the sole one left in Winnipeg.

In 1916, the membership of the chapter was made up of Icelandic immigrant women, who wanted to contribute to Canadian society in a substantive way by supporting the home front during World War I, the mission of the I.O.D.E.

The women of Jon Sigurdsson Chapter worked tirelessly together to provide comfort and care to the service women and men and their families. This group of Icelandic immigrant women who were committed to being patriotic to their adopted country also continued to have strong ties to their homeland of Iceland. This Icelandic connection has been reflected throughout the Chapter's 100 years of existence.

Throughout the years the women have been role models, mentors, leaders and service providers for women, children and the those in need, both in the Icelandic community and beyond. Collectively, these women have volunteered to make an enormous impact on thousands of Manitobans. Over 500 scholarships have been awarded to post secondary students and thousands of children, women and men have benefitted over the years from their service work with veterans and

their families. The members' voluntarism has also impacted inner city schools and northern school programs, as well as women's and homeless shelters. Manitoba-Iceland ties have strengthened through these efforts as well as through the June 17th celebrations which often brings diplomats, politicians, choirs and tourists from Iceland.

The activities and membership of the Jon Sigurdsson chapter have changed and evolved since its inception. This is reflected through the decades, as the members experienced two periods of war, the Great Depression, the Winnipeg Flood and the growing independence of Canada from Britain.

No longer focussing on war, the current mission of the National IODE states:

*IODE Canada is a national women's charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community service and citizenship programs.*

Although the membership of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter has become more ethnically diverse, it continues to maintain its Icelandic connection. Many of today's members are second and third generation Canadians of Icelandic heritage. They were drawn to Jon Sigurdsson IODE in order to stay connected to their cultural roots, while at the same time supporting a Canadian women's charitable organization and its good works. The longevity of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE can be attributed to this close bond these women have to their cultural roots as well as to the inspiration of special individuals like Johanna Wilson who has been a vibrant member for 75 years and Dee Westdal for over 60 years.

*Karen Botting*





THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE JON SIGURDSSON IODE AT THEIR INAUGURAL MEETING ON MARCH 20, 1916.

This photo appeared in "Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, Manitoba, Souvenir, 1916", published 1917. *Top row, from left to right:* Miss J.S. Johnson, Echo Secretary; Mrs. Th. Borgfjord, Councillor; Miss A.M. Skaptason, Councillor; Miss C. L. Hannesson, Treasurer; Mrs. E. Hansson, Councillor; *Second row:* Mrs. J. Carson, First vice-Regent; Mrs. J. B. Skaptason, Regent, Mrs. S. Brynjolfson, Second Vice-Regent; *Bottom row:* Miss O. Oddson, Standard-Bearer; Miss T. Sigurdson, Secretary.

## CHAPTER ONE

### – *The Roots of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter*

When the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of I.O.D.E. was formed in 1916 its members already had strong roots in supporting the war effort. The founding members were from Icelandic immigrant families who were both anxious to adopt the culture in their new country, Canada, and to maintain strong ties to those they left behind. Many attended the First Federated Church (Icelandic Unitarian) in Winnipeg where the Unitarian Ladies' Aid was already involved in the war effort. In its 50th Anniversary commemorative book in 1954 Margret Petursson of the First Federated Ladies' Aid Society wrote:

*“During the First World War, the Ladies' Aid contributed articles that the members had sewn and knitted or collected, and assisted other groups to raise funds for various war causes. The majority of the members joined the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, as a further expression of their desire to participate more fully in war work.”*

The Ladies' Aid Society's first president, in the year 1905, was a well-known Icelandic woman, Margret Benedictsson, who was an ardent supporter of the women's suffragette movement and publisher/editor of the women's rights magazine Freya.

*“Her interest in the (suffragette) movement was shared by other members of this organization and, as a result, an amendment was written into the constitution to the effect that the members pledged themselves to work for the rights of women to share equally in the vote.”*

These same strong women wanted to share equally in supporting the war effort. One of these women was Johanna Gudrun Skaptason. Her husband, Joseph B. Skaptason had gone overseas as an officer in the army. As time went by and many Icelanders had joined the armed forces, Gudrun felt it would be good for the Icelandic women to get





Johanna Gudrun Skaptason home at 378 Maryland Street in Winnipeg where the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter held its organizational meeting in 1916.

involved and form their own chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire who were already involved in the war effort. When she proposed the idea of an Icelandic chapter of I.O.D.E., she was both a member of the William E. Gladstone Chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire and of the First Federated Church Ladies' Aid Society. She discussed this organization's work with numerous friends and relatives, Icelandic women like herself who were eager to serve. As there was such a keen interest, Mrs. J.B. Skaptason invited a number of these Icelandic women to her home at 378 Maryland Street in the West End of Winnipeg to consider founding an I.O.D.E. chapter. The year was 1916 and it was probably no coincidence that this was the same year the women of Manitoba had gained the right to vote.

MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATION MEETING OF  
THE JON SIGURDSSON CHAPTER I.O.D.E.

Upon an invitation from Mrs. J.B. Skaptason, a  
f Icelandic women, representative of all the Icelandic  
in the City, attended a meeting at her home, 378 Maryland  
onday evening, March 20th, 1916, with a view to organizing  
ndic Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire:

Mrs. F.J. Bergman, Mrs. J. Carson, Mrs. S. Simmons,  
Miss A.M. Skaptason, Mrs. E. Hansson, Mrs. J.B. Skaptason,  
Mrs. Th. Borgfjord, Mrs. R. Peterson, Mrs. A. Johnson,  
Mrs. H. Peterson, Mrs. S. Peterson, Miss O. Oddson,  
Mrs. S. Brynjolfson, Mrs. H.B. Skaptason, Miss C.L. Hann-  
esson, Mrs. G. Simmons, Miss J.S. Johnson, Miss Sigrun  
Halldorson, Miss Emma Halldorson, Miss Thora Sigurdson.

Mrs Colin H. Campbell, President of the Provincial  
of the I.O.D.E. was present and gave a very interesting  
ive address on the origin and aims of the Order.

It was then moved by Mrs. J.B. Skaptason,

Seconded by Miss A. M. Skaptason, that a Primary

be organized.

Carried

Mrs. Colin H. Campbell then administered the Oath  
der to all present.

The Election of Officers then took place, and the

for the current year:

Miss Skaptason, that the Motto "United We Stand" be c

After spending a very pleasant evening  
of refreshments, the meeting adjourned.

Johanna S. Skaptason  
Regent

Thora Sigur



Johanna Gudrun Skaptason, daughter Margret and Icelandic soldier visiting them at Hythe in England, 1917.

## CHAPTER TWO

### – *The Beginning Years: 1916 to 1920*

**G**udrun Skaptason gathered this group of Icelandic immigrant women from a community that was somewhat divided between two churches with very different beliefs, Unitarian and Lutheran and who followed two different newspapers, the *Logberg* and *Heimskringla*, each espousing different political viewpoints. She encouraged the women to work together for a common purpose: to support the war effort. Thus, it is significant that, when the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter was formed from these two diverse groups of Icelandic women, their motto became “United We Stand”.

When the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter had its inaugural meeting, there were 48 chapters in Manitoba, all part of the Provincial Manitoba Chapter. Today the chapter is one of three left in the province and the only one in Winnipeg. At this time, the National I.O.D.E, a patriotic women's organization that had begun in 1900, had very explicit goals and aims that were outlined in the 1916 Manitoba I.O.D.E. Souvenir Book:

1. To supply and foster a bond of union amongst the daughters and children of the Empire.
2. To provide an efficient organization by which prompt and united action may be taken by the women and children of the Empire when such action may be desired.
3. To promote in the Motherland and in the Colonies the study of the History of the Empire and of current Imperial questions: to celebrate patriotic anniversaries; to cherish the memory of brave and heroic deed and last resting places of our heroes and heroines, especially such as are in distant and solitary places; to erect memorial stones on spots that have become sacred to the heroic and patriotic self-sacrifice.
4. To care for the widows and orphans and dependents of British soldiers or sailors and heroes during war, in time of peace, or under sickness, accident or reverses of fortune.
5. The attaining of any analogous object.
6. Members are pledged to promote unity between the Motherland,

the sister colonies, and themselves; to promote loyalty to King and country; to forward every good work for the betterment of their country and people; to assist in the progress of art and literature, to draw women's influence to the bettering of all things connected with our great Empire, and to instil into the youth of their country patriotism. *Manitoba IODE Souvenir Book 1916.*

Johanna Gudrun Skaptason was elected the first Regent and in her inaugural speech she said:

*"We know the part our Icelandic men are taking in the war and we certainly are proud of them; we, the mothers, and sisters and wives of these men. We may therefore expect much from this organization. Surely we have as much strength, ability and courage as our men. I do not see that we are inferior to them except perhaps in eloquence when we are called to the platform and then we make up for that at the coffee tables...."*

*"Our work will be especially among the Icelandic soldiers; those who have come home wounded. We should lend a helping hand to the soldiers' wives in their loneliness and anxiety, for often a friendly visit means more than money...."*

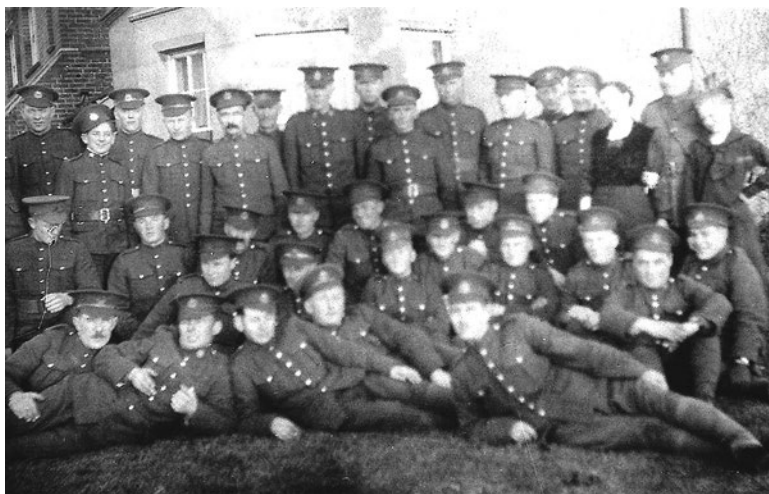
A year after the Chapter's inauguration, Gudrun and her daughter Margret would join her husband, Joseph B. Skaptason, a Captain in the Canadian Army, who was posted to England, during World War I. Their home in Hythe became a stopping place for Icelandic servicemen and women, where they were welcomed by the Skaptasons.

Comment from the Icelandic Canadian, Winter 1960:

*"Mrs. Skaptason accompanied her husband when he proceeded overseas, in 1916 and she remained there for a year. Their home was a home away from home for Icelandic soldiers within reach."*

*"Our home in England and particularly the one in Hythe, Kent, was always open to Icelandic servicemen and many a musical afternoon or evening was spent there. Christmas Day, 1916, at our big house in Seaford was a memorable day. Forty men spent the day with us and there could have been more had some not been in quarantine. There was feasting, singing, and reciting of poetry. Strict rationing was in effect so I don't know how mother managed it."*

*Personal letter from Margret Stevens, daughter of Gudrun Skaptason.*



The Forty Icelandic servicemen who were invited to Gudrun and Joe Skaptason's home in Hythe for Christmas Day in 1916

With Gudrun overseas, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter elected a new regent, Bjorg Carson, who would serve in that capacity for the next 4 years. By 1918, Jon Sigurdsson Chapter membership was up to 170 individuals. The years 1916, 1917 and 1918 were devoted to war work. During this period the chapter raised over \$5000.00 part of which was turned over to the Provincial Chapter for Belgian Relief, Sailors' Relief, the MacKenzie Hospital for Convalescent Soldiers and other work. The remainder was used to supply needs and comforts for the Icelandic soldiers and their families.

Below is an example of one of the letters which was sent by the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter to a fallen soldier's family as a support.

"One hundred years ago, this letter was written in Icelandic. It is from the book, *Her Darling Boy*, by Tom Goodman. Archie Polson died in England on September 1, 1917 from a rare case of tetanus. He was to have returned home to Winnipeg from his tour of duty at Vimy Ridge. His mother, Elizabeth Polson, was a member of our Chapter." (The letter was translated by Gunnvor Danielsdottir Asmundson, also an IODE member)

564 Victor Street  
Winnipeg, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1917

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Polson,

*I, and the Jón Sigurdson Chapter, would like to express our sincere condolences in relation to the death of your beloved son. I cannot express how deeply his death, and your unspeakable sorrow, affected us.*

*In light of how much you looked forward to being finally reunited with him, your sorrow must be even greater. Remember that the reunion with your son will take place, only at a later time. Knowing that our sorrow cannot compare to the sorrow of the loved ones, we do experience such great sadness to witness the death of our most accomplished men.*

*Still, it is a consolation for all of us to remember that these young men sacrificed their lives for what they viewed as a sacred cause: To fight for the freedom of our nation and our country. They did not possess anything greater than their lives. For them, there was no greater sacrifice to offer.*

*In the hope that God will heal your wound and give you strength,*

*Yours sincerely,  
G. Björnson*

Although the Armistice was signed in 1918 and the war had come to an end, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter carried on. After all, there were servicemen in hospitals and their families still needed to be cared for.

On February 11, 1919, following World War I, the Chapter sponsored a reunion of Icelandic soldiers and their relatives and friends. Over 600 people attended; admission was free. Guest speakers included the Lieutenant Governor, the Mayor of Winnipeg and the Hon. Thomas H. Johnson, Attorney General of Manitoba, who was born in Iceland.

The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter also held a reception for the World Champion Hockey Team in 1920.

*“Another entertainment we shall long remember with pleasure was the one proffered to the Falcons, the World Champion Hockey Team,*





Count us among the friends who think of you,  
In kindly fashion, this glad time of year;  
Who, though we are apart, find happiness  
In the remembering.

The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, I.O.O.F.  
Winnipeg, Canada  
Christmas, 1917

A Christmas greeting sent out by Jon Sigurdsson IOOE in 1917 to supporters of IOOE.

*upon their Victorious return from Antwerp. The proprietor for the Manitoba Hall generously provided the hall and orchestra and supper for the boys. On this occasion the chapter presented each of the players, all Winnipeg boys of Icelandic parentage, with a watch chain suitably inscribed in appreciation of the honour they brought to our people and to our City."*

It was during these war years that an Act of Parliament in Canada incorporated the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire.

## LONG TIME MEMBER

### —*Johanna Gudrun Skaptason*

In the Winter 1960 edition, the Icelandic Canadian journal honoured Johanna Gudrun Skaptason, following her death, with an article by W. Kristjanson. He writes, “Johanna Gudrun Skaptason is remembered for her personal qualities of graciousness, warmth and dignity and for her steadfast devotion in a life time of community service. If any phase of her work is to be mentioned specially, it is her patriotic services in the two world wars and her work with the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, of which organization she was the chief founder and regent for seventeen years.” Gudrun was married to Joseph B. Skaptason, prominent in the Icelandic community. She promoted the formation of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter I.O.D.E. in 1916 and the organizational meeting was held in her home on Maryland St. The Icelandic Soldiers Memorial Book (Minningarrit) was published by Jon Sigurdsson Chapter after the war of 1914–18 of which Gudrun played a prominent role. As well as having been an active member of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter I.O.D.E., Mrs. Skaptason took leadership roles in the Provincial Chapter, the Unitarian Ladies’ Aid committee and the Western Alliance of Unitarian Women and was an honorary life member of the I.O.G.T. lodge “Hekla”. She was also honoured by the Icelandic community when she was chosen Fjallkona in 1943. The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter has established a scholarship in Johanna Gudrun Skaptason's honour which continues to be awarded annually. Her daughter, Johanna Wilson has continued her legacy.

