

Íslendingadagurinn

GIMLI, MB — Whether you tried your skill at Fris-Nok or the Íslendingadunk, enjoyed the many music concerts ranging from folk and jazz to classical or partook of traditional Icelandic food, the 118th Íslendingadagurinn had something for everyone.

Iceland's beloved poet Jónas Hallgrímsson was honoured at the Celebrity Concert, featuring renowned composer Atli Heimar Sveinsson's music performed by Fífilbrekkuhópurinn, "The Valley Group."

During the Traditional Program, Valgeir Þorvaldsson of the Emigration Centre in Hofsós, Iceland gave the Toast to Canada, in which he announced an agreement between the Centre, the University of Iceland and the National Library of Iceland to hold a new festival in 2009 to honour North Americans of Icelandic descent. "I hope you will all be able to attend!" he said. Ernest Stefanson of Gimli gave the Toast to Iceland, praising the nation's economic development. "Icelanders have always been inclined to see themselves at the



Fjallkona Rosalind Vigfusson is escorted by Tim Arnason and flanked by her attendants through Gimli Park for the Traditional Program on Monday.



Iceland's Prime Minister Geir H. Haarde emphasized economic links between Iceland and Manitoba but added, "Iceland's ties to Manitoba will remain strong regardless of business."

PHOTOS: DAVID JÓN FULLER

heart of the action," he said, "and glo-

balization is proving them right."



Dignitaries and speakers stand for the singing of the Canadian and Icelandic national anthems. Seen here are Manitoba's Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth Peter Bjornson; Inga Jóna Þórðardóttir with her husband, Iceland's Prime Minister Geir H. Haarde; Valgeir Þorvaldsson, Director of Vesturfarasetrið, the Western Emigration Centre in Hofsós; David Gislason and David Arnason; and Tami Schirlie, President of the Icelandic Festival; as well as representatives from the City of Winnipeg and the Government of Canada.



Ernest Stefanson delivers the Toast to Iceland. He praised Iceland's ingenuity, particularly in business and industry in recent years.



Valgeir Þorvaldsson delivers the Toast to Canada. He announced a new festival in Iceland to honour North Americans of Icelandic descent.



PHOTO: LINDA SIGURDSON COLETTE

At the Celebrity Concert. From left: Rev. Stefan Jónasson; Sigrún Edvaldsdóttir, violin; Dr. Sveinn Yngvi Egilsson; Dr. Birna Bjarnadóttir; Anna Guðný Guðmundsdóttir, piano; Hávarður Tryggvason, double bass; Atli Heimir Sveinsson, composer; Sif Sigurðardóttir; Sigurður Ingi Snorrason, clarinet. Seated: Eyjólfur Eyjólfsson, tenor; Hulda Björk Garðarsdóttir, soprano.



The Valley Group, Fífilbrekkuhópurinn, perform at the Traditional Program as composer Atli Heimir Sveinsson (below) looks on.



PHOTO: DAVID JÓN FULLER

Two choirs sing as one: the Norðurljósa Kórinn (left half) and Kór Húsavíkurkirkju (right) perform in Gimli.



PHOTOS: DON GISLASON

Contestants duked it out in Íslendingadunk at Gimli harbour as hundreds watched; Brett Arnason (top right) was MC.



Others chose to enjoy the sun by playing volleyball on the beach — and kept a bit of viking flavour in the game.





PHOTOS: DON GISLASON

Top left: Prime Minister of Iceland Geir H. Haarde and his wife Inga Jóna Þórðardóttir took part in the Icelandic Festival parade, as did Mayor of Gimli Tammy Axelsson (top right), Icelandic Festival President Tami Schirle (below left), and *Lögberg-Heimskringla*, with participants in the Snorri Program and Snorri West Program (below right).



Crowds of spectators lined the streets of Gimli, enjoying floats and performers in the parade.





PHOTOS: DON GISLASON

Only in Gimli: a viking on a motorcycle — and some among the spectators — during the Monday morning parade.





PHOTOS: DON GISLASON

The Viking Village is a popular attraction, featuring demonstrations of cooking, archery, metalworking, and even a mock battle or two. Many artisans and re-enactors come from across North America to take part.

