



Guest Speaker no stranger to the Society

By Andrea Stanford

Here it is, folks: The INSIDE SCOOP on Kevin Tierney – this year’s Guest Speaker at the St. Patrick’s Society Annual luncheon. You know the name; Kevin has been involved with Montreal’s Irish Community for some time. You’ve seen him at Ciné Gael Events, he was the Guest of Honour at the 2008 St. Patrick’s Ball and has been twice featured right here in *Nuacht*. But beyond the impressive resumé and well-merited accolades, what is Kevin Tierney really like?

As Kevin’s former assistant, I’m here to tell you.

I worked with Kevin for two years and on three productions, including a little-known film called *Bon Cop/Bad Cop*. As his executive assistant, I had backstage access to the force that is Kevin Tierney. I’ve witnessed the on-set behavior and I’ve been privy to many interesting exchanges. I was there when the film exploded onto the scene and became not only the first ever bilingual film made in Canada, but the highest grossing movie in the history of Quebec and Canadian cinema. I saw firsthand how fame didn’t change him at all, how Kevin stayed the same affable, supportive man who has stayed in my life since we stopped working together.

What?

Were you seeking a no-hold-barred exposé of diva-esque behavior and outlandish demands? Sorry to disappoint. This is Canadian Film, after all.



Photo: Lois Siegel

Kevin Tierney: the 2013 SPS Luncheon’s Guest Speaker

When asked how he felt about his invitation to be the Guest Speaker at this year’s luncheon, Kevin says “I am honoured, particularly as it comes some six or seven years, after I became semi-famous and for a remarkably short time.” Humble and self-deprecating, perhaps one of Kevin’s greatest qualities is his accessibility. For a man whose television productions have been nominated for a total of 11 Emmys and 12 Geminis, including two outstanding Mini-Series, Best Series and Best TV movie, he certainly doesn’t put on any airs.

Kevin’s film and television credits are impressive – he recently made his directorial debut in the film *French Immersion*, a cross-cultural, bilingual comedy that recounts the adventures of a group of Anglophone Canadians who come to study French in Quebec

Cont. p.4

NUA
CHT
February 2013
Vol. 26, Issue 1

I N S I D E	• Innisfail Social and Sports Club celebrates 70 years.....	p.4
	• SPS Ball: Guest of Honour and Honorary Chair	p.5
	• 2013 Irishman of the Year gets pre-sashed	p.6
	• Selection night produces great winners	p.7
	• University College Dublin sends team to Montreal competition	p.8
	• A note from the Défile de la St-Patrick de Québec	p.8
	• Calling Canada’s wild geese	p.9
	• St. Columban cemetery restoration project continues	p.11
	• Ciné Gael toasts Ireland with a concert	p.12
	• James Guerin: mayor and the very model of a modern Montreal anglophone	p.13
	• A long way from Clare to here	p.15
	• Let’s get ready to welcome a new wave of young Irish!	p.16

A word from the President

So many reasons to be proud

Across Canada and around the world, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated as an international day of community solidarity. Look around you this year as the parade follows the green line along St. Catherine Street just as it has every year since 1824. Every single one of those 500,000 smiling, face-painted spectators bedecked in green is as Irish as we are – for that one day anyway.

The ball with Kathleen Weil as guest of honour looks like it will be another sellout and we will be hosting our St. Patrick's Day lunch for the 180th time on March 15 with film producer and director extraordinaire, Kevin Tierney, as guest speaker. Hudson and Chateauguay now stage their own St. Patrick's Day parades and the revived Quebec City parade will take place this year on Saturday March 23. I have participated in earlier years and I promise it's worth the trip.

The Centaur Theatre is staging *Trad* subtitled "An Irish centenarian and his father are on a mission" which will be a Canadian premier of the Irish play written by Mark Doherty and directed by Andrew Shaver. We are proud to be a sponsor of the production and I would encourage you to attend.

All of this is evidence of the continuing strength of our proud community which, in Montreal, despite lower numbers than other Canadian cities, is the strongest, best organized and most historically significant of all the Irish communities in Canada. Our emblem adorns the flag of this city, we stage the longest continuous St. Patrick's parade in the country and, as you may have read, the Canadian Irish Studies department in Concordia

University will be the first in the country to award a "major" in Irish Studies.