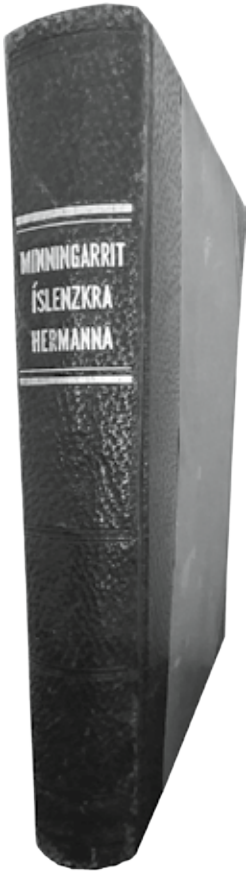


Johanna Gudrun Skaptason and her daughter, Johanna Gudrun (Wilson) c. 1922.

## CHAPTER THREE

### – *The Interwar Years: 1920 to 1936*

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter shifts its focus



This book contains short biographies and photos of over 1300 World War I service men and women of Icelandic descent. It was published by the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of IODE.

**D**uring the war years, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter members had galvanized as an organization and once the war had ended their focus began to shift. There was still work to be done helping the veterans. To honour those service personnel of Icelandic heritage who had fought in the war, the Chapter members decided to produce a memorial book.

*"Our great work during the years immediately following the war was the 1923 publication of the Soldiers' Memorial Book, Minningarrit Íslenzkra Hermanna 1914–1918. At the close of the war we set aside \$500.00 for a memorial to the Icelandic soldiers. It was decided to publish a book containing a short biography and portrait of every soldier of Icelandic origin."*

This was a stupendous undertaking and great credit is due to those who brought this to successful completion including Mrs. Gudrun Buasson, Dr. Rognvaldur Peturson, Mr. Baldwin L. Baldwinson, Mrs. F. Johnson, Mrs. G. Jonsson, Mrs. J.B. Skaptason and Mrs. P.S. Palsson.

When it was completed, the book contained portraits of thirteen hundred soldiers and sailors who served in the Canadian and American forces, and sixteen nurses of Icelandic parentage.

The Chapter presented copies of this book to all the leading Universities of Canada, England and the United States. A copy was sent to the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Tweedsmuir, for which he sent the following acknowledgement:

"Dear Mrs. Skaptason,

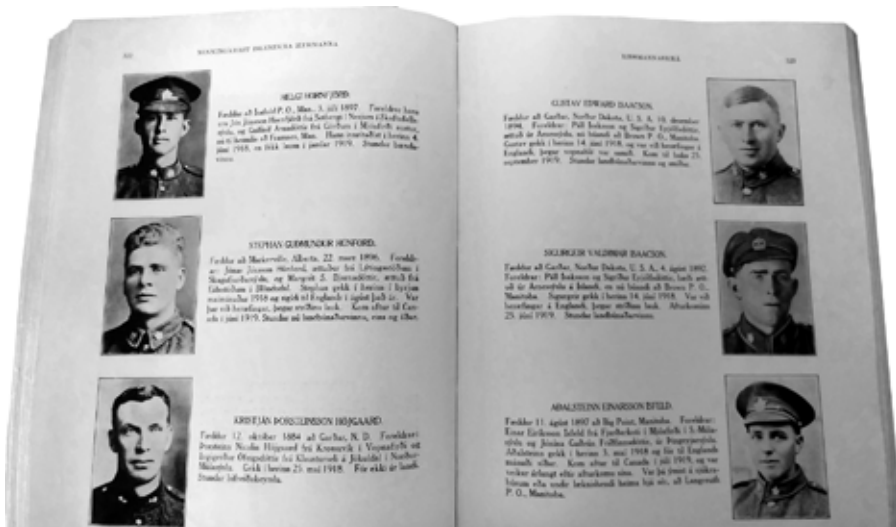
*Thank you very much for the gift of the Icelandic Soldiers Memorial Book which I am very glad to have. I have always had the deepest interest in our Icelandic Canadians! I only wish that we had more of them.*

Yours sincerely, "TWEEDSMUIR"

During the first part of the 1920's Soffia Brynjolfsson and Bertha Thorpe both served as Regents. The Regents were responsible for organizing the meetings, setting the agendas and ensuring that all manner of IODE business was carried out. They also provided the link between the Manitoba and National Chapters.

In the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of IODE it was recorded that,

*"During the late Twenties and the early Thirties, a number of chapters of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire turned in their charter, for now that the war was over they felt their duty done, their purpose served. Not so with the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter. There was still work to be done. Our soldiers in hospitals, forgotten by many made it all the more essential that the hospital visiting and providing of little extras, which mean so much to people shut in by illness, be continued. The chapter assisted a number of families over periods of sickness and unemployment."*



Shortly after the Chapter was formed, it began supplying reading matter to men in lumber camps and others living in districts remote from libraries and newsstands. This work continued during the late 20's and 30's. Books and clothing were sent to outlying school districts and Christmas cheer to Icelandic patients in the sanitoriums at Ninette and St. Boniface and to those in the "Old Folks Home" Betel, at Gimli, Manitoba.

## Jon Sigurdson Chapter Plans Soldier Party

Jon Sigurdson Chapter I.O.D.E., met Tuesday evening, at the home of Mrs. B. Thorpe, suite 2, Boniveen apartments. A moment's silence was observed in honor of the memory of a former member, Mrs. Ben Johannesson, Selkirk, Man., whose death occurred Oct. 11, and of the poet, K. N. Julius, who died Oct. 25 at Mountain, N.D.

The regent reminded the members of the evening's entertainment planned for the overseas teachers by the Municipal chapter, for Nov. 27. Plans were completed for the entertainment for returned Icelandic soldiers in the Army and Navy hall, Portage and Young street, Wednesday evening, Nov. 18. All returned soldiers (Icelandic) of Winnipeg and adjacent points are requested to get in touch with the regent, Mrs. J. B. Skaptason, 378 Maryland street.

A box is being prepared to be sent to the Middleborough school. On behalf of the members the regent presented Mrs. E. Hanson, the standard bearer, with a gift upon the occasion of her 81st birthday.

Mrs. A. S. Bardal read a paper entitled "The Women of Iceland" and Mrs. G. F. Jonasson read a paper on Lady Dufferin and her visit to Manitoba.

These were the years of the Great Depression. Few countries were affected as severely as Canada, particularly in the prairies which were crippled by drought. Throughout the depression, IODE chapters opened relief centres and worked with public welfare departments to provide food, clothing and medical care. The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter was no different and contributed to the work of the Provincial organization and co-operated with such charitable organizations as the Personal Service Bureau, the Good Neighbours Club and the Institute for the Blind, in their work for those less fortunate in the community.

On July 14, 1932 the International Peace Garden, located at the international boundary between Manitoba and North Dakota, was established as a symbol of the peaceful relationship between the United States and Canada. Chapters of IODE across Canada, including Jon Sigurdsson, donated money to the development of these gardens.

### JÓN SIGURDSON CHAPTER I. O. D. E.

*Invite you and Lady to attend a Re-union of Icelandic Ex-service men, to be held at the Army and Navy Veteran Hall, 299 Young St., cor. Portage Ave., on Wednesday evening, November 18th, at 8 o'clock.*

*Regent, MRS. J. B. SKAPTASON,  
378 Maryland St., Winnipeg, Man.*

*R.S.V.P.*

*Phone 73 298*

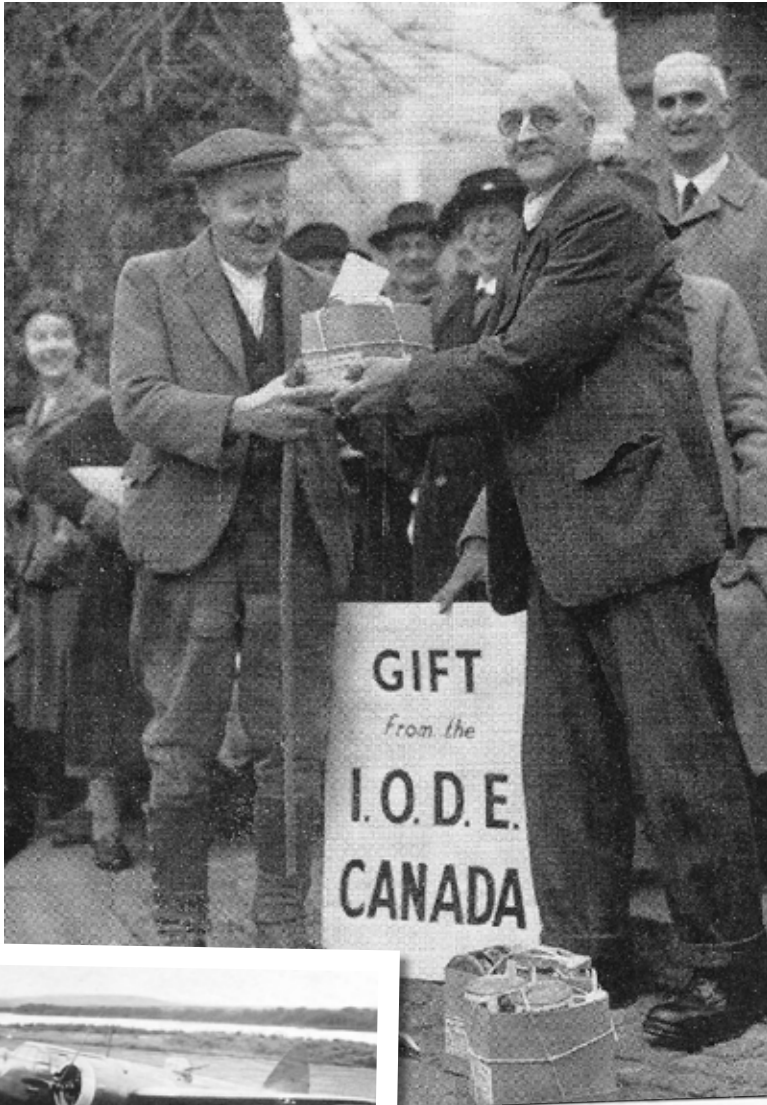
The above article was published in 1936 but the source is unknown.



Gudrun Borgfjord, who was a founding member of the Jon Sigurdsson IODE, served as Regent during the Depression Years. In 1933 she was honoured with a Life Membership pin for years as a devoted worker to IODE.

To raise funds to donate to the Peace Gardens and other charitable organizations, annual dances and bridge were held by the Chapter. The Eaton's Assembly Hall also became a venue for the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter's Annual Tea and Bake Sale. Smaller tea and bridge parties helped in the fundraising efforts and provided an opportunity for members and friends to socialize. At one such party held in 1933 at her home on 832 Broadway Avenue, Gudrun Borgfjord was honoured by being presented with a Life Membership pin for her years as a devoted worker to I.O.D.E.

During these difficult depression years 1927 to 1933, Gudrun Borgfjord, a mother of eight and two foster children held the position of Regent. She was followed by Johanna Gudrun Skaptason, who had been the founding Regent in 1916. Mrs. Skaptason reassumed this office in 1933 and remained regent until 1946.



Picture of the Bolingbroke Bomber that was gifted by I.O.D.E. to the Canadian Government in 1940.

Under the Auspices of the  
JON SIGURDSON CHAPTER I.O.D.E. AND THE  
ICELANDIC CANADIAN CLUB

---

*Welcome Home Reception*  
at the  
ROYAL ALEXANDRA HOTEL

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18th 1946**  
Banquet at 7 p.m.      Dance at 9 p.m.

---



## CHAPTER FOUR

### – *Leading to and During the War: 1937 to 1946*

**I**n the years leading up to World War II and through the war, Johanna Gudrun Skaptason was a driving force in the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter I.O.D.E. After her marriage to Joseph B. Skaptason, a service man, Gudrun had organized the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter and during World War I, the couple had entertained Icelandic Canadian soldiers while he was stationed in Britain.

In 1936, to honour the World War I Veterans the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter sponsored a dance and bridge event for these ex-servicemen and women of Icelandic descent at the Army and Navy Veteran Hall on Young Street near Portage Avenue.

That same year, 1936, Flora Benson had suggested that the chapter encourage the members to give presentations as a part of their Empire Studies,

*“When, in an unguarded moment, while in conversation with my friend Mrs. Summers, I made the suggestion that our chapter devote some time of each meeting to public speaking, I did not know that I should be the first one on whom this experiment would be made. However, I do feel that this will be of benefit to us all, and especially to the one who prepares a paper for presentation”.*

And so began a long tradition of presentations at the meetings, with subjects ranging from social problems in the immediate community to heroic sagas of the middle ages to current events and Empire Studies. Prominent women were also invited to speak at the meetings. Discussions followed. These Empire Studies were in keeping with the goals and aims of the National I.O.D.E. The women not only educated themselves but also learned to speak publicly.

The next year, 1937, the Chapter began awarding its first scholarship, a music scholarship of \$50 at the University of Manitoba, to be known as the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE Musical Scholarship. It was to be given to an outstanding student of Icelandic parentage, in the study of piano or violin each year. The first three winners of the scholarship, Agnes Sigurdson, Halldora Sigurdson and Thora



Asgeirson, performed at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter in 1941.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary evening was held in the Icelandic Federated Church (Unitarian) on Banning Street. So many guests attended the birthday party that even standing room was at a premium. Mrs. J.B. Skaptason, Regent, presided.

The Provincial Regent, Mrs. A.J. Hughes spoke, *"You have much to be proud of on the accomplishment of your members."*

Greetings also came from the National Chapter and the Icelandic League of America.

As well as having local talent at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter felt very fortunate to have Maria Markan, a soprano from Iceland to perform that evening. Maria served as an honorary member of the Chapter. She also became a member of the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York City.

In 1940, as a special project during World War II, the National Chapter I.O.D.E collected \$100,000 in one month with funds raised by provincial and primary chapters towards a Bolingbroke Bomber that was being purchased by the Canadian Government. The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter made the largest donation for this project within



## JON SIGURDSSON CHAPTER, 1941

### *Top row, left to right:*

Mrs. F.D. Wright, Mrs. H.G. Nicholson, Mrs. B.S. Benson,  
Mrs. P. S. Palson, Mrs. E.A. Isfeld, Mrs. G. F. Jonasson,  
Miss V. Jonasson, Mrs. P.J. Sivertson.

### *Second row, l-r:*

Mrs. O. Cain, Mrs. G.A. Paulson, Mrs. J. S. Gillies, Mrs. J.  
B. Skaptason, Mrs. H. F. Danielson, Mrs. T. E. Thorsteinson,  
Mrs. L. E. Summers, Mrs. O. Stephensen.

### *Front row, l-r:*

Mrs. J. H. W. Price, Mrs. K.J Austman, Mrs. E. Hanson,  
Mrs. F. Johnson, Mrs. B.J. Brandson, Mrs. R. Peturson,  
Mrs. Gisli Jonsson, Mrs. J. Kristjanson.

### *Other members not in the picture:*

Mrs. B. Thorpe, Mrs. B.B. Jonsson, Mrs. H.G. Henrickson,  
Mrs. Th. Borgford, Mrs. E. Arnason, Mrs. A. G. Eggertson,  
Miss Freda Johnson, Mrs. L.A. Sigurdson, Mrs. G. L.  
Johannson, Mrs. B. H. Olson, Mrs. A. Wathne, Mrs. Linekar.

Manitoba. This special initiative was a supplement to the work the women did supporting the soldiers and their families with goods and services. (As a matter of interest, the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum has been restoring a “Boly” which will bear the IODE crest on its nosecone.)

During the German occupation of Denmark in World War II, Iceland gained its independence from Denmark. Following a referendum on May 24, 1944 Iceland formally became an independent republic on June 17, 1944. To celebrate Iceland's Independence Day, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of I.O.D.E. worked along with the Icelandic Canadian Club to put on a concert.

