

LEIC makes spirits rise at annual Christmas party

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The Leif Eiriksson Icelandic Club (LEIC) of Calgary held their annual family Christmas party on Saturday, November 27, at the Hungarian Cultural Club. Approximately 225 people gathered to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season.

Cocktails and a variety of Icelandic appetizers were served, before introductions of special guests.

Carol Blyth, president of the LEIC, introduced the Canadian Icelandic Consul General, Atli Ásmundsson, and his wife, Prúður Helgadóttir. Also introduced were Dr. Hallgrímur Benediktsson, Icelandic Consul for Southern Alberta, and his wife, Guðrún Jorunsdóttir. Carol completed her introductions with Steinþór Guðbjartsson, Editor of *Lögberg-Heimskringla*, who attended our Christmas party and visited the club for the first time.

A traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings followed while everyone enjoyed visiting, eating and (those who were lucky enough) receiving one of the many door prizes given out that night. Iris Torfason, Vic and Marilyn Laxdal, and 13 young friends put on a very entertaining Christmas play. The performance included all of the Icelandic *jólasveinar*.

Then came the ever-popular Tom-bola draw, and four people took home a prize which included one of the following: gingerbread cookie house, Icelandic woolen blanket, singing snowman, and an assortment of souvenirs from Iceland.

Young and old gathered around the Christmas tree for carols in both Icelandic and English. Special visitors Sant' and Mrs. Claus appeared to the tune of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." Children lined up to visit with Santa and receive their bag of treats



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA BJARNASON

Susan Anderson, grandmother of Elida (left) and Anna Kolbjornsrud at the Christmas party.

from Mrs. Claus.

Icelandic desserts and coffee were served, while the DJ invited everyone to the floor for the first dance. Some

people enjoyed dancing, while others visited with old friends, until it was time to go home.