An encouraging recent development is the revival of the Council of Irish Societies which consolidates all the various Irish clubs and societies in the city. It was formed a number of years ago primarily to ensure coordination of the timing of the various events we organized to avoid conflicts. However, using the technological tools available to us in 2012, we have finally taken care of this by launching an open-source Google calendar which everybody is welcome to consult and contribute to. Please contact office@spsmtl.com for login coordinates and conditions of use. With this task out of the way, the council is free to move on to more exciting projects of benefit to the entire community. I personally believe that this type of community solidarity is key to the successful realization of new big projects and the phrase that immediately comes to mind is "watch this space"!

By the time *Nuacht* goes to press, we will have organized another networking event for young immigrants from Ireland which we are doing as part of our core mission to support Irish immigrants. These young people come to Canada under the International Experience Canada (IEC) program which permits young people under 35 to stay and work for up to 24 months. This year's quota of 6,350 visas was snatched up in only two and a half days.

In September, we will be welcoming one of Ireland's leading economists, David McWilliams as this year's speaker under the St. Patrick's Society / Canadian Irish Studies lecture series. This is not to be missed. If you think economics is boring, David McWilliams will transform your world view. For a foretaste of what we will get, visit his website at www.davidmcwilliams.ie and play the videos on "punk economics."

What I would like to close with is what I am most proud of and that is that this year we in St. Patrick's Society have contributed in excess of \$70,000 to activities in furtherance of our charitable mission.

You should be proud too!

Paul Dunne

February, 2013

NUACHT, Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

Editorial Board: Anne Forrest (Editor)
E-mail: nuacht@spsmtl.com
Marilyn Meikle
Paul Dunne
Carol McCormick

Proofreading: Maura Druda
Martina Branagan

Advertising: Erin Matheson
E-mail: office@spsmtl.com

Printing: Centre de copie commerciale
460 St. Catherine Street West
Montreal, QC H3B 1A7
Tel.: 514-842-2545

Subscription: \$25.00 per year
Please address all contributions to the Editor at the Society Office.
Tel.: 514-481-1346 Fax: 514-481-9048

E-mail: office@spsmtl.com
St. Patrick's Society of Montreal
St. Patrick Square
6767 Côte St. Luc Road, #1
Montreal, QC H4V 2Z6
www.spsmtl.com

Deadline for submissions for next issue: May 1, 2013

Attention *Nuacht* subscribers!

This is to inform you that this will be the last print edition for the 2012-2013 season sent out to *Nuacht* subscribers.

If you would like to continue receiving the print edition of *Nuacht*, please complete the insert, along with your payment, and return to the office.

Something to think about – for the same yearly price of a *Nuacht* subscription, why not consider becoming a member of the Society? That way, you still get your print edition of *Nuacht*, and all the other benefits of membership! Should you be interested, please complete the reverse side of the insert and return to the Society office.

Thank you!

News from the Society

Annual Christmas concert

By Carol McCormick

December 6, 2012 marked St. Patrick's Society's 20th Annual Christmas Concert. The 430 who attended will agree it was an evening of great fun and wonderful music featuring Rosheen, Buzz Brass and of course none other than the Bernadette Short Irish Dancers.

Christmas filled the air as it has done for the past 20 years. The Concert programme honoured previous chairs with their photos and the years they were responsible for. Though Mrs. Nicole Tinmouth was never a chairperson, it was her suggestion that a Christmas concert be held as a fund raiser. This event has blossomed into twenty years of magical memories and has become a successful fundraiser for SPS. The concert netted over \$10,000.00 including \$3,090.00 for the Silent Auction (a litho went for \$1,500.00!).

We have had many firsts through the 20 years, but I think seeing the President of St. Patrick's Society, Paul Dunne playing spoons in the sanctuary of St. Patrick's Basilica was not only a first for SPS but for the Basilica as well! It was at that time, I believe the audience took to wild applause and clapping of hands urging Paul to go faster and faster on those spoons.