Upon the soldiers' return from war, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter and the Icelandic Canadian Club held a welcome home banquet and dance for the soldiers and their partners at the Royal Alexandra Hotel on February 18, 1946.

Shortly after this grand event, the J.S. Chapter celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 28, 1946, at which time Johanna Gudrun Skaptason retired as regent after serving many years. For her outstanding contribution, she was honoured with a life membership in the Provincial Chapter.



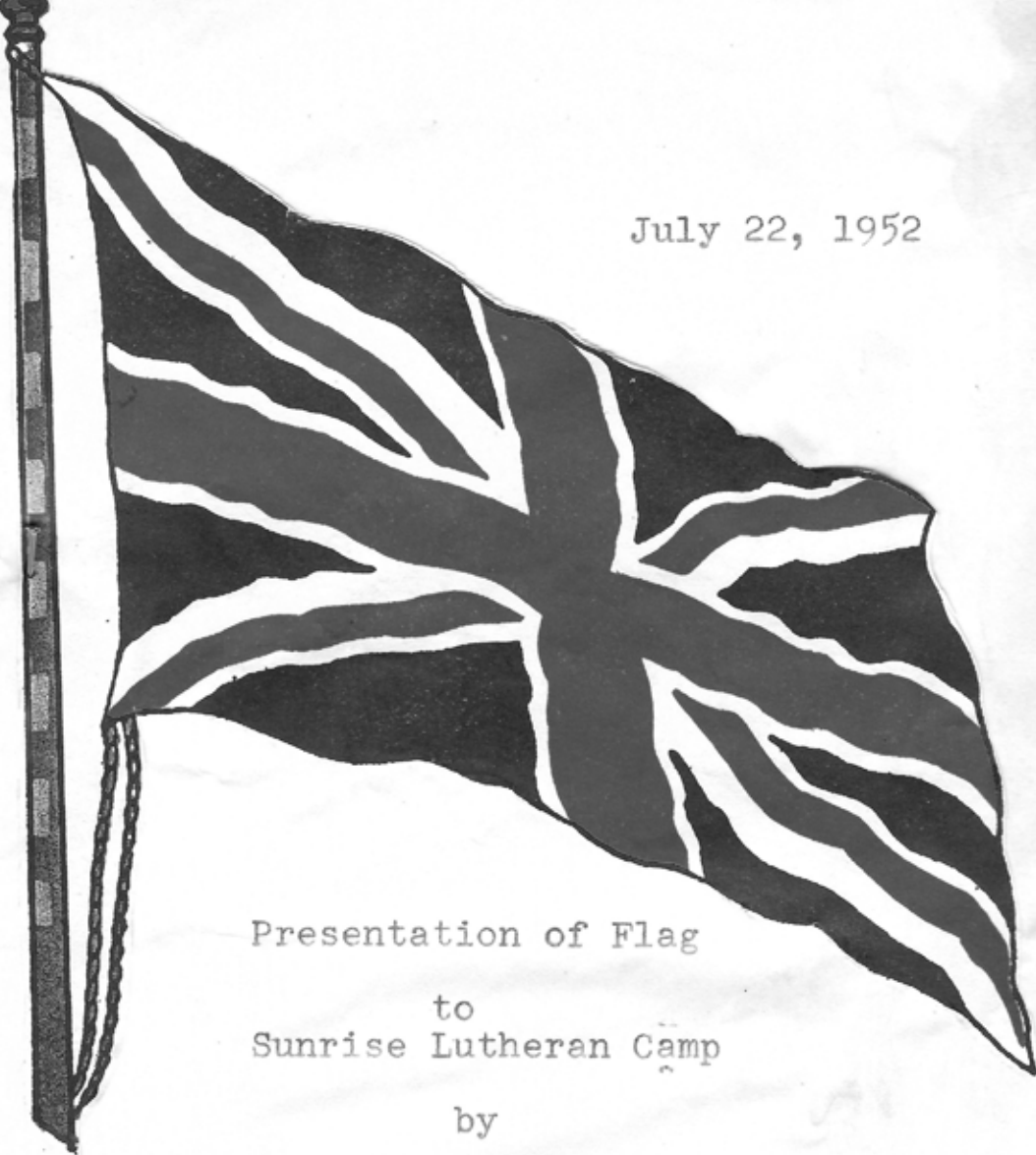
Johanna Gudrun Wilson serving her famous Vinarterta at her home in Winnipeg 2016.

## LONG TIME MEMBER

—*Johanna Gudrun Wilson*

At 98 years of age, "Jo" is the longest standing member of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of IODE with 75 active years of service. Throughout her tenure Jo has been not only a mentor to the generations following her, but also a leader both within and outside the organization. As a member of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, she twice took on the role as Regent, helped spearhead the publication of the Veteran's of Icelandic Descent World War II book, and continues to faithfully recruit members. Jo is renowned for her vinarterta and Icelandic brown bread, as well as her Icelandic dolls, which have well supported the fundraising efforts for the Jon Sigurdsson Scholarship program. As a home economist, she was Department Head at Vincent Massey High School and wrote the History of Home Economics Education in Manitoba which was published as the Canadian Centennial project of the Manitoba Home Economics Association. Jo has been honoured by several organizations with Lifetime Awards, including the Betel Home foundation, University Women's Club, Manitoba Home Economics Teachers' Association and the Fort Garry Teachers' Association. In 1991, the Icelandic Festival selected Jo as Fjallkona for her outstanding work in the community. She is the daughter of Johanna Gudrun Skaptason, the founding Regent of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of IODE.

July 22, 1952



Presentation of Flag  
to  
Sunrise Lutheran Camp  
by

THE IMPERIAL ORDER



DAUGHTERS OF THE EMPIRE

## CHAPTER FIVE

### – *A Period of Refocusing Following World War II: 1947 to 1956*

**F**ollowing the war, membership in the J.S. Chapter of the I.O.D.E. declined. This decline in membership was a trend across the country. However, the small group of Icelandic women who remained in I.O.D.E. found new purpose for their efforts. Flora Benson had taken over the regency in 1946 after the retirement of founding regent, Johanna Gudrun Skaptason, and remained at the helm until 1955. Besides doing her volunteer work with the I.O.D.E., Flora also worked for the Winnipeg Free Press at that time.

*“I would like to draw to your attention the fact that the active members of our chapter are relatively very few, and that most of them are actively engaged in the cultural and welfare work of our community and our country, apart from their participation in the I.O.D.E.,”* lamented Flora Benson, Jon Sigurdsson Chapter I.O.D.E. Regent in its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report in 1948.

And, history continues to repeat itself, as the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter has waxed and waned in its membership over the past century. Yet, as Flora states later in the report,

*“through the concerted efforts of this small band of women, who have always worked together in the closest harmony and good fellowship,” they had managed to meet all their obligations to the national organization as well as “spread a little comfort and cheer in its immediate sphere.....The members try persistently to raise the standard of our Canadian way of life and to be of real service to the community. During the year, nine meetings have been held, four of them in the Free Press Board Room and four at the homes of members. The April meeting took the form of a dinner party at The Homestead to mark the Chapter’s anniversary, and in particular to honour one of our most loyal members, namely Mrs. J.S. Gillies, who had retired as treasurer after 16 years of service in that office. Thirty-two members and friends were present to pay tribute to Mrs. Gillies’ fine achievements in behalf of the Order, and she was presented with a corsage of roses and a string of pearls.”*

Following a visit from a provincial I.O.D.E. executive member, Flora worried that all the successes of the chapter would be measured only by the amount of money it raised.

*"But we must all be on guard, even against our own tendency to become encumbered with material thinking. And may heaven forbid that we as an Order will ever come to the low estate of measuring all our achievements in terms of cash! My sincerest wish for our chapter and for the I.O.D.E. is that, in harmony and humble service, we may work toward the realization of our aims for a great Canadian Nation. And a nation may only become great if it is physically strong, culturally rich and spiritually free!"* (1949 Annual Report, Jon Sigurdsson Chapter I.O.D.E.)

Flora believed that the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter would thrive, not because of the amount of money it raised, but because of the intangible ways the members contributed to society. This included their visits and support to families, the voluntarism, the learning and supporting of Canada and the maintaining of their Icelandic connections. Thus, during this decade from 1947 to 1956, the women of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter continued to make an impact through post-war service, educational work, welfare and their Empire Studies.

The women knitted, collected books, visited, raised funds and donated other items to support families in the uncharted territories, people in sanitariums, veterans of the wars and immigrants. They adopted Big Island School on Hecla Island and supported the library there. Their community support extended to the 1950 Winnipeg Flood, when 20 members worked continuously, day and night, during a three-week period at the Winnipeg Auditorium.

To educate themselves about the British Empire, Canada and the World, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter members continued their "Empire Studies" by researching and presenting to each other. An interesting selection of topics was shared at each meeting. Some of these were Canadian authors; the Visit of Lord Tweedsmuir; Atomic Energy; the Canada Council Incorporation Act; the Visit of Hon. L.B. Pearson to Iceland; and the stories of Rudyard Kipling.

During these years the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter also turned its focus to supporting the Arts and Literature. As Flora reminded the members, I.O.D.E. believed that promoting the arts and literature was very important in creating a great nation. To this end, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of I.O.D.E. was involved in supporting, organizing, and promoting cultural activities both in the Icelandic community and





Jon Sigurdsson IODE members at the Flag Raising Ceremony at Sunrise Lutheran Camp in 1952.

## Sigurdson Chapter Helps With Endowing Chair in Icelandic Language and Literature

**C**HIEF project undertaken last year by the Jon Sigurdson Chapter I.O.D.E. was the raising of \$1,000 in support of the endowment fund for the chair in Icelandic language and literature at the University of Manitoba. This was reported by Mrs. H. F. Danielson, at the annual meeting Tuesday evening, at the home of Mrs. L. E. Summers.

Mrs. S. J. Sametz, president of the provincial chapter, was a guest at the meeting and presided during elections. Mrs. B. S. Benson was re-elected regent.

The financial statement, given by Mrs. H. G. Henrickson, showed a balance of \$111.45. Disbursements were \$669.94, of which \$206 was expended on educational work.

Reports were given by Mrs. O. Stephenson, empire study; Mrs. J. B. Skaptason, education; Mrs. J. S. Gillies, post-war work; Mrs. P. J. Silvertson, unorganized territory; Mrs. S. Gillis, standard bearer; Mrs. H. G. Nicholson, ex-service personnel. Members paid tribute to the work of Mrs. Nicholson and her assistants. Mrs. Nicholson has been the chapter's hospital visitor to the St. Vital Sanatorium since its opening more than 20 years ago.

The chapter contributed to the I.O.D.E. scholarship fund, the International Peace Gardens, assisted at the I.O.D.E. tag day, tea for the blind, and sold Winnipeg's 75th anniversary buttons at the railroad stations and other public places to the amount of \$206.

A total of 52 articles, including

two large afghans, were knitted and sewn for post-war work, and unorganized territories. Twenty nursery bags were filled for the Queen Elizabeth hospital, London. Sixteen persons, besides ex-service men's families, received cheer at Christmas and Easter. Sick members and others were visited at all the hospitals.

Officers and conveners for 1950 are: Mrs. B. J. Brandon and Mrs. J. B. Skaptason, honorary regents; Mrs. P. Petursson, Mrs. B. B. Jonsson, Mrs. V. J. Eylands, Mrs. P. M. Petursson, Mrs. F. Stephenson, honorary vice-regents; Mrs. E. A. Isfeld, Mrs. H. A. Bergaman, vice regents; Mrs. H. F. Danielson, secretary; Mrs. H. G. Henrickson, treasurer; Mrs. R. M. Vernon, educational secretary; Mrs. W. S. Jonasson, standard bearer; Mrs. V. Baldwinson, welfare; Mrs. O. Stephenson, Empire study; Mrs. K. G. Finnson, membership; Mrs. T. E. Thorsteinson, Echoes; Mrs. H. G. Nicholson, ex-service personnel; Mrs. T. Hannesson, post-war; Mrs. P. J. Silvertson, unorganized territory.



MRS. B. S. Benson was re-elected regent of Jon Sigurdson Chapter, I.O.D.E. at the annual meeting Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. L. E. Summers.

This article appeared in the Heimskringla February 10, 1950.

# "IN THE WAKE OF THE STORM"

By LAUGA GEIR, Edinburg, North Dakota, U.S.A.



Lauga Geir  
Author

**A Three Act Play,  
Based on Icelandic  
Pioneer Life in  
North America.**

Presented by

The Jon Sigurdson Chapter,  
I. O. D. E.



Holmfridur Danielson  
Director

Lauga Geir's play was published in 1957 by Comet Press Books in New York.

the larger community. They gave financial support to the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. The chapter members held concerts, which supported the Icelandic community but also raised funds for their I.O.D.E. work.

In 1950, the Chapter's chief project was the raising of \$1,000 in support of the endowment fund for the Chair in Icelandic Language and Literature at the University of Manitoba. The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter members organized a jewelry show called the "Symbol of Iceland" to raise the funds. Later this exhibit was shown at the Playhouse Theatre as part of a three day Folk Festival. Through its donation, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of I.O.D.E., became one of the five Icelandic organizations that were founding members of the Icelandic Chair.

A quote, in a 1951 newspaper (name unknown) from Kemp Malone, of the John Hopkins University in Baltimore, illustrated the significance of the Icelandic Chair as a step forward:

*"As a professor of English, I can bear witness to the importance of Icelandic studies for workers in the English field. The literature of Old and Middle English cannot be studied with full success without some*



*acquaintance with Icelandic literature; and knowledge of the Icelandic language is indispensable to every successful student in the history of the English language."*

The Jon Sigurdsson members also supported many musical careers through their Musical Scholarships. Over the years, the scholarship program began to expand to include academic scholarships as well. As of 2018 the Chapter has awarded well over 500 scholarships to young adults. (A list of scholarship winners can be found at the back of the book).

In 1953, to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, the National I.O.D.E. asked each Chapter to undertake a project. The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter decided to spon-

sor a playwriting contest with a \$50 prize. The play was to portray the life of the early Icelandic settlers in North America. The criteria for the play stipulated that it must have three acts, run no longer than two hours and be written in English.

Lauga Geir, the daughter of Icelandic pioneers, from Edinburg, North Dakota, wrote the winning submission entitled, "In the Wake of the Storm" set in 1886, in Mountain, North Dakota. Rehearsals for the play were held in the basements of the First Lutheran Church or First Federated (Unitarian) Church. It was then staged in Winnipeg, Lundar, Gimli, and Arborg in Manitoba, and in Gardar, Mountain and Edinburg in North Dakota.

"In the Wake of the Storm" told the story of Icelandic settlers who were well on their way to becoming established in their new land. The play referenced many things that the Icelandic settlers held dear from their home land: the sharing of hard work; the supporting of families and the extending of hospitality combined with the brewing of many pots of coffee. It also referenced that the Icelanders appreciated their new land, North America, for its lack of class distinction.

Not only was it well reviewed by the Winnipeg theatre critics, "In the Wake of the Storm" also was a financial success. The production netted the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter four hundred and fifty four dollars.

## CHAPTER SIX

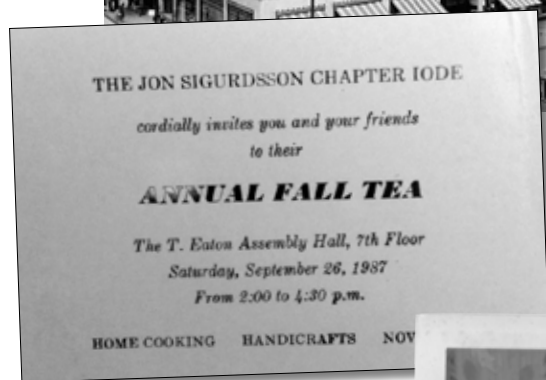
### – *Further Evolution: 1957 to 1963*

**T**he focus of the I.O.D.E. continued to change at the end of the Second World War. The 1950's saw the implementation of Citizenship Courts which became one of the priorities of the National I.O.D.E.'s efforts. The I.O.D.E. believed that a good education and the understanding of the English language were keys to becoming a good Canadian citizen.

Welcome receptions were held to make the immigrants and refugees feel at home, and presentations of flags and materials about Canada were shared. In 1957, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter provided comfort bags to the Hungarian refugees. The members visited nursing homes, shut-ins, the Shriners' Hospital, and helped with the opening of the new Children's Hospital in Winnipeg. They continued to support Big Island School on Hecla Island with books and educational materials and began sending aid to the North. The Jon Sigurdsson members also established a memorial fund to honour the veterans and fallen of the two World Wars. Bjorg Isfeld served as Regent from 1956 to 1960.

During this decade a variety of charities in the City of Winnipeg were given the opportunity to raise funds on one particular day, usually in June. Specific street corners in the downtown area were designated to each charitable organization. Members would stand at the corner with small paper tags identifying their charity and money boxes. "Tag Days", as they were called, became a way for the I.O.D.E. to raise funds and awareness.

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter member, DeeDee Westdal recalls arriving early in the morning as people made their way to work. Often, men would remark as they put their donation in the box and received a tag to denote they had made a contribution, "*I remember the I.O.D.E. Their mitts and scarves always kept me warm*" (in reference to the care packages that these men had received from I.O.D.E. while away at war). The funds raised on "Tag Day" helped support the municipal and provincial chapters.



The assembly hall of the T. Eaton Co. was used regularly by Jon Sigurdsson I.O.D.E. It is here that the members held their teas and bake sales for many years. In 2003 the store was demolished.

Three generations of Jon Sigurdsson members: Snjolaug Gillis, her granddaughter Laureen Westdal (Goodridge) and her daughter DeeDee Westdal at the Fall Tea at the T. Eaton Company in 1967 celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada and Jon Sigurdsson's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday.



In the 1958 annual report to the National Chapter, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter stated that:

- ❖ The Chapter had provided the furniture for one unit at the Betel Old Folks home in Gimli.
- ❖ The members had sent a letter to register their dismay at the deplorable state of the Old Fort Garry Gate. (It is interesting to note that almost 60 years later, the Old (Upper) Fort Garry Gate has finally been restored and highlighted in a surrounding park.)
- ❖ Immigration and Canadianization had been a topic of discussion in Empire and World studies.
- ❖ The members hosted 80 new citizens at Citizenship Court

❖ They had raised \$169.68 at their Birthday Party Tea with

Mrs. Benson as convenor.

❖ Mrs. J.B. Skaptason's 80th Birthday was celebrated at Jon Sigurdsson Chapter's 42nd Anniversary meeting.

❖ Number of members was 33.

### *Sharon Ann Moyer First Recipient IODE Scholarship*

Miss Sharon Ann Moyer, Dorchester Ave., was presented with the Johanna Gudrun Skaptason IODE Memorial Scholarship of \$100 at the recent meeting of Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, IODE held at the home of Mrs. C. V. Hart, Elm St.

The scholarship was established last year to honor the memory of the chapter's founder, Mrs. J. B. Skaptason who passed away last October. A fund of some \$3,000 was raised, the interest of which will be used to award each year a scholarship of \$100 to the student obtaining the highest marks in two papers in English: poetry and drama; and prose and composition, in the Grade 11 departmental examination.

Miss Moyer is the first recipient of the award. A student last year at Kelvin High School she obtained marks of 85 and 95 on the two papers. She has enrolled in the faculty of Arts at St. John's College.

Special guests at the meeting were Mrs. T. E. Beighton, regent municipal chapter and Miss Margaret J. Thompson, Sharon's English teacher at

In 1961, Johanna Skaptason Wilson (Jo Wilson) was elected Regent, following in the footsteps of her mother, founding regent, Johanna Gudrun Skaptason. She held this position for two years and again, later, for 4 years from 1979 to 1982. Jo is the longest standing member of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter I.O.D.E. having been a member for 75 years at the time of this book's publication.

According to the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter I.O.D.E. minutes in 1960, "Mrs. Jo Wilson convened the Bridge and Whist luncheon and fundraiser with 12 tables." Fifty six years later, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter continues to host two Bridge and Whist events, one in the Fall and one in the Spring to raise funds for scholarships. Jo Wilson, at the age of 98, continues to be a prominent figure in



Jon Sigurdson chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire held its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner Tuesday at the International Inn. Among those ready to help cut the anniversary cake were (from left) Mrs. B.S. Benson, a former regent; Mrs. O. Stephensen, charter member, Mrs. Paul Goodman, regent; Mrs. H.B. Skaptason, charter member, and two visiting officers of the order, Mrs. G.W. Grant, municipal regent; and Mrs. E.A. MacDonald of Brandon, provincial president.

*From Winnipeg Free Press.*

organizing bridge groups to attend and continues to bake a plethora of Icelandic brown bread and vinarterta for the bake table. Her son, Frank acts as Card Director for the event.

At this time and in ensuing years I.O.D.E. Calendars were distributed to schools to educate children about Canada. The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter also supported the Good Neighbours Club, a social welfare agency catering to the 60- 80 year old generation.

In 1962, following the death of her mother, (Johanna Gudrun Skaptason), Jo established a Memorial Scholarship in her honour and \$2870.00 was raised. At that time, Mrs. Wilson approached the Winnipeg Foundation to handle the fund. The Jon Sigurdsson Scholarship fund continues to reside with the Winnipeg Foundation and has grown to over \$100,000, supporting up to 15 scholarships per year, including the Johanna Gudrun Skaptason Scholarship. This same year the chapter began to raise funds for the International Peace Gardens as part of the National I.O.D.E.'s upcoming centennial project for 1967.

14/4/87.

Wardrobe + Doll Raffles + 2nd prizes.

1980 — \$606.00  
1982 — 420.00  
1984 — 363.00  
1985 — 377.00  
1987 — 346.00  
\$2,112.00



For the raffle held on

at the Annual Bridge & Whist in the lower hall of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Victor St., the doll with wardrobe was won by Mrs. Thora Low, Ste 18-37 Balmoral St., and the second prize, a clown doll, by Adam Levene, 1432 Mathers Bay E., both of Winnipeg.

A thermos jug was also raffled that afternoon, won by Mrs. Elva Fletcher, realizing \$16.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Thorbjörg Davidson.

A 1987 accounting of the monies raised through the sales and raffle of Icelandic dolls created by Jo Wilson.



## CHAPTER SEVEN

### – *Modernization: 1964 to 1996*

**W**ith the decline of the British Empire after World War II, with an influx of immigration, and with Canada desiring to have its own flag, I.O.D.E. began to modernize.

This modernization began when Holmfridur Danielsson was regent, in 1963 and 1964, and when Canada was having the “*Great Flag Debate*”.

Up until now, Canadians were using the Red Ensign as their official flag. However, the majority of the population wanted a Canadian flag of their own. Lester B. Pearson, the Prime Minister of the time, wanted to excise the Union Jack from the redesign of the new flag, while the Royal Canadian Legion and the Imperial Daughters of the Empire wanted to retain the Red Ensign to show their connection to the United Kingdom. Both these organizations lobbied against creating a new flag with the maple leaf as the defining symbol.

Despite strong lobbying, the concept of a new Canadian flag passed through Parliament. The Canadian Maple Leaf flag was inaugurated by proclamation on February 15, 1965 with the approval of Queen Elizabeth II. At this time, Lina Goodman was serving as the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter Regent.

#### *1964 to 1976*

Although the I.O.D.E. had fought against changing the flag, the members rallied behind the new flag. The focus was now on supporting Canada as an independent country.

Following the flag debate, the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire was seen negatively by the public, both because of the order's name and because it was thought to be “too aggressively over-Anglicized”, denying Canada's nationhood. Thus the I.O.D.E. experienced a further decline in membership. The remaining members continued to focus on their service work. As one author stated, “Aside from its members, only a small section of the Canadian public knows that the I.O.D.E. is infinitely more than a purely patriotic organization, which in 1959 had raised over \$1 million for education, public service and philanthropies.” (Canada and the End of Empire, edited by Phillip Buckner)

During this period, the I.O.D.E. was experiencing its own internal

debate. Should it change its name to reflect the times? Or, should it retain the initials I.O.D.E. but give each letter a different representation (for example, the “E” might stand for “education”)? The organization came to an agreement in 1972 to officially be called **IODE Canada**, with each letter having no specific reference. Thus, IODE no longer had periods, which often became a little joke among the women. For modern members it was a transition from an empire to a nation in the Commonwealth.

In 1967 Canada celebrated its 100th anniversary of Confederation and IODE celebrated its 50th birthday. To celebrate these events, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter held a fall tea at the T. Eaton Company in the Assembly Hall on the 7th floor. A long list of personal printed invitations was sent out to many in the community. Eaton's supplied the dishes and coffee pots. The IODE women baked the vinarterta, kleinur and rosettes. They brought their silver tea services and second hand jewelry items for the “White Elephant” sale table. All supplies were transported through the basement of Eaton's, onto the service elevator to reach the 7th floor. Special guests from the community, both male and female, were asked to pour tea. Although this was typical of all the fall teas the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter held at Eaton's, this one was special. The young girls from the Icelandic Dance group (many daughters of I.O.D.E. women) were enlisted to serve the guests. As DeeDee Westdal recalled, these events always attracted wonderful turnouts.

With Margaret Perry the regent of Jon Sigurdsson Chapter from 1968 to 1975, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter continued to fulfill its role to services, education and citizenship. They also continued to maintain their Icelandic connection.

### *1976 to 1986*

During the next ten years the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter made a shift in its fundraising priorities. The major fundraisers would now support its scholarship program to help young people with their education.

In 1976, Dee Dee Westdal became regent of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter and served for the next three years. She had first joined the I.O.D.E. in 1953 as a founding member of the Duchess of Norfolk Chapter of the I.O.D.E. in Brandon. When she moved to Winnipeg in 1958 although there were many chapters she could have joined, she chose to join the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, of which her mother, Snjolaug Gillis had been a long time member and Standard Bearer for the organization. There is currently a scholarship in Snjolaug Gillis' name.



In 1983 the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of IODE began celebrating Iceland Independence Day which is also Jon Sigurdsson's birthday. Elma Gislason, the Regent at that time, was the initiator of this event.



Dee Dee is the second longest standing member of Jon Sigurdsson Chapter having served 63 years as an IODE member of which 58 have been with Jon Sigurdsson Chapter.

In 1976 the Chapter held its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the University Women's Club on West Gate in Winnipeg where many IODE members were also members.

Jo Wilson resumed the regency for a second term from 1979 until 1982. The teas, bridge and whist, raffles, baking, sewing and knitting continued to be used to raise funds for the Chapter. The money was used to expand the Scholarship Program from its initial Music Scholarship, the Johanna Gudrun Skaptason Memorial Scholarship, and the Elinborg Hanson Memorial Scholarship to include 8 more scholarships. Some of these scholarships were awarded for one year only, others have endured over the years.

During this decade, on April 17, 1982, Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau signed *Canada's Proclamation of the Constitution Act*. Canada had now formally assumed authority over its constitution, the final step to full sovereignty. However, Queen



## MEMBERSHIP MEETING 1992

*Back row, left to right:* Dora Sigurdson, Norma McEwen, Shirley McCreedy, Bea Sharpe, Deanna Isliefson, Mildred Bjarnason, Elva Fletcher, Jo Wilson, DeeDee Westdal, May Medd, Gloria Meadows, Hildur Guttormson, Liney Swainson, Rose Clyde.

*Front row, l-r:-:* Tobba Davidson, Margret Bjorgvins, Thora Arnason, ———, Norma Russell, Bjorg Isfeld, Kristin Stephensen, Dora Banks, Carol Potter, Valdine Johnson.

Elizabeth II remained as the constitutional monarch of Canada and the Patron of IODE Canada. Thus the National Chapter continues to encourage chapters to participate in the observation of special royal occasions.

In 1983, the Jon Sigurdsson IODE instituted a yearly celebration of Iceland Independence Day

on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Elma Gislason, its Regent,” who had great enthusiasm for all things Icelandic, initiated this celebration at the Jon Sigurdsson statue on the Manitoba Legislative grounds.” (Jon Sigurdsson Chapter annual report 1983) At the time, there was some controversy among the members whether the Chapter should be sponsoring Iceland Independence. Elma prevailed and June 17 celebrations have continued until this day. In 2018 the event is co-sponsored by the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, the Icelandic Canadian Fron, the Consulate of Iceland in Winnipeg and Neil Bardal, Inc. A wreath is laid at the statue by Islendingadagurinn's Fjallkona. A gala concert follows the ceremony. Speakers, entertainers, visitors, politicians and dignitaries from both Iceland and Manitoba participate, thus strengthening ties between the two countries.

Kristin Stephensen took over as regent from 1985-87. Subsequent to her death and in keeping with its goal of strengthening the scholarship program, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter established a Kristin and Albert Stephensen Music Scholarship, which has been awarded each year from 2001 to 2016.

### *1987 to 1996*

During this decade, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of IODE made significant contributions to the community with Gloria Meadows, Rose Clyde and Bea Sharpe serving as Regents.

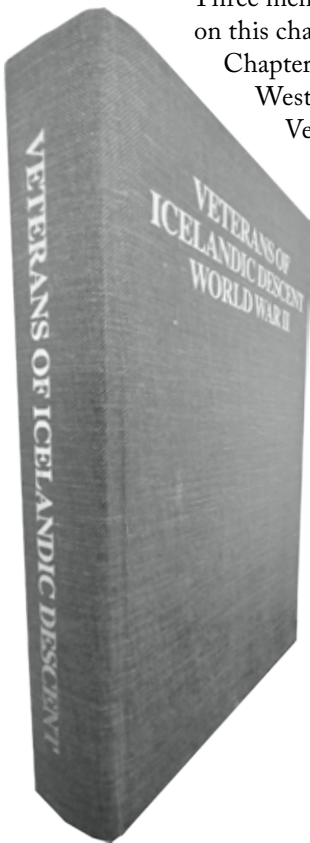
The Veteran's Memorial Fund, which was established in the 1950's, had grown over time. Thus, in 1988, the members purchased a grand piano which was presented to the Betel Home Foundation and placed at Betelstadur Seniors' Housing Cooperative, in Winnipeg. Betelstadur was the residence of many Jon Sigurdsson Chapter members and in later years, meetings, scholarship and bridge and whist events were held there. The piano bears a plaque to identify the gift from the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter and reads "to honour the memory of the Icelandic Pioneers and those Icelanders who lost their lives in the armed forces during WWI and WWII."

After World War II Jon Sigurdsson Chapter members were often asked whether they were going to publish another book of veterans like the World War I book, but this time of those from World War II.

Three members of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter valiantly took on this challenge in the late 1980's with the support of the Chapter. Dora Sigurdsson, Johanna Wilson and DeeDee Westdal each took a role in the development of the Veterans of Icelandic Descent World War II book. Family members were solicited to help.

In order to peak interest and to initiate the project, the WWII Veterans' book committee wrote an article in the Logberg-Heimskringla. They also advertised in various publications in North America including the Saskatoon Star Phoenix and the Cavalier Chronicle (North Dakota). Veterans and their families were asked to reply to the advertisement in order to receive an application form to have their biographies included in the book. To ensure that people were truly interested, the committee required a down payment of \$15 from each applicant. If they did not receive enough interest in the book, the women were quite willing to return the fifteen dollars.