Thanks to the generosity of the audience, eight full boxes of non-perishable items were delivered the following day to the NDG Food Bank.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, your family and friends for your support and encouragement during these past four years that I have chaired the concert. It is always bitter sweet when one decides to move on. However, I have always felt that all volunteers need to be active, involved and "evolve." I wish whoever becomes the next concert chair, every success..



Save the date: SPS Golf Tournament

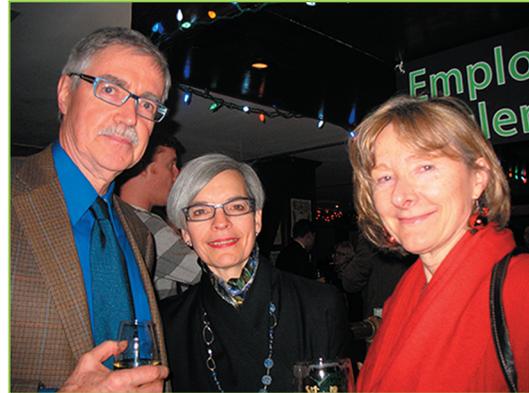
The annual St. Patrick's Charity Golf Tournament will take place on Tuesday, June 18, at the Belle Vue Golf Course. Despite the rain, we had a great Irish party and a bit of golf last year. This year we guarantee sunny and mild weather.

Tee-off time: 12:45 p.m. Cost is \$125 which covers green fees, golf cart, roast beef dinner with wine, plus prizes for everyone.

For additional information, please call St. Patrick's Society at 514-481-1346 or Paul Doyle at 514-481-3503.



Christmas reception



Michael Kenneally, Rhona Kenneally and Ann English

The Irish Embassy Pub and Grill on Bishop Street was the venue for the 2012 St. Patrick's Society Christmas reception. Approximately 75 members attended the event which took place on December 13 and they enjoyed a few relaxing hours over drinks and hors d'œuvres. A couple of musicians entertained everyone with lively, traditional Irish music. Speeches were brief and those present were clearly having a good time in this new location. A thank you to Erin and her team for organizing this.



8th Annual St. Patrick's Society lecture



David McWilliams

Be sure to note Thursday, September 19, 2013 on your calendar. That is the evening on which David McWilliams will deliver what promises to be a most informative and stimulating lecture. McWilliams is one of Ireland's leading economic commentators. He was the first economist to see that the Irish boom was nothing more than a credit bubble and one of the very few to accurately predict it would all end in a monumental crash with bank failures, negative equity and rising unemployment and emigration. He is an economist, broadcaster and bestselling author. He has also expressed a number of ideas about political reform, including extending the vote to the Irish diaspora.

The location of this event will be announced later.



Tierney (cont.)

for two weeks. Films Kevin has produced include *Good Neighbours* and *The Trotsky* both written and directed by his son, Jacob, *Love and Savagery*, directed by John N. Smith and *Serveuses Demandées*, written and directed by Guylaine Dionne. Among his other productions are *Choice: The Henry Morgentaler Story*; *Twist, Varian's War*, Best Mini-Series Emmy nominated *More Tales of the City* the Emmy Award nominated Best Mini-Series, *P.T. Barnum* and *Bonanno: a Godfather's Story*.

I think Kevin's approachability comes from his genuine interest in people; where they come from, what their lives are like and what makes them tick. The man tells stories for a living, so his keen attentiveness to the varied intricacies of the people around him serves him well. Kevin loved it when I would regale him with stories about the many characters of the *ahem* colourful building where we worked in St. Henri. He took a genuine interest in what I did outside the office and has supported me in my many creative endeavours. For example, I occasionally dabble in stand-up comedy and Kevin has not only come to multiple shows, he's also brought a huge posse every time (whether or not his friends appreciate being dragged to a tiny, filthy venue for a night of amateur comedy remains to be seen).

Kevin Tierney is the type of person you want to be near – he is gregarious, intelligent and an avid supporter of the Montreal Arts scene. He is not only interesting, he is interested, often talking up an event with such enthusiasm that you would follow him anywhere – it's part of his addictive charisma. Kevin likes to laugh, and you can't help but laugh along with him.