Copy of the Veterans of Icelandic  
Descent published by Jon Sigurdsson  
Chapter IODE.





The Jon Sigurdsson membership meeting held at the home of Rose Clyde, 522 Oxford St in the 1990's. *Back row, l-r*: Gloria Meadows, Elva Fletcher, DeeDee Westdal, Norma Russell, Hildur Guttormson, Shirley McCreedy, Mildred Bjarnason. *Front row, l-r*: Tobba Davidson, Dora Banks, Dora Sigurdson, Bea Sharpe, Rose Clyde. Photo: Jo Wilson.

On January 5, 1988 the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE donated a grand piano to the Betel Foundation, which was placed in Betelstadur Seniors' Housing Cooperative. The piano was presented by Jo Wilson to Maurice Eyolfson in honour of the memory of the Icelandic Pioneers and those who lost their lives in the armed forces during World Wars I and II. A second piano was donated later and now resides at Waterfront Centre in Gimli.



The committee did not have to worry. There proved to be lots of interest. Two thousand, two hundred and forty (2240) men's and women's biographies along with photos were submitted.

Jo Wilson received the applications and opened them. She wrote up each biography, sometimes with the help of her husband, Frank. Dee Dee, with the aid of her husband, Harald, proofed the same information and made sure each biography was in the same format. Dora, the treasurer, kept track of the \$15.00 deposits from the applicants, and the expenses.

The next step was to get each page camera ready for the publisher. Two second-hand IBM typewriters were purchased, both having the ability to justify the print on the right hand side of the page. These

machines were set up in Dee Dee's rumpus room where she began typing and placing the photos on each page, sometimes with the help of her daughter Lauren.

This monumental task, when completed, was sent off to Hignell's Publishing, a company owned by Icelanders. The Icelandic Veterans of World War II was published in 1990. Jo Wilson recalls that after the book was printed the publishers noticed that the spine of the books were a little askew and offered to reprint them. The committee indicated that it was not noticeable and received the copies at a discounted rate.

With the book published and copies printed, those who had given their \$15 deposit on the book, now owed the remaining \$20 in order to receive a copy. Each book was mailed out in a cardboard box that was put together by the committee members.

A supplement to the book was also created in 1991 with the



### Stefan Olafson of Riverton Honoured

by Dee Dee Westdal

**S**tefan and Dora Olafson of Riverton were special guests at the Christmas Luncheon of the Jon Sigurdson Chapter IODE where Stefan was honoured by members of the Chapter in acknowledgment of the extraordinary assistance he has given in selling copies of their book, *Veterans of Icelandic Descent*.

During the last four years Stefan has concentrated on this mission and as a result has sold over 200 copies of the book. Stefan has worked with Chapter members at Gimli over several Festival weekends where books have been offered for sale to the public. He has travelled throughout the area of Riverton, Gimli and the Interlake by car, truck and motorcycle to promote the sale of the book.

The presentation to Stefan was the IODE Certificate of Appreciation, the first one awarded by the Jon

Sigurdson Chapter. In making the presentation of the framed Certificate, as well as a personal gift to Stefan on behalf of the Veterans Book Committee, Johanna Wilson and Dee Dee Westdal expressed the thanks of the Chapter for the great contribution he has made. Dora Sigurdson, the third member of the Veterans Book Committee, presented a corsage to Dora Olafson and extended best wishes on behalf of the Chapter to Stefan and Dora who celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary during the summer of 1995.

Copies of *Veterans of Icelandic Descent* are still available at the reduced price of \$20.00 and may be obtained by telephoning Johanna Wilson at (204) 453-2538.

Pictured (left to right) are Dee Dee Westdal, Dora Sigurdson, Dora Olafson, Stefan Olafson, Johanna Wilson and Bea Sharpe, Regent.





A Gala Banquet was held at the Hotel Fort Garry to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Jon Sigurdsson IODE. Guest performers included two former Jon Sigurdsson Chapter Scholarship winners, Valdine Anderson and Kerrine Wilson in the centre of photograph, flanked by Ingrid Slobodian, *far left*; Dee Dee Westdal, *far right* and Jo Wilson, *second from right*.

names and biographies of those in the armed forces who were missed in the first two Icelandic Veterans books and of those who fought in the Korean War. Because of the expense, the supplement did not contain photographs.

For this wonderful accomplishment, The Canada Iceland Foundation honoured the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter with a silver tray.

For several years after the publishing of the book, Dee Dee Westdal and Jo Wilson, along with other IODE members could be found under a beautiful shady tree on the grounds of Gimli Park at Islandingadagurinn. Here they sold copies of the book, as well as raffle tickets and handmade items to raise funds for IODE philanthropic work.

Part of the fundraiser went to support National IODE, which was celebrating its 1990 Anniversary by sponsoring the development of the Percussion Arts Centre for the music camp at the International Peace Gardens, which is situated between the Manitoba and North Dakota borders.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### – *Towards the Millennium and Beyond: 1997 to 2007*

**W**ith the turn of the century, IODE continued to evolve. The National Chapter celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the world celebrated the Millennium. New members were needed to sustain the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter.

The leader or chair of each chapter was no longer called Regent. Now she was the “President”. The four presidents of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter during these ten years were Shirley McCreedy, DeeDee Westdal (a second term), Deanna Islietson and Erla Wankling.

To reflect the times, IODE developed a new logo and mission statement.

“IODE Canada is a national women's charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community service and citizenship programs.”

IODE Canada now described itself on its website as:

*...a national organization (with) women of all ages, from all walks of life and educational backgrounds meet in local chapters for fun, friendship and community volunteerism.*

*Members volunteer with and for people, focusing on children, education and community services. Each IODE chapter has the independence to choose and support projects in their own community...IODE membership is many things to many people. It is this diversification that holds the interest of the members and attracts others to it. What other organization has so much to offer to so many and in such different age groups?*

*The main benefit of belonging to IODE is being part of a like-minded group of women who work together to improve the quality of life for those in need.*

Ingrid Slobodian, who was president of Jon Sigurdsson Chapter for 2010 and 2011, wrote,

“Our Chapter celebrated the Year of the Millennium and 100 Years of IODE in Canada in 2000 with a variety of events. We partici-



Dee Dee Westdal, left and Deanna Islielson on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislative grounds where the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE and other chapters planted trees to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of National IODE.

pated with the Manitoba Chapters to plant Schubert chokecherry trees on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature. A plaque at each of the nine trees bears the name of the Manitoba Chapters active in 2000. It was arranged that flowers in a red, white and blue theme be planted in a flowerbed at the statue of Jon Sigurdsson on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature and in subsequent years this flowerbed has been planted and maintained by the Province. We joined other chapters in sponsoring the advertising of IODE with full-size bus posters featuring the National IODE Logo. At our request, and with full cooperation, the First Lutheran Church joined with other churches across Canada with ringing of bells on June 13, 2000 at 12:00 noon to celebrate 100 Years of IODE in Canada. Following the service the congregation enjoyed the huge cake we provided for coffee hour.”

To commemorate the Year of the Millennium and 100 years of IODE in Canada, copies of the book, *Veterans of Icelandic Descent in North*



In 2004 Ryan Eyford was recognized with a Good Citizenship Award by the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE for his work on creating a database for the two Veterans of Icelandic Descent World War I, World War II and supplement. Today, the Veterans of World War II has been digitized on the University of Manitoba digitization site. This picture is taken of Ryan in 2002 with the creators of the Veterans of Icelandic Descent World War II, DeeDee Westdal, Johanna Wilson, Dora Sigurdsson and far right Deanna Isliefson, President in 2002.



Provincial IODE members at the rededication fo the IODE Teardrop Section of Brookside Cemetery Field of Honour on October 18, 2008. Jon Sigurdsson Chapter members: *second from left*, Pat Fowler; *third from left*, Cath Cuddy; and *second from right*, Jo Wilson.

*America, World War II*, were offered to, and sent free of charge to numerous university and public libraries in Canada, the United States and Iceland. In addition, copies were given to the Icelandic Collection in the Elizabeth Dafoe Library at the University of Manitoba, to the National War Museum in Ottawa, the Maine Museum and Massey Library, Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario in 2003, and in 2004 and 2005 to the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, WA and to the New Iceland Heritage Museum in Gimli, MB.

When the Manitoba Provincial Chapter disbanded in 2000, Jon Sigurdsson Chapter joined the Coordinating Committee of the Manitoba chapters to provide furnishings for the Teen Room at the Children's Hospital.

In August 2000, a second grand piano was presented to the Betel Heritage Foundation and placed in the Johnson Hall, Betel Waterfront Centre, Gimli. A plaque was attached using the same wording on the one in Betelstadur: "To honour the memory of the Icelandic pioneers and men and women of Icelandic descent who served in the Armed Forces during WWI and WWII." The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter has furnished the area where the piano is located and donated a curio cabinet containing an Icelandic Heritage Doll dressed in authentic national dress created by Johanna Wilson. The cabinet and doll are identified as a gift of the Veteran's Book Committee of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE, Dora Sigurdson, Johanna Wilson and DeeDee Westdal.

The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter had supported the establishment of the Chair of Icelandic Language and Literature at the University of Manitoba in the 1950's and again supported a subsequent campaign for funds. Its gift to the VIP Millennium Campaign in June 2000 for the Icelandic Collection of the Elizabeth Dafoe Library was a BISON computer terminal for use in the new facility.

Dr. Eموke Szathmary, President of the University of Manitoba was guest speaker in 2004 and 2005 at our Scholarship Presentation Ceremony. During these years, other featured guest speakers have included Atli Asmundsson, Consul General of Iceland, his wife Thrudur Helgadóttir, as well as Robert Bend of the University of Winnipeg, and their Honours, Lt. Gov. John Harvard and his wife Lenore Berscheid.

Throughout its history, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter has regularly celebrated special events. These events were often used to raise money. This was the case when Jon Sigurdsson IODE celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. That same year, on June 17, at the formal ceremony at the statue of Jon Sigurdsson, our President, Erla Wankling who had been



Thorvaldsensfélag President Sigríður Sigurbergisdóttir, Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE President Gunnur Isfeld.

selected as Fjallkona (an honour bestowed by the Icelandic Festival Committee yearly), laid the wreath. This was followed by a Gala Banquet at the Hotel Fort Garry to which 300 people attended. Our Vice-President, Gunnur Isfeld, presided over the program and special guests included His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, John Harvard and Her Honour, Lenore Berscheid, (both having some Icelandic heritage), as well as representatives of the Manitoba government and business officials from Iceland. A reception was also held at Government House for the Chapter members.

When its sister organization from Reykjavik, the Thorvaldsensfélag women's group (a well known women's service organization in Iceland), visited in 2008, chapter members and the visitors from Iceland were again invited to Government House, this time for a luncheon. As well, Presidents Erla Wankling and Gunnur Isfeld were invited to pour tea at Government House for the New Year Levee for several years while Lieutenant Governor John Harvard was installed.

The chapter also participated in the National IODE Read For Life program through which books were presented to the Magnus Eliason Community Centre's Early Year's Program in 2005, Wellington Elementary School on their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2006, and Elmwood High in 2007.



During the millennium Jon Sigurdsson Chapter members sold handmade items at the Icelandic Festival in Gimli; buses in Winnipeg displayed the new IODE logo, and bridge and whist events continued.



## LONG TIME MEMBERS



### – *Gunnthóra Gísladóttir*

When long time member Gunnthóra Gísladóttir joined the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE, she had just moved from Toronto to Winnipeg. She was warmly accepted by the membership and appreciated the fact that all the monies raised by the group go directly to the various charities and scholarships it supports. Throughout her years with IODE, Gunnthóra has contributed many vinarterta, ponnukokur and beautifully crafted Icelandic shawls to its fundraising efforts. In her early nineties and an avid bridge player, Gunnthóra still participates in the bridge and whist events although she now lives in Gimli.



## LONG TIME MEMBERS



– *DeeDee Westdal*

For well over 60 years, Dee Dee Westdal has made a significant contribution to the community through her work with IODE. She has been an excellent role model and mentor to those who have followed in her footsteps. She joined the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of which her mother, Snjolaug Gillis was a member. DeeDee twice held the position of regent of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter and worked diligently as a co-collaborator on the Veterans of Icelandic Descent World War II book. Her contributions went beyond IODE as among other things she served as President of the Iceland Foundation and Fjallkona of the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba.



Two students from Gordon Bell High School playing the Djembe drums donated by Jon Sigurdsson Chapter.



Jon Sigurdsson Chapter members, Vi Hilton and Alicyn Goodman welcoming new Canadians following Citizenship Court ceremony.

## CHAPTER NINE

### *– Approaching 100 Years Old: 2007 to 2016*

**T**he Jon Sigurdsson Chapter continued to support the National IODE initiatives which included donating money for a snack program for children in Newfoundland and Labrador. As well they have supported inner city children in Mulvey School, Isaac Brock School and Rossbrook House. Several times a year, the Chapter presents grooming bags to women's and homeless' shelters.

Her Honour Lenore Berscheid, wife of Lieutenant Governor John Harvard, who also served as the Patron for Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of IODE undertook a project entitled, "A Place to be Peaceful and Happy". The chapter members supported her project by making vests and weighted lap pads for special needs children at every school in Manitoba. Again, for two years in a row, in 2010 and 2011, the Chapter raised funds and donated a total of four African djembe drums to the Peaceful Village at Gordon Bell School to be used in their after school program for refugees and immigrant children and their families.

Continuing a long involvement with the Manitoba Citizenship court, the Chapter officers and members regularly brought greetings and served refreshments to the new Canadians at the ceremony.

In 2008, the Chapter participated in a re-dedication ceremony of the Tear Drop Section of the Field of Honour held at the Brookside Cemetery in October. The forward looking IODE Chapters in Manitoba had purchased this area after the First World War to provide a final resting place for the veterans who sacrificed their lives. It is now beautifully landscaped with the Federal Government providing the maintenance funds.

Every year the National IODE recognizes chapters who have gained the most new members. In 2008 Jon Sigurdsson Chapter achieved this recognition and received the Membership Crystal Challenge Cup Award.

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter and the remaining Manitoba Chapters presented the \$500.00 which had been left in their now defunct Laura Secord Trust Fund to the Laura Secord School in Winnipeg in October 2010.



Executive members of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter. *Back row, l-r:* Bev Benson, Vi Hilton, Erla Wankling, Gunnur Isfeld, Eleanor Cameron, Anna Birgis Hannesson (Honorary Patron), Pat Odegard. *Front row:* Thelma Wilson (Honorary President), Ingrid Slobodian, Natalie Denosovych, Karen Botting, Alicyn Goodman.

This same year, the chapter received the Mayor's Volunteer Service Award at a dinner held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre during the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Awards Week. On behalf of the chapter Johanna Wilson, the longest standing member of Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, and quite possibly in the entire organization received the award from Mayor Sam Katz.

On June 17, 2010 the Manitoba Legislature passed a bill proclaiming June 17 as Jon Sigurdsson Day in Manitoba. This was accomplished with the support of Honourable Peter Bjornson, Member of the Manitoba Legislature. The chapter had participated in advocating for this special day because it felt that it would pay official tribute to the large numbers of Canadians of Icelandic descent living in Manitoba and the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter itself.

During this decade, two Winnipeg chapters of IODE folded as their memberships had dropped. Thus some of the members of the Winnipeg Flyers and the Wildwood Chapters joined the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, leaving it the sole chapter in Winnipeg.

In 2012, Queen Elizabeth, the Patron of IODE Canada, celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. Three very long serving IODE members, Johanna Wilson (Jon Sigurdsson Chapter), Eleanor Cameron (former Wildwood Chapter member) and Cath Cuddy (former Winnipeg Flyers member) were nominated for the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for distinguished service in the IODE. Eleanor Cameron was chosen as the recipient of the medal for her work, locally, provincially and nationally.