The man is an unstoppable force, with many projects on the go including what he is calling "a love story/road movie/comedy about a young guy and an old guy who both need to get from Vancouver to the Bay of Fundy for love but not with the same person. It's called *Ben and Jerry* and it is NOT about ice cream."

He also just finished adapting Michel Tremblay's novel *La Traversée du Continent/Crossing the Continent*, the story of a young 10 year-old girl who travels by train from rural Saskatchewan to Montreal to meet her mother. As Kevin puts it, "it's kind of an Alice-in-Wonderland story full of fantastic characters and fantasy and the plan is to make it as a feature-length animation film". As if that weren't enough, he's also working on a new apocalyptic/action movie written and directed by Jacob called *American Music*.

Born at St. Mary's Hospital on August 27, 1950 Kevin was baptized at St. Roch's and raised in Park Extension (his production company is called Park Ex Pictures Inc.); His father's grandparents had emigrated from Co. Armagh many years previously, and in 1929, when his mother was nine, she and her family emigrated from Ardglasson, Co. Meath to Montreal. Prior to entering the film business, Kevin spent more than a decade teaching at various levels and all over the world, including Canada, Algeria, Chad and China. Teaching still runs in the family – his wife Terry is a full-time teacher at Royal West Academy. His daughter Brigid, has recently completed her MA in Culture and Communications.

When asked about his involvement in Montreal's Irish community – Cine Gael in particular – Kevin says, "it all started when Patrick Vallely asked me to introduce *The Luck of Ginger Coffey*. It was then that I realized that Ciné Gael was like the IRA: You can never get out. Before that I was the typical Groucho Irishman who didn't want to be a member if any group that would have me. Now I feel that my involvement, tiny as it is, has greatly enhanced my life"

With his wicked sense of humour and unique way with words, Kevin is sure to be a memorable guest speaker at this year's luncheon. As he puts it, "I have always wanted to say Pug Mahone in front of a Bishop." Hold on to your hats, folks. I think you're in for a treat.



Innisfail Social and Sports Club celebrates 70 years

By Ann Broden

Since its founding in April, 1943, Innisfail has made a meaningful difference to the Irish community celebrating Irish with various activities, dances, famous Loyola Field Days, St. Patrick's concerts, etc. On April 20 the club will celebrate its 70th Anniversary, an achievement made possible by the support of the faithful membership over the years.

In the course of the club's history, Innisfail has evolved from being a social and sports club for the Irish immigrants finding their way to Montreal to strictly a social club remaining true to the ideals of the club as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws.

The 70th Anniversary is a starting point from which Innisfail takes on new challenges to proceed into the future earning the trust of our members and the Irish community in general. As such we will continue to foster the ideals of the club through our many events.

We are grateful to all of our members who have worked with us over the years and are excited about what the future holds. We are committed to work on creating new events to serve the needs of our membership. As president, I look forward to welcoming you to celebrate this important milestone in the history of our club.

- Date: Friday, April 19, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.
- Event: Pasta Night
- Location: NDG Legion corner of Addington and de Maisonneuve
- Cost: \$12.00 - Members and friends are welcome

Wherever you go and whatever you do, may the luck of the Irish be there with you.

Sláinte!



St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Ball's Guest of Honour

By Marilyn Meikle Rochford

St. Patrick's Society is pleased to announce that the Guest of Honour at this year's Ball is Kathleen Weil, MNA for Notre-Dame de Grâce. First elected to the National Assembly in 2008, she holds the distinction of being the first woman elected in this southwest Montreal riding. She was appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Québec in 2008, and in 2010, was appointed Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities. Following the 2012 election, Ms. Weil was re-elected in her district and charged with the Employment and Social Economy files for the Official Opposition.



Kathleen Weil, MNA

Ms. Weil holds a degree in History and Political Science from McGill University and was admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1983 after completing her Civil and Common Law degrees at McGill in 1982

Said Ms. Weil, "I am honoured and thrilled to be the Guest of Honour at the St. Patrick's Society Charity Ball, a ball my parents attended regularly when I was a child. They were very proud of our Irish roots and to this day, every year, I attend the St. Patrick's parade and wear some green as a testimony to the green ribbon my mother used to put in my hair as a schoolgirl every March 17th, and to the community my parents loved so much. May St. Patrick's Society continue to celebrate through this annual tradition the pride shared by all Montrealers in the Irish community and in its warmth, generosity and openness!"