This same year, a statue was erected in Riverton, Manitoba to commemorate Sigtryggur Jonasson as the “the Father of New Iceland” and a “person of national historic significance”. Sigtryggur, the founder of the newspaper, *Framfari* became the first Icelandic member of the Manitoba Legislature. He was instrumental in helping to settle the first Icelandic immigrants to Canada. The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter donated \$500 to the monument.

During this decade the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter continued to focus on the mission of education, service and citizenship. The Education Chair was responsible for looking after the Scholarship Program which supports between 12 and 16 scholarships yearly. A scholarship fund was established in 1962 with the Winnipeg Foundation and has now reached over \$150,000. The interest from this fund, private donations and fundraising provide the monies for these scholarships.

Two major fundraisers continue to be held each year, one in the fall and one in the spring. These take the form of a bake sale, luncheon, and bridge and whist tournament. For many years they have been held at Betelstadur Housing Co-operative which at one time was the home to many of the Jon Sigurdsson IODE members.

As the Chapter approached its One Hundredth Anniversary, Helga Sigurdsson and Lilja Mann kicked off our Centenary fundraising by donating an Icelandic Doll dressed in a traditional costume to be raffled at Islendingadagurinn. The goal was to raise \$10,000. With the doll raffle, the chapter was able to generate \$4000. Many chapter members raised \$100 each through various initiatives. Thus the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter achieved its goal and the \$10,000 went to the Children's Rehabilitation Hospital to support the purchase of adaptive bicycles for children with disabilities.

During this last decade the Presidents of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter included: Gunnur Isfeld 2008-2009, Ingrid Slobodian 2010-2011, Karen Botting 2012-2013, Natalie Denesovych 2014-2015 and Helle Wilson 2016.



### JON SIGURDSSON MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN MAY 2015

*Front Row:* Pat Odegard, Karen Botting, Sheila Behan, Alicyn Goodman.

*Second Row:* Agnes Bardal, Thelma Wilson, Jo Wilson, Helga Sigurdsson, Helga Anderson, Bea Einarson, DeeDee Westdal.

*Third Row:* Kendra Jonasson, Elva Jonasson, Barbara Sigurdson, Venice Fairclough, Erla Wankling, Karen Johannsson, Vi Hilton, Eleanor Cameron, Olof Wood, Deanna Isliefson, Anna Birgis Hannesson, Natalie Denesovych, Ingrid Slobodian, Laureen Goodridge, Lillian Thomas, Eleanor Moore.

*Fourth Row:* Linda Collette, Olivia Olson, Diane Drawbridge, Irene Hallgrimson, Kathleen Thorsteinson, Bev Benson, Freda Olafson, Gunnur Isfeld, Sylvia Koshyk, Sonja Lundstrom, Kerrine Wilson.





JON SIGURDSSON CHAPTER IODE

# CELEBRATING 100 Years 3 Special Events

## *Fashion Show & Tea*

Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

The Costume Museum of Canada will be presenting a Heritage Fashion Review of approximately 150 years of clothing and accessories. The Fashion Show and Tea is a fundraiser to support the work of the Chapter.

Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle

At the Neil Bardal Funeral Centre,  
3030 Notre Dame,  
2:00 pm, Tickets \$45

For tickets: jonsigurdssoniode@gmail.com



## *Then and Now* Opening May 12<sup>th</sup>

This exhibit showcases the work of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE then and now. The exhibit will be on display until September.

At the New Iceland Heritage Museum,  
94 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Gimli, Manitoba

## *The Last 100 Years* Opening June 16<sup>th</sup>

The Icelandic Collection archives will display the last 100 years of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE photos, minutes and memorabilia. The exhibit will be on display until September.

At the University of Manitoba,  
Jon Gallery  
Reading Room,  
Library



Poster and display at the New Iceland Heritage Museum in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE 2016.



## CHAPTER TEN

### – 2016 Centennial Year Activities

One of the highlights of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter's centennial celebrations was a Tea and Fashion Show held on May 14 at Neil Bardal Inc. The space was kindly donated by Eirik Bardal. Guests were invited to dress in period costumes or hats and gloves. They did not disappoint. Nor did our guest speaker, Honorary Patron and Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, Janice Filmon.

The event turned out to be a huge success with almost 100 guests. The Costume Museum of Canada put on a fashion show with models displaying outfits from the past 150 years. A narrator from the Museum explained the history behind the fashions. Natalie Denesovych organized a wonderful silent auction, and gift bags which included Betty Jane Wiley's book, *Reading Between the Lines and The Diaries of Women*, donated by Tergesen's Bookstore in Gimli. Proceeds from the event benefited the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter Scholarship fund. The members were extremely pleased that the IODE National President E. Anne Mason was in attendance.

Through its centennial year, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE celebrated non-stop under the leadership of Helle Wilson. First, the Chapter was honoured to be nominated for a Nellie Award in memory of Nellie McClung. These awards were created to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote in Manitoba and honour women who have made a significant contribution to the community. Although the chapter did not receive an award, many members attended the Nellie McClung Gala Dinner on January 28, 2016.

In March, the members held a meeting almost one hundred years to the date of the inaugural meeting of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter. Here, they donated their centennial project funds of \$10,000 to the Children's Rehabilitation Center Foundation for the purchase of mobility bicycles for children with disabilities. The 2015 Youth Ambassador for the Children's Rehabilitation Center, Keera Lyall, a young woman who has benefited from the use of a mobility bicycle, spoke to the group. She explained how her self esteem increased with her ability to navigate her environment on her bike like all other children. She gladly accepted the cheque on behalf of the organization.



Jon Sigurdsson Chapter celebrated its 100th Anniversary by donating 10,000 to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation for specially built bicycles.

**Front Row, l-r:** Ingrid Slobodian, Lilja Mann, Helga Sigurdsson, Jo Wilson, Keera Lyall (Children's Rehabilitation Foundation Ambassador), Natalie Denesovych, Helle Wilson, Barbara Sigurdsson. **Second row:** Vi Hilton, --, Eleanor Cameron, Linda Collette, Sheila Behan, Sylvia Koshyk, Alicyn Goodman, Karen Botting, Olof Wood, Sharon Matte, Karen Johansson, Erla Wankling, Dorothy Tytgat, Anna Birgis Hannesson, Deanna Isiefson. **Third Row:** unknown, Judy Thorsteinson, Freda Olafson, Kathleen Thorsteinson, Olivia Olson, Irene Halgrimson, Lillian Thomas, DeeDee Westdal, Pat Odegard, Gunnur Isfeld. **Back Row:** Keera Lyall's mother.



Frank Wilson, son of Jo Wilson, has acted for many years as the “card director” for the Bridge and Whist events that take place twice annually.



Kendra Jonasson wishing Anna Birgis all the best on her return to Iceland.

At the same meeting, the members formally said goodbye to the Honorary Patron, Anna Birgis Hannesson, wife of the former Consul General of Iceland in Winnipeg, Ambassador Hjalmar W. Hannesson. Anna had been a great asset to the organization, participating in many events.

Frank Wilson and Karen Botting, former West End school mates, shared the histories of their *ammás*, Johanna Gudrun Skaptason and Gudrun Borgford, who were both founding members of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, at the April meeting (*Amma* is the word for grandmother in Icelandic). Bridge and whist followed on April 21<sup>st</sup> where revenues from the event and bake sale continue to be an important source of income for our scholarship program.

Next came a complete surprise. The City of Winnipeg Mayor's Office phoned the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter president, Helle Wilson, to inform her that the Mayor wanted to give the chapter a Community Service Award to honour its work over the past 100 years. Members were treated to a reception at City Hall in May. Mayor Brian Bowman gave a wonderful accolade to the group and presented them with a certificate. He graciously toured the members around City Hall encouraging them to try out the various seats in the City Chambers, including the Speaker's, the Mayor's or their specific city councillor's.

In May, The New Icelandic Heritage Museum, in Gimli, opened the exhibit “Nice Women Don't Want the Vote” along with the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit, “Then and Now”. This exhibit showed photos and artifacts from 1916 to the present.



Community Service Award presented by Mayor Brian Bowman in 2016 to Jon Sigurdsson Chapter. *Back Row, left to right:* Erla Wankling, Freda Olafson, Natalie Denesovych, Councillor Scott Gillingham, Lillian Thomas, Councillor Jason Schreyer, Vi Hilton, Sheila Behan. *Front Row:* Bev Benson, Judy Bradley, Olof Wood, Councillor Devi Sharma, Jo Wilson, Mayor Brian Bowman, Helle Wilson, Karen Botting, Alicyn Goodman, Ingrid Slobodian.



Ann Mason, President National IODE, Natalie Denesovych, Jon Sigurdsson Chapter and Honorary Consul for Norway, Carmen Mueller, Honorary Consul for Peru, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, Janice Filmon, Dr. Sandra Sukhan, Honorary Consul for Guyana and Helle Wilson, President Jon Sigurdsson Chapter and Honorary Consul for Denmark at the 100th Anniversary Tea, May 2016.

It remained open during the summer months when many tourists visit the museum. Members Karen Johannsson and Ingrid Slobodian helped curate the exhibit along with Tami Axelsson, Director of the Museum. At the official opening of the exhibit, Jon Sigurdsson Chapter president, Helle Wilson, dressed as a suffragette from 100 years before.

A second exhibit of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter's archives opened at the Icelandic Collection of the University of Manitoba on June 16, 2016. Sigríð Johnson, the head of the Icelandic Collection curated this exhibit which remained open through the summer and fall months.

Jon Sigurdsson and Iceland Independence Day celebrations were held on June 17th at the Manitoba Legislative grounds and the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The new Consul General of Iceland, Thordur Gudjonsson and his wife, Jorunn Kristinsdottir performed their first official duty by helping to organize the event with Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE Vice-Presidents, Alicyn Goodman and Judy Bradley (also representing the Icelandic Canadian Fron). The formal ceremony included a guest speaker from Iceland, Einar Gudfinnsson, Speaker of the Icelandic Parliament, the Solskrikjan Choir, conducted by IODE member Kerrine Wilson and the laying of the wreath by IODE member Karen Botting, Fjallkona 2016. Following the program, a gala concert was presented at the Winnipeg Art Gallery which included a musical duo of Icelandic descent, a tribute to Margret Benedictsson and a "mash" of comedy, music and poetic monologues by Nuna (now). Eirik Bardal of Neil Bardal Inc. donated the official flags, the wreath, the printed programs and a van to transport guests from the Legislative Buildings to the Art Gallery and back.

On September 24 the Chapter hosted a very successful bridge and whist tournament and bake sale. The financial success of this event can be credited to the women who did the baking, in particular their Icelandic goods. Just under \$2000 was raised on this afternoon and proceeds went toward the scholarship fund.

The Chapter held its annual scholarship presentations on October 15 at Betelstadur where 15 scholarships were awarded. The guest speaker at the award ceremony was Honourable Muriel Smith, former Cabinet Minister in the Manitoba Legislature who has worked tirelessly for the rights of women. Following the speaker, the scholarships were presented with two additional awards. One was a scholarship dedicated to Margret Benedictsson, an Icelandic women's rights leader in the early 1900's and the other the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship named for Johanna Wilson.

In November, the Chapter recognized the work of three women who have made significant contributions life in the community of Winnipeg. Each received an IODE Good Citizenship Award:

❖ Sculptor Helen Granger Young who had created the “Famous Five” statue at the Manitoba Legislature recognizing Nellie McClung and the other suffragettes who paved the way for women receiving the vote in 1916.

❖ Maria Vegna, former Co-Executive Director of Rossbrook House, who worked tirelessly for 30 years providing a “safe house” and education to inner city children.

❖ Judy Richichi, Director of Major Gifts and Corporate Relations for Siloam Mission, a place that supports the homeless.

As well as receiving their citizenship awards, each was given a donation to her respective organization. Siloam Mission and Rossbrook House were also the recipients of 90 winter toques that were knitted by Jon Sigurdsson Chapter member Irene Hallgrimson.

Also in November, President Helle Wilson and Citizenship Chair, Karen Botting attended the Remembrance Day Service at the RBC Convention Centre and laid a wreath on behalf of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year ended with the Annual Christmas Luncheon which was held at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre. Ten members received their 5 and 10 year pins. Following the luncheon, Kerrine Wilson played the piano for a Christmas sing-a-long and Helle Wilson gifted each member with a touchstone on which was inscribed an inspirational word. It was her hope that each member would use this message as a motivation moving forward into the next 100 years of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE. Thus the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE ended an exciting, productive year of centennial celebrations.



Past Presidents and future Presidents: *Back row, left to right:* Jorunn Kristinsdottir (Honorary Patron), Erla Wankling, Ingrid Slobodian, Jo Wilson, DeeDee Westdal, Gunnur Isfeld, Natalie Denesovych. *Front row:* Alicyn Goodman, Judy Bradley, Karen Botting. Photo: Bergdis Sigurdardottir.



Jo Wilson, Helle Wilson and Sigrid Johnson cutting the cake during the opening of the Jon Sigurdsson 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibit at the Icelandic Collection, University of Manitoba.



The women who received the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE 2016 Citizenship Awards: *Left to right:* Sister Margaret representing Maria Vegna of Rossbrook House; Helen Granger Young, sculptor.





## CONCLUSION

**T**oday, as other service organizations have folded the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE has continued, remaining the only IODE chapter in Winnipeg. The Icelandic women who joined in 1916 believed in being patriotic to their new land, but kept a strong tie to their Icelandic heritage and culture. However, over the years IODE has evolved as Canada's status changed from being part of the British Empire to having its constitution brought home in 1982.

Throughout its history the Jon Sigurdsson members adhered to the mission and goals of IODE but were flexible to change as the organization modernized. When the Chapter had its inaugural meeting one hundred years ago its first goals were to be patriotic and support the war effort. Although the membership still observes special British royal occasions and honours Canada's veterans, its current focus is to support those in need through education, services and citizenship. Thus, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter puts most of its efforts into its scholarship and services programs promoting good citizenship.

The present vibrancy and tradition of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of IODE must be attributed to the strong role models of the many women who forged its history.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This commemorative book has been the compilation of many people's input and work. Thank you to the many women who acted as secretaries for the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter over the years...their minutes have been invaluable in piecing the story together. Thank you to our current members who have helped in various ways. Thanks to Sigrid Johnson who helped with the archival material at the University of Manitoba, Dwight and Ingrid Botting who helped with the editing and Bergdis Sigurdardottir who has done the graphic design.

*Written and compiled by Karen Borgford Botting*  
*Graphic design by Bergdis Sigurdardottir*

*Published 2018*



Workrooms of the Municipal Chapter in Winnipeg.  
Photo from: Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire Manitoba Souvenir Book 1916.

## SOURCES

1. *History of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter I.O.D.E.* published on its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 1941, written by Mrs. L.A. Sigurdson.
2. *Imperial Order Daughter of the Empire*, Manitoba, Souvenir 1916, Published 1917.
3. National IODE website.
4. *1948, 1949, 1958, 1983 Annual Reports of IODE Jon Sigurdsson Chapter.*
5. Sources: timarit.is
6. *Flora Benson scrapbooks, 1935-58.*
7. Article about *In the Wake of the Storm* by Alicyn Goodman in the L-H 2016.
8. Various chapter histories written by members, DeeDee Westdal, Erla Wankling and Ingrid Slobodian and photos from Johanna Wilson.
9. Photos from a wide variety of members.
10. Various minutes of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter from the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter archives at the Icelandic Collection, University of Manitoba.
11. *Canada and the British Empire* edited by Philip Buckner, 2010.
12. *Icelandic Canadian*, Winter 1960.
13. Oral remembrances of members.



## APPENDICES

### – *Regents and Presidents of Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE* 1916–2016

1.	Gudrun Skaptason	1916
2.	Bjorg Carson	1917–20
3.	Soffia Brynjolfsson	1921–24
4.	Bertha Thorpe	1925–26
5.	Gudrun Borgfjord	1927–33
6.	Gudrun Skaptason	1933–46
7.	Flora Benson	1947–55
8.	Bjorg Isfeld	1956–60
9.	Johanna Wilson	1961–62
10.	Holmfridur Danielson	1963–64
11.	Lina Goodman	1965–67
12.	Margaret Perry	1968–75
13.	DeeDee Westdal	1976–78
14.	Johanna Wilson	1979–82
15.	Elma Gislason	1983–84
16.	Kristin Stephensen	1985–87
17.	Gloria Meadows	1988–89
18.	Rose Clyde	1990–91
19.	Bea Sharpe	1992–96
20.	Shirley McCreedy	1997–98
21.	DeeDee Westdal	1999–01
22.	Deanna Islietson	2002–04
23.	Erla Wankling	2005–07
24.	Gunnur Isfeld	2008–09
25.	Ingrid Slobodian	2010–11
26.	Karen Botting	2012–13
27.	Natalie Denesovych	2014–15
28.	Helle Wilson	2016



Gudrun Skaptason  
1916, 1933–46



Bjorg Carson  
1917–20



Soffia Brynjolfsson  
1921–24



Bertha Thorpe  
1925–26



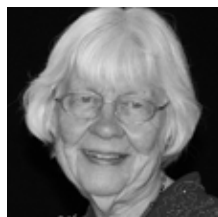
Gudrun Borgfjord  
1927–33



Flora Benson  
1947-55



Bjorg Isfeld  
1956-60



Johanna Wilson  
1961-62, 1979-82



Holmfridur Danielson  
1963-64



Lina Goodman  
1965-67



Margaret Perry  
1968-75



DeeDee Westdal  
1976-78, 1999-2001



Elma Gislason  
1983-1984



Kristin Stephensen  
1985-87



Gloria Meadows  
1988-89



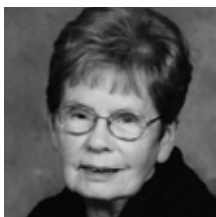
Rose Clyde  
1990-91



Beatrice Sharpe  
1992-96



Shirley McCreedy  
1997-98



Deanna Islietson  
2002-04



Erla Wankling  
2005-07



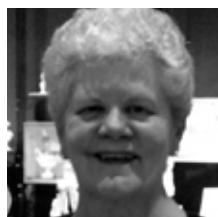
Gunnur Isfeld  
2008-09



Ingrid Slobodian  
2010-11



Karen Botting  
2012-13



Natalie Denesovych  
2014-15



Helle Wilson  
2016

## APPENDICES

### – *Members, regents/presidents of Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE to have been chosen Fjallkona for Islendingadagurinn*

*"The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba (Islendingadagurinn) has retained the long-standing tradition of honouring the women of the Icelandic Canadian cultural community by choosing each year a woman who embodies the cultural values of the People of Icelandic descent in North America. The fjallkona is a symbol of which we can all be justly proud. She is not just a symbol of Icelandic traditions and values; she is an expression of a belief in the equality and dignity of humanity."*

*Fjallkonas of Islendingadagurinn 1924-1989.*

1943	Gudrun Skaptason	Regent	1916, 1933-1946
1949	Holmfridur Danielson	Regent	1963-1964
1954	Lina Goodman	Regent	1965-1967
1988	Helga Sigurdson	Member	
1991	Johanna Gudrun Wilson	Regent	1961-1962, 1979-82
1993	Shirley McCreedy	Regent	1997-1998
1996	DeeDee Westdal	Regent	1999-2001
2000	Lenore Good	Member	
2003	Sigrid Johnson	Member	
2004	Thelma Wilson	Honorary President	
2006	Erla Wankling	President	2005-2007
2009	Elva Jonasson	Member	
2010	Helga Malis	Member	
2011	Vi Bjarnason Hilton	Member	
2015	Linda Sigurdson Collette	Member	
2016	Karen Botting	President	2012-2013





In 2015 this photo was taken of Jon Sigurdsson IODE members who served as Fjallkona over the years: Front Row, left to right: Thelma Wilson, Helga Sigurdson, Linda Collette, Jo Wilson, Helga Anderson. Back Row, left to right: Elva Jonasson, Erla Wankling, Vi Hilton, DeeDee Westdal.



Fjallkona 2016. During the 100th Anniversary of Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, member Karen Botting served as Fjallkona for the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba.

## APPENDICES

- *Letters of Congratulations to the Jon Sigurdsson  
Chapter of IODE on its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL • LE GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL

I am pleased to extend sincere congratulations to the staff and members of the IODE Jon Sigurdsson Chapter as you gather to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Canadians are known throughout the world for their compassionate efforts to make a difference in the lives of others. As a country, we would not have this reputation without the tireless work of people like you who have committed themselves to making their community a better place.

All those involved in building this organization into what it has become today deserve to be recognized for their skills and dedication; your generosity, both of time and heart, is truly remarkable. Let this occasion be an opportunity to recognize the values of service, humility and friendship that you so frequently demonstrate and to which we all aspire.

I wish you a most enjoyable celebration as you mark this momentous milestone.

David Johnston

May 2016



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

May 14, 2016

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating the 100th anniversary of IODE's Jon Sigurdsson Chapter.

Since it was founded in 1900 as Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, IODE has brought women together in communities across the country. Members of this active and respected organization have devoted themselves to improving the quality of life of children, youth and those in need through a variety of educational, social service and citizenship programs.

I would like to commend the members —past and present— of IODE's Jon Sigurdsson Chapter for the generosity of spirit that guides their actions. I am certain that this celebration will provide a wonderful opportunity to share fond memories and to highlight your chapter's many accomplishments over the past one hundred years. You can be very proud of your long history of service to your fellow Canadians.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration and for continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada





**MESSAGE FROM  
THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF MANITOBA**

"Our prayers for others flow more easily than those for ourselves," wrote author, C.S. Lewis. "This shows we are made to live by charity."

That same spirit of selflessness and compassion has guided the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE) Jon Sigurdsson Chapter to a remarkable 100<sup>th</sup> year of service to your community. Your support for worthy causes, such as education, literacy, health care, citizenship and family social services, continues to help Manitobans live healthier, happier lives.

As you may know, our province is home to the largest population of Icelanders outside of Iceland. As a group, they continue to make positive contributions to our culture, community and the great quality of life we enjoy here in Manitoba.

As the Queen's representative in Manitoba, I am pleased to commend the members of your organization, past and present, for their exemplary dedication to their culture and our provincial community. Here's to another century of outstanding community service.

The Honourable Janice C. Filmon, C.M., O.M.  
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba



**PREMIER OF MANITOBA**

Legislative Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA  
R3C 0V8

**A Message from the Premier of Manitoba**

On behalf of Manitoba's new government, all elected members of the Manitoba Legislature and the diverse and vibrant people that call this province home, I am pleased to congratulate the members of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of the IOOE on your 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of community service.

A centennial anniversary is a remarkable achievement for any organization, so it is particularly gratifying that your organization's great tradition of charity and philanthropy has endured. Your longevity is a tremendous testament to your shared spirit of giving and providing a hand up to those in need. Your work continues to lend valuable support to worthy causes that empower individuals and strengthen families and communities – kindness that resonates today and for years to come.

Icelandic culture has long been a vibrant element of Manitoba's cultural mosaic. Your organization's many good deeds are a wonderful reflection of the many ways that the Icelandic people have enriched the quality of life enjoyed by all Manitobans. There are great traditions from your community that run deep in Manitoba's interlake, many of which I hold particularly close to my heart due my wife Esther's Icelandic heritage.

As you mark this anniversary milestone, I wish you many more years of exemplary service and organizational success.

**The Honourable Brian Pallister**  
Premier of Manitoba



### **Mayor's Message**

It is my pleasure to extend greetings to everyone attending the 100th Anniversary of the IODE Jon Sigurdsson Chapter of Winnipeg.

It is important that we take this opportunity to celebrate and pay tribute to the extraordinary accomplishments of the IODE Jon Sigurdsson Chapter membership past and present in the shaping of our city and our province. The remarkable women of this Chapter have inspired change for the better and their determination and leadership in the fight for equality paved the way for future generations of women leaders across our community.

As Mayor, I truly believe that we build a better and stronger community through collaboration – and the important work the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter does to encourage and inspire today's women leaders makes our city a place we are all proud to call home.

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg and my City Council colleagues, I wish to recognize the enormous contributions of the organizers and volunteers involved in making this celebration the tremendous success that it is. I extend my congratulations on your 100th anniversary and send my best wishes for a successful and memorable celebration.

Warmly,

Mayor Brian Bowman,  
City of Winnipeg



IODE  
NATIONAL CHAPTER OF CANADA  
Toronto, Ontario

14 May 2016

Dear IODE friends,

On behalf of all members across Canada, it gives me great pleasure to extend greetings to IODE Jon Sigurdsson on this significant milestone of the chapter's history.

Many women joined IODE during the war to find support and friendship while their male relatives were overseas. They found the strength and skills to raise money, fund projects and make a difference. In 1916, twenty-five women signed the charter for IODE Jon Sigurdsson and proceeded to contribute to the war effort, focusing on men of Icelandic descent and their families.

Collectively, IODE chapters gave ambulances, wheel chairs, stretchers and machine guns; established field kitchens and clubs for returned, disabled soldiers; and established centres in Canada for making hospital supplies and field comforts. Exclusive of the value of material used for comforts, a total sum of approximately \$5,500,000 was raised and expended by chapters during 1914-1918.

Over the years, your purpose has changed; the need for war effort support has been replaced by projects and programs you identify with closer to home. You are to be commended for the many scholarships you offer each year, the raffle of a Fjóra doll dressed in the Icelandic National dress and your 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project to purchase adaptive bicycles with a \$10,000 donation to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation which will help children with special needs. Whether it's community-related, or the provincial and national IODE programs that you support, your commitment to IODE has carried out the work started by your founding members.

The hard work and determination of your members over the years has led to the longevity of your chapter. Your commitment and dedication is what keeps IODE alive in Winnipeg. This is a significant milestone and I celebrate with you your chapter's accomplishments over the past 100 years.

Please accept my sincere congratulations on this special day. My wish for IODE Jon Sigurdsson is many more years of fun, friendship and success in your IODE endeavours. Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Sincerely,

E. Anne Mason  
National President

[www.IODE.ca](http://www.IODE.ca)





*IODE... women working together for Canada*

#### **Message from President Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE**

Welcome to the centennial celebration of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE.

When the Chapter was founded on March 20, 1916, the women in Manitoba had just gained the right to vote. World War I was raging and women's lives were changing rapidly.

Their husbands, sons and grandsons were sent to fight the war in Europe and the women in Canada wanted to support them. The Chapter members decided to provide comfort and assistance to Canadian service men and women of Icelandic descent by sending them care parcels with knitted goods and food. The members would also support returning wounded soldiers and their families.

In 1923 and 1990 the Chapter published two books with biographies, photos and genealogical information to commemorate soldiers, sailors and nurses of Icelandic-Canadian and Icelandic-American descent.

The focus of the Chapter has changed with the times. Members have seen a need in the community and worked hard to fundraise for good causes by organizing: dances, bake sales, pageants, raffles, bridge & whist drives etc.

In 1950 a pageant was performed to support the establishment of the Chair of Icelandic Language and Literature at the University of Manitoba, and the Chapter has also supported the subsequent campaign for funds.

Additionally, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE has touched many students' lives by awarding more than 500 scholarships since 1937.

The Chapter members honor their Icelandic heritage by supporting: the June 17th ceremonies at the Statue of Jon Sigurdsson on the legislative grounds; the *Icelandic Festival of Manitoba – Islendingadagurinn*; the *Icelandic Connection*; and *Lögberg-Heimskringla*.

Recently as a centennial project, the Chapter donated \$10,000 to the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation for its adaptive bicycle program for children with special needs. This shows that members still achieve big goals and have a positive impact, when they see a need in the community.

Thanks to the members, friends and families for supporting the Chapter's charitable work and a special "thank you" goes to our generous sponsors and donors - without you, this event would not be possible.

Let us enjoy this memorable afternoon.

Helle Wilson  
President, Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE

## APPENDICES

### –Jon Sigurdsson Chapter Scholarships awarded between 1936 and 2016

#### Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE Music Scholarship

1936/37	Agnes Helga Sigurdson	Piano
1937/38	Agnes Helga Sigurdson	Piano
1938/39	Halldora A. Sigurdson	Piano
1939/40	Halldora A. Sigurdson	Piano
1940/41	Thora Asgeirson	Piano
1941/42	Barbara Leslie Goodman	Piano
1942/43	Margaret Christianson	Piano
1943/44	No award	
1944/45	Margaret Helen McKeen	Piano
1945/46	Thora Asgeirson	Piano
1946/47	Allan Agust Beck	Violin
1947/48	Dorothy Mae Jonasson	Violin
1948/49	No award	
1949/50	No award	
1950/51	No award	
1951/52	Evelyn Thorvaldson	
1952/53	No award	
1953/54	Edith Lillian Lewis	Piano
1954/55	No award	
1955/56	No award	
1956/57	Heather Alda Sigurdson	Piano
1957/58	John Carlisle Wilson	Violin
1958/59	Maria June Magnusson	Piano
1959/60	John Carlisle Wilson	Violin
1960/61	No award	
1962	Thelma Kerrine Wilson	Piano
1963	Eric James Wilson	Cello

1964	Roslyn Sylvia Storry	Piano
1965	Judith Signy Schifke	Piano
1966	Sandra Sigurdson	Piano
1967	Candace Siggs	Piano
1968	Roslyn Storry	Voice
1969	Carol Sigrid Westdal	Voice
1970	Carolyn Leslie Rae Arnason	Piano
1971	Pauline Una Martin	Piano
1972	Sigurdur Albert Stephensen	Piano
1973	Mrs. Heida Sigfusson (Kristjanson)	Piano
1974	Valdine Hazel Anderson	Piano
1975	Sigurdur Albert Stephensen	Piano
1976	Carol Westdal	Voice/Piano
1977	Leslie Glendenning	Piano
1978	Craig Oliphant	Voice
1979	Mary K. Peterson	Voice
1980	Deborah J. Arnason	Piano/Voice
1981	Kristin Stewart-Hay	Piano/Voice
1982	Kristin Stewart-Hay	Piano/Voice
1983	Tiffany Wilson	
1984	Diane Norberg	
1985	Tristin Tergesen	
1986	Karmel Jeremy	
1987	Valdine Bjornson	
1987	Alice Cameron	
1988	Diane Norberg	
1988	Maria Jean Dreger	
1989	No applications	
1990	Jocelyn Stewart-Hay	

1991	Timothy Mushey	
1991	Michelle Romuld	
1992	Susan Skaftfeld	
1993	Rhea Massman	
1994	Rebecca Taves	
1995	Valdine Ritchie	Sang for us
1996	Sarah Fuller	
1997	Jason Medecky	
1998	Kevin Wong	
1998	Terrilee Friesen	
1999	Margrose Peiluck	
1999	Judith Oatway	
2000	Erika Donald	
2001	Amanda Baldwin	
2002	Matthew Simonson	
2003	Ashley Lam	
2004	Esther Schaefer	
2005	Danielle Gadsdon	
2006	Alena Arnason	
2007	Jessica Strong	
2008	Jordan Laidlaw	
2009	Bronwen Garand-Sheridan	
2010	Elizabeth Humphries	
2011	Stephanie Fennell	
2012	Ying Ni He	
2013	David Troya	
2014	Alec Baldwin	
2015	Artur Kivilhat	
2016	Natalie Kathler	

## Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE *Scholarship*

1997	Karen Petursdottir
1997	Karen Hanson
1998	Raegan Arnason
1998	Shaylene Boychuk
1998	Alicia Erickson
1998	Corley Magnusson
1998	Kristin Westdal
1998	Kim Westdal
1998	Jonathan Yip
1999	Lindsay Carroll
1999	Corinne Suchy
1999	Kevin Cannons
2000	Erin Eyre
2000	Regan Arnason
2000	Dustin Isleifson
2000	Dana Hopkins
2000	Melissa Galbraith
2000	Melanie Ching
2001	Kimberly Mushy
2001	Lisa Ericson
2001	Kathryn Stone
2003	Matthew Legge
2003	Sara Weselake

Johanna Gudrun Skaptason  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1962	Sharon Anne Mayer
1963	Linda Vincent
1964	Andrew Kenneth Hamilton
1965	Marion Lee Cohen
1966	Paul Nielson
1967	Valerie Constance Snider
1968	Wayne Bergthor Arnason
1969	Catherine Ruth Backman
1970	Dale Gustaf Johnson
1971	James Charles Matthews
1972	Jeffery Donald Jonasson
1973	Janice Gudrun Robson
1973	Gregory Downey
1974	Patrick Lee Walterson
1974	Andrea Joy Sigurdson
1975	Catherine Granger
1975	Sigurdur Albert Stephensen
1976	Hans Peter Jonasson
1976	Karen Walterson
1977	Kathy Odleifson
1978	Patty Erikson
1978	Barbara Guttormson
1979	Dana Sigurdson
1979	Gary Isliefson
1980	Lorna Susan Jacobson
1980	Stewart Anderson
1981	Darlene Johnson
1982	John Gerlach
1982	Paul Olafson
1983	Peter Dozois
1983	Nancy Wankling
1984	David Johnson
1984	Sigrid Isford
1985	Kim Guttormson
1985	Gail D Chorney

1986	Jennifer Guttormson
1987	Wendy Forrest
1988	Dawn Rothwell
1989	Dayton Baring
1990	David Shead
1991	Kurt Shaw
1991	Laura Lesyk
1992	Kristen Bingeman
1992	Cara Salmundson
1993	Earl J. Shaw
1993	Kevin Melsted
1994	Renata Neufeld
1994	Jonathan Syms
1995	Erik Isford
1995	Christine Johnston
1996	Christopher Valdivia
1996	Jillian Cannons
1997	Paul Turner
1997	Paula Anderson
1998	Barry Gleich
1998	Kulvinder Gill
1999	Graham Reynolds
1999	Vincent Cheung
2000	Neil Goodridge
2000	Carmen Arnason
2001	Signy Perlmutter
2001	Sara Perlmutter
2002	Nebojsa Lekic
2002	Ashley Krakowka
2003	Michael MacPherson
2003	Stephanie Appleby
2004	Sean Donald
2004	Kristjan Thompson
2005	Melanie Hegg
2005	Shannon Sawich

2006	Lisa Filiatrault
2006	Alison Kirk
2007	Kelsey Hargreaves
2007	Avery Simundsson
2008	Andrew Fletcher-Cook
2008	Cody Hotel
2009	Kena Olson
2009	Seth Ruf
2010	Conor MacGillivray
2010	Ryan Pierce
2011	Pamela Drawbridge
2011	D.A. Skye Thorleifson
2012	Madison Senkow
2012	Jay Uschold
2013	Austin Laxdal
2013	Allison Poppel
2014	Julia Schroeder
2014	Caroline Wisneski
2014	Hilary Drawbridge
2015	Magnus Johnson
2015	Mackenzie Collette
2016	Colin Schroeder

Hildur Guttormson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1996	Jonathan Butchard
1997	Raelene Johnson
1998	Kerry Bartlett
1999	Vida Farhoudpour
2000	Paula Leslie
2001	Cheryl Thorlakson
2002	Deanna Einarson
2003	Sandra Anderson
2004	Nicholle Ingalls
2005	Holly Young
2006	Beverley Sawchuk
2007	Nancy Schroeder
2008	Elin Thordarson
2009	Chantille Papko
2010	Carly Phelps
2011	Cheryl Fines
2012	Patricia Akerley
2013	Alexandra Bancroft
2014	Marta Dabros
2015	Lindsay Bristow
2016	Ashley Haywar

E.I. Benjaminson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1992	Jon Magnusson
1993	Leif Sigurdson
1994	Melanie Pool
1995	Davyd Hooper
1996	Jason Miles
1997	Laurel Lycar
1998	Jill Simmons
1999	Alexandra Bell
2000	Katherine Graf
2001	Sasha Hanks
2002	Suzanne De Haney
2003	Meghan Webb
2004	Kendra Ulrich
2005	Anita Hegg
2006	Carrie Simmons
2007	Marielle Gawryluk
2008	Faith Cormier
2009	Heather Sigvaldason
2010	Mark Lipson
2011	Samantha Carey
2012	Alexandra Kuzyk
2013	Thomas Hall
2014	Sneha Abraham
2015	Alison Kirk

The Members  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1993	Allison Miller
1993	Kelly Drummond
1994	Kristinn Magnusson
1995	Michael Eggertson
1995	Muoi Ngo Tran
1996	Shela Luprypa
1997	Lisa Zabolotny
1998	Erik Isford
1998	Ainsley Gunnlaugson
1999	Kirk Kristofferson
2000	Paula Cook
2001	Amy Finley
2002	Michael Johnson
2002	Kelli Johnson
2003	Jane Howard
2003	Justin Pursaga
2004	Anne Kirk
2005	Laurie Vermette
2006	Karissa Cook
2007	Miria Olson
2008	Amanda Einarson
2009	Sarah Carson
2010	Avery Simundson
2011	Lisa Barkman Hobbs
2012	Jared Fridfinnson
2013	Erika Manaigre
2014	Michael Jonasson
2015	Richelle Ready
2016	Madison Hergert-Schmidt

Gyda Naylor  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1987	Cathey Day
1988	Denise Smalinski
1989	Alison Laxdal
1990	Signy Syms
1991	Carol Brandt
1992	Lucy Phua
1993	Karla Klassen
1994	Dawn Laycock
1995	Glen Arnould
1996	Marlene Silvino
1997	Lindsay Mullin
1998	No scholarship
1999	Cresta Robinson
2000	Trista Jackson
2001	Eden Kammer
2002	Tamara Enns
2003	Nadine Sigvaldason
2004	Corley Magnusson
2005	Lee Anne Mohammed
2006	Jennifer Steeves
2007	Jessie Bilbey
2008	Anne Hedley
2009	Sarah Isliefson
2010	Sean McGillivray
2011	Jennilee Beaupre
2012	Kara Zylstra
2013	Ainslie Bailey
2014	Patricia Bulos
2015	Tanya Van Damme
2016	Bethany MacLean

Snjolaug Gillis  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1985	Louise Jackman
1986	Laurel Magnusson
1987	Caroline Gurzdak
1988	Rhonda Sigurdson
1989	Marlene Johnson
1990	Myrna Kines
1991	Eileen Jones
1992	Margaret Skulason
1993	Kristjana Fjeldsted
1994	Kimberlee Mushey
1995	Tannis Isfeld
1996	Lisa Kostenchuk
1997	Anna Sokolowska
1998	Simone Stenekes
1999	Kathryn Doerksen
2000	Karlene Hudson
2001	Erin Palsson
2002	Kristen Robertson
2003	Jennelle Magnusson
2004	Michael Johnson
2005	Avery Olafson
2006	Kerri Ann Jefferson
2007	Kim Le
2008	Donna Turton
2009	Aislynn Torfason
2010	Alison Kirk
2011	Karis Klassen
2012	Ariel Arason
2013	Caitlyn Farr
2014	Kristyn Broadfoot
2015	Dawn Lees
2016	Jenna North

Kristin & Albert Stephensen  
*Music Scholarship*

2001	Jennifer Mitchler
2002	Victoria Sparks
2003	Lauren Unik
2004	Shannon Linklater
2005	Anjolene Hunt
2006	Viktoria Schafer
2007	Amber Epp
2008	Emma Gordon
2009	Elizabeth Craig
2010	Amanda Gaultois-Poole
2011	Chelsea Chimilar
2012	Rheannon Blanchette
2013	Austin McWhirter
2014	Ive Dalman
2015	Nicola Davies
2016	Amanda Robertson

Anna Skaptason  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2004	Daniel Hotel
2005	Alena Arnason
2006	Laura Dowbenko
2007	Stephanie Yakiwchuk
2008	Carly Swain
2009	Justine Gould
2010	Krista Koldyk
2011	Shannon Darby
2012	Erin Thorleifson
2013	Rachel Ollinger
2014	Larissa Johnson
2015	Erin Thorleifson
2016	Jessica Kendel

Eugene & Rose Clyde  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2002	Kjarna Jamieson
2003	Tara Lewis
2003	Aimee Yorke
2004	Chris Yackoboski
2005	Amanda Davidson
2006	Thor Eyjolfsson
2007	Kai Stefan Olson
2008	Jessica Ann Flynn
2009	Chelsea Bailey
2010	Kirby Penner
2011	Sara Bittner
2012	Jessica Foss
2013	Raine Isfeld
2014	Orysa Stein
2015	Nicole Gomes
2016	Bailey Gillies

Skip & Margaret Skaptason  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2005	Brook Fridfinnson
2006	Monica Schott
2007	Ben Lobb
2008	Heather Wilton
2009	Heather Wilton
2010	Heather Sparkes
2011	Bonnie Schott
2012	Jacey Schettler
2013	Stephanie Melsted
2014	Brianne Collette
2015	Rebecca Knight
2016	Liliane Tran

Kenneth G. Howard  
*Scholarship*

2004	Natalie Van Acker
2005	Nicole Christianson-Smith
2006	Laurie Anne Vermette
2007	Michael Olson
2008	Theodoros Zegeye-Gebrehiwot

Neil Bardal  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2008	Kari Broadfoot
2009	Karen Oswald
2010	Amanda Stefanson
2011	Alexa Yakubovich
2012	Brigitte Baragar
2013	Laura Crocker
2014	Bryndis Uschold
2016	Rachelle Palsson

Stefan Olafson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1995	Jennifer Gerrard
------	------------------

Stjana Crowe  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1984	Elin Stangroom
------	----------------

International Year of  
*the Family Award*

1994	Jenny Johnson
------	---------------

Elinborg Hanson  
*IODE Memorial Scholarship*

1962	Bergthor G.B. Palsson – Hecla
1963	Sharon K. Solmundson – Hecla
1964	No award
1965	No award
1966	Linda Kissack – St. James
1967	Alice Einarson – Lundar
1968	Kathryn Mary Bjorg Medd – Wpg.
1968	Olivia Julian Thorsteinson – Wpg.
1969	Grant Stefan Swanson – Selkirk.
1970	Joanne Violet Frederikson
1971	Douglas Edward Eggertson
1971	David Thor Jonasson
1972	Linda Gail Thorlakson
1972	Christene Donna Kernslid – Gimli
1973	Elaine Sigurdson – Gimli
1974	Vivian Helga Nowazek – Flin Flon
1975	Aileen Kim Rogers
1976	Lorraine Guttormson
1977	Deborah Dudor
1978	Alma Jacobson
1979	Janet McMahon
1980	Leah Bjarnarson
1981	Paul Stefansson
1982	Kathryn Hildebrand
1983	Yvonne Marie Litton
1984	Brian K. Swainson
1985	Carrie Ana Van Damme
1986	Krista Breckman
1987	Mark Isleifson
1988	Diana Isliefson
1989	Jennifer Cameron
1990	Stephen Lamoreau
1991	Sandy McEwen
1992	Brady Ryall

Valdina Gottfred  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1979	Brenda Wishnowski
1980	Donna Fer Budzinsky
1981	Ruth Meadows
1982	Brenda Thompson
1983	Lyndon Islielson
1984	Ryan James Wiens

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE  
*Special Achievement Award*

1980	Halldor Bjarnason
1981	Halldor Bjarnason
1982	Halldor Bjarnason
1983	Halldor Bjarnason
1984	Halldor Bjarnason
1985	Halldor Bjarnason
1986	Halldor Bjarnason
1987	Halldor Bjarnason
1988	Halldor Bjarnason
1989	Dianne Brandon
1990	No recipient
1991	Kathryn Lisa Johnson
1992	No recipient
1993	No recipient
2008	James Scowen

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter  
*70th Anniversary Scholarship*

1986	Juliana Bjornson
1986	Carol Johnson

Svava Thorsteinson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1982	Susan Guttormson
1983	Linda Banks
1983	Ellen Scobie
1984	Michael Guttormson
1985	Ora Justice
1986	David Wilkie
1987	Heather Benedictson
1988	Machelle Wilcox
1989	Dawn Rothwell
1990	Dayton Barenz
1991	Marnie Petersen
1992	Kelly Petersen
1993	Diana Islielson
1994	Lianne Perry
1995	Linda Collette

Frida & Hjalmur Danielson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1983	Andrew Stelmack
1984	Diane Morris
1985	Tristan Jergeson
1986	No recipient
1987	Arlene Sorokowski
1988	Susan Webb
1989	Marni Rothwell
1990	Trinity Sigurdson
1991	Tamara Ramsey
1992	Heather Skulason

Bea Sharpe  
*Memorial Scholarship*

1998	Laurel Roberts
1999	Robert Schaldemose
2000	Andrea Mustard

Helga Guttormson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2000	Freya Olafson
------	---------------

Frank Wilson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2002	Wesley Petrowski
2002	Christopher De Juzman

Haldor Bjarnason  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2002	Allison Stevens
------	-----------------

Lena Goodman  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2004	Amanda-Rose Bourget
------	---------------------

Margaret Perry  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2004	Daniel Schott
------	---------------



Sr. Laufey Olsen  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2004	David Perlmutter
------	------------------

Dora Sigurdson  
*Scholarship*

2005	Sara Isliefson
------	----------------

W. Fisher Einarson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2005	Thomas Johnson
------	----------------

Flora Benson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2005	Kayla Stevens
------	---------------

Gloria Meadows  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2006	Heida Arnason
2007	Keegan Porter
2007	Diane Kim

J. Kerr Wilson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2006	Matthew Packer
------	----------------

Valdine Anderson  
*Music Scholarship*

2006	Ashley Klassen
------	----------------

Kerrine Wilson  
*Music Scholarship*

2006	Kristjanna Oleson
------	-------------------

Halli & Gudrun Bjornson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2006	Mark Lindal
2007	Drew Anderson
2008	James Bjornson
2009	Quinn Senkow

Norma McEwen  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2007	Stacey Abramson
2007	Christin Burgess

Evelyn Thorvaldson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2007	Theresa Thordarson
------	--------------------

Shirley McCreedy  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2009	Theresa Thordarson
------	--------------------

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE  
*80th Anniversary Scholarship*

1996	Jennifer Bailey
1996	Shannon Walterson
2001	Jillian Le Maistre

Queen Elizabeth II  
*Golden Jubilee Award*

2002	Rebekah Hiebert
2003	Nicole Saunders

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE  
*90th Anniversary Scholarship*

2006	Steve Swan
------	------------

Pearl R. Eyford  
*Music Scholarship*

2014	Gordon Plant
------	--------------

Lynelle Wisneski  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2015	Allegra Friesen Epp
2016	Noel Braucher

Lorna Thorlakson  
*Memorial Scholarship*

2015	Megan Ferguson
2016	Abigail Lidster

Jo Wilson  
*Scholarship*

2015	Nicole Semler
------	---------------

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE  
*100th Anniversary Scholarship*

2016	Jessica Allard
------	----------------





## WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