Before entering politics, Kathleen Weil was the President and CEO of the Foundation of Greater Montreal, a key charitable foundation dedicated to building permanent endowment funds to support a range of community organizations in Greater Montreal. Throughout her career and in her numerous professional activities, she has devoted much of her time and energy to the administration of organizations in the public and community sectors.

For over 20 years she was actively involved in the health and social services sector, as a member and chair of the Montreal regional health and social services board, the chair of

the Quebec conference of health and social services boards, the deputy chair of the Batshaw board of directors and the association of Quebec youth centres, a member of the board of the Canadian Institute for Health Information, a member of the board of directors of the Montreal Children's Hospital, and a member of the board of Community Foundations of Canada.

Kathleen Weil was born in Montreal, is married to Michael Novak, and the mother of four children. Her Irish roots are on both sides of her family, among them are: O'Day and Gillick from County Cork, Kelly, McCord and Rosamond from the Counties of Derry, Antrim and Leitrim.

... and Honorary Chair of the Ball

The St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Ball Committee is pleased to welcome Louis Vachon as Honorary Chair of the Ball. As president and chief executive officer of National Bank, a position he has held since June 2007, Louis Vachon is responsible for the strategies, orientations and development of the Bank and its subsidiaries. At the time of his appointment, Mr. Vachon was CEO, a position he had held since July 2006.



Louis Vachon

Mr. Vachon is well-known to Society members. He was guest speaker at the Annual Luncheon in 2011 and is of Irish lineage. "The grandmother of my great-grandfather, and one of the founders of Les pâtisseries Vachon, was born in Ireland. I am very proud of my Irish roots. The Irish community contributes in many great ways to the Quebec and Canadian societies, especially in Montreal."

of social and cultural organizations. He holds a Master's degree in International Finance from The Fletcher School (a Tufts and Harvard University cooperative graduate programme), and a BA in Economics from Bates College. He is also a Chartered Financial Analyst, CFA. And in 2002, Mr. Vachon was named one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40.

In accepting his 2013 role with the Society, Mr. Vachon said, "I am honoured to serve as Honorary Chair of the St. Patrick's Society Charity Ball. I would like to invite all members to contribute to this fundraiser and help the Society continue its tremendous work."

Louis Vachon serves as Chairman of the Conseil des Gouverneurs associés of the Université de Montréal and is involved with a number

Sponsorship packages can be found on the Society's website www.spsmtl.com or interested firms can call Erin Matheson, Office Manager at 514-481-1346.



2013 Irishman of the Year gets pre-sashed

By Alyssa Caughy and Ken Quinn

On Friday, February 8, John W. Meaney was pre-sashed by the Erin Sports Association. Although it was cold and blustery outside, the evening offered its customary warmth and friendliness. The members and guests gathered at the Club to honour the 2013 Irishman of the Year with the ritual pre-sashing ceremony. This year's honoree, Kirkland Mayor John W. Meaney, would be joining the ranks of many a notable Irishman as the 2013 Irishman of the Year.

Breakfast co-chair Ken Doran Jr. performed the master of ceremonies duties for the evening in an efficient and informative manner and the evening began with Francis Baddeley singing both national anthems with the vigour and enthusiasm to which we are accustomed followed by Father Joseph Sullivan saying Grace before leading everyone in a verse of "Amazing Grace." The Queen and princesses in attendance introduced themselves before the members of the Erin Sports Association got down to business.

Once stomachs were filled and drinks shared, eight former Irishmen of the Year took to the stage as a group. Their presence on such a winter's evening speaks volumes for the respect they and the community have for the Irishman of the Year. They spoke of the history of being a community-driven group with strong ties to the Salvation Army and Irish Heritage history preservation. They ended by inviting and welcoming John W. Meaney to 'join the ranks' as this year's Irishman of the Year.

Bill Hurley, 2012's Irishman of the Year, was 'desashed' and commented on his amazing year. Passing on words of wisdom to Mr. Meaney that this would be a wonderful experience and to enjoy the Irish season, he thanked those he had got to know better during his tenure and wished the same for his successor.

Griffintown-born John Meaney thanked the members of the Erin Sports Club and guests for joining him in celebrating this honour. He spoke of the excitement he felt this year at welcoming the Queen and Court to Kirkland for the Queen's reception not only as mayor but also as Irishman of the Year – a tradition he began many years ago – which he laughingly recounted was supposed to be a one-time event. Concluding the rest of his speech in French, the mayor smilingly declared whether French or English we are all Irish that night. Judging from the welcome set forth by the members and non-members of the Erin Sports Club, all will be Irish for many more nights to come.

With a warm welcome and dazzling smile Mr. Meaney clearly was not only the man of the hour, but also a man who wished to celebrate this honour with those around him. As he spoke with the Queen and court, he was more interested in congratulating the court and recounting tales of the wonderful things they

would see than accepting praise for himself. With a charming smile, he simply told the court "...this is going to be a wonderful time for all of us."

A thanks to the wonderful ladies associated with the club who prepared a wonderful spread for the guests including delightful Celtic rolls. As conversation filled the room over good food and drinks, it was clear that there was a kinfolk spirit in the air stretching beyond the idea of sharing Irish roots. A pre-sashing evening would not be the same without musical entertainment. Lisa Forget and Terry Clahane kept the guests' toes tapping with their upbeat renditions of the songs we all know. Dr. Michael Kenneally surprisingly hopped on stage to join Lisa Forget in singing "The Fields of Athenry."

Everyone in attendance was thankful to the Erin Sports Association for its hospitality, warmth, and friendship on a most inhospitable winter's evening.



Photo: Ken Quinn

John W. Meaney

2013 Parade officials



Andrew Fogarty and **Don Pidgeon** proudly wearing their ceremonial sashes that were presented to them on Saturday, February 2 at the United Irish Societies' Queen's Selection Evening.

Selection night produces great winners

By Anne Forrest

The question: “Have you been to one of these before?” prompted my response that this was my eleventh consecutive Queen’s Selection Evening. Yes, since 2003 I’ve been a regular attendee at this annual event put on by the United Irish Societies and have enjoyed every one.

This year’s special evening, held once again at the Buffet Sorrento in LaSalle on February 2, was no disappointment. I believe that this year’s 23 contestants were the most articulate and confident group ever to grace the stage; they certainly gave the judges a challenging task.

After the dignitaries were led to their seats by piper Graham Batty, Francis Baddeley sang the national anthems of both Canada and Ireland, accompanied by Terry Clahane whose amazing keyboard skills during the evening were as impressive as ever.

Then Colleen Murphy (UIS) introduced the panel of judges: Alison Short (Air Canada); Ann Broden (president, Innisfail); Carol McCloskey (educator and author); Geoffrey Kelley (MNA, Jacques Cartier); Mark Bednarczyk (Loyola High School); Robert Ouellette (president, Irish Protestant Benevolent Society); and Susan Cahill (professor, Concordia Irish Studies). The judges’ advisors were Dr. Michael Kenneally and Dr. Rhona Kenneally, and the scrutineers were Kevin Murphy and Ashley Trainor. Ken Quinn served as technician and technical consultant.

Next the 2013 Parade Grand Marshal, Andrew Fogarty, and the Chief Reviewing Officer, Donald Pidgeon, received their sashes and the traditional china horse and walking stick respectively.

At this point, Lori Graham, CTV’s weather girl and a regular MC at this event, took the microphone and assured us that everything would be over by 11:30 p.m. In fact, the evening ended shortly after 11 p.m. – surely a record! Lori proceeded to welcome the first group of contestants each of whom introduced herself in the allotted two minutes (though some ran over the limit). This group and the two subsequent ones impressed me with their accomplishments, particularly as volunteers (e.g., Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Amnesty International, the Children’s Hospital, alzheimer groups and women’s shelters) and their ambitions – one aspiring to become a cardiologist and another a neurologist.

After the judges had selected the 10 semifinalists, each gave her prepared presentation. This year we didn’t have to listen to three

or four speeches about D’Arcy McGee, the Victoria Bridge or the Book of Kells as 10 different topics had been assigned. New subjects included the Irish claddagh, Griffintown and Celtic trees. This part of the evening proved to be most informative.

Only five girls made it to the final round and they would make up the Royal Court. The only question was who would be Queen. Here another change in procedure was introduced. Instead of each girl inviting a judge to pose a question for her to answer, the finalists were asked the same question. Of course they were sequestered back stage and could not hear the question in advance. This year the contestants were asked “Why should you be chosen as Queen?” The responses were honest and often humorous and we in the audience didn’t envy the judges as they made their final choice.



(l. to r.) Elspeth McMurray, Ashley Clarkson, Alyssa Caughy, Ashley O’Neill Couture and Cristina McHenry

Photo: Courtesy UIS

For those of you who have not attended one of these events, I should mention that throughout the evening, entertainment was provided. This year’s line-up consisted of Kayla May Vardon, Frayne Mcarthy, the Melotonz, the Bernadette Short Irish Dancers and True North. All performers were excellent and held our attention as we awaited the judges’ decisions.

Finally, True North left the stage to be replaced by Keira Kilmartin, the 2012 Queen who spoke about the wonderful year she had enjoyed thanks to the generosity of UIS. Then the Royal Court returned, each of whom was anxiously awaiting the verdict. As each princess was named (in random order), the tension grew and Terry Clahane’s background accompaniment enhanced this. Would it be the diminutive Elspeth or the well-rounded Alyssa (her own self description)? When the choice was revealed, the applause was deafening. This self-effacing Alyssa Caughy – a wrestler and rugby player who enjoyed getting her nails done – had spoken so well and with so much assurance had been proclaimed Queen. One of her rewards for being selected was a trip to Ireland provided by Air Canada. She will also be required to represent the Irish community and the numerous activities that take place during the upcoming Season. Her four princesses are Elspeth McMurray, Ashley Clarkson, Cristina McHenry and Ashley O’Neill Couture. Incidentally all five young women are 23 years old.

As always, congratulations to UIS on organizing yet another memorable evening. And, of course, congratulations to all 23 remarkable young women.



University College Dublin sends team to Montreal competition

By Ann Broden

On Monday January 7, 2013 The Irish Embassy Pub was the location at which the Montreal Chapter of UCD Alumni Association introduced the team representing the Michael Smurfit School of Business at University College Dublin. Paul Loftus, president UCD Alumni Association, Montreal Chapter, welcomed everyone and introduced the Guests of Honour, Dr. Ray Bassett (the Irish Ambassador to Canada) and Dr. Michael Kenneally (Honorary Irish Consul in Montreal). Dr. Bassett spoke of the pride we Irish have in our Irish heritage here in Montreal and how much he enjoys visiting our city. He told us of his involvement with UCD, the university which his children attended.

The team was here to represent UCD in the John Molson International MBA Case Competition, a bilingual competition for outstanding MBA students which this year included 36 teams from four continents. This amazing young team consisted of Connor O'Donovan (Captain), Dita Zarelova, Frances Perez-Colonine, Ian Nolan and alternate Rahul Jindue with coach, Michael Munevar and faculty advisor, Dr. Pat Gibbons.

In speaking with these fine young people during the evening, we learned of their desire to return to Montreal in the future and how amazed they were to see how strongly we celebrate and how proud we are of our Irish heritage.

Also in attendance were the presidents of many of the Irish organisations in Montreal: Paul Dunne (St. Patrick's Society); Mike Kennedy (United Irish Societies); Tim Furlong (Erin Sports Association); Lynn Doyle (Ciné Gael); Ronan Corbett (Gaelic Athletic Association); Dennis Martin (Siamsa); and Ann Broden (Innisfail Social and Sports Club). Also present were Andrew Fogarty (2013 Parade Grand Marshal), Kyle Matthews (Canadian International Council), Byron Toben



The UCD visitors together with some of the presidents of Montreal Irish associations and the Irish Ambassador. (L. to r.) Rahul Jindue, Tim Furlong, Ronan Corbett, Frances Perez-Colonine, Mike Kennedy, Michael Munevar, Lynn Doyle, Dr. Raymond Bassett, Dita Zarelova, Ian Nolan, Paul Loftus, Ann Broden, Dr. Pat Gibbons and Connor O'Donovan.

(Montreal Press Club), Tony Kez (Hungarian Chamber of Commerce) and Peter O'Brien (Chairman of the Board for the John Molson International MBA Case Competition).

It was most enjoyable to meet those who had emigrated here from all over Ireland and one in particular – a Mr. McCaughey who came here in the early '50s and spoke of his time in Ireland and UCD as if it were yesterday.

A special thanks to Paul Loftus for organizing the event and to Paul Quinn, owner of the Irish Embassy Pub and Grill, for providing the visitors and everyone in attendance with refreshments. It was an evening to remember.



A note from the Défilé de la St-Patrick de Québec

By Catherine McKenna

Just a reminder for our friends in Montreal that the Défilé de la St-Patrick-de-Québec will be held on Saturday, March 23, at 1:30 p.m.

Despite a slight modification in the early part of the parade route, the starting point remains the same, at St. Patrick's High School (de Salaberry and de Maisonneuve).

The Board of Directors are proud to announce this year's Grand Marshall, James Donovan, with whom many of our fellow Montrealers are familiar. A dedicated and tireless volunteer for both parades as well as countless Irish culture activities, James has notably made, and continues to make important contributions to the preservation and promotion

of Grosse-Île (Corporation pour la mise en valeur de Grosse-Île), where he also works as a guide, following in our beloved Marianna O'Gallagher's footsteps.



We cannot yet reveal the spectacular surprises in store that promise to make our 2013 Défilé bigger and better than ever (hint: music) thanks to our collaboration with Projet Y – established event planners in the Québec City region – and the generous support of La Ville de Québec, but check our Web site (<http://www.qcpatrick.com/>) for updates and plan to join us for our greatest celebration of Irish culture, history, and heritage yet! (581) 998-VERT



Calling Canada's wild geese

More than 325,000 expected at the The Gathering in Ireland this year

By Ruth Hanna

gathering – /ˈgɑːθərɪŋ/noun. 1. Assembly, meeting; 2. A suppurating swelling; abscess; 3. The collecting of food or raw materials from the wild; 4. Collection, compilation; 5. A gather in cloth

Ever fancied your chances at bog snorkeling? Or, would you like to have your freckles counted? Or, want to add your feet to a Riverdance Gathering World Record? Tourists from across the globe are invited to participate in an impressive array of festivals and community-led events in Ireland, spanning food and drink, music and dance, sporting, school reunions, clan meetings, genealogical, literature/film/arts, community and special interest events. In 2013, hundreds of thousands of people will flock to Ireland to take a nostalgic trip back to the bucolic, urban, real or imagined world of their childhood or that of their forefathers.

This is the Gathering Ireland, an ambitious call to the hearts and minds of Irish diaspora and Irishophiles worldwide to visit the emerald isle in 2013, be part of the global green knees-up, and help bolster the Irish economy. A total of 325,000 people are expected to visit, with 104,000 slated to come from North America.

Living in Ireland, you won't escape the Gathering but Tourism Ireland is working hard to ensure that it does not slip below the radar of Canadians. Way before it opened on January 1, Tourism Ireland had been whipping up interest through a global advertising campaign, abetted by high-profile ambassadors such as Daniel Day-Lewis, Pierce Brosnan and Liam Neeson. Jayne Shackleford, marketing manager for Tourism Ireland, travels the length and breadth of Canada proselytizing to the uninitiated. More recently, she held court in Hurley's Bar in Montreal in front of journalists, travel agents and members of the Irish community, emphasizing that 40 percent of Quebec's francophones are of Irish stock.

There are three major takeaways from Shackleford's presentation. First, it has never been easier to travel from Canada to Ireland. Between April and October, Air Transat runs weekly direct flights between Montreal and Dublin and daily direct flights from Toronto to Dublin. Air Canada serves Toronto and Dublin. A mere six hours of separation connect you to Ireland.

Second, forget your preconceptions. Yes, the Gathering will host the ubiquitous big fireworks and blockbuster festivals

such as the St. Patrick's Festival, Rose of Tralee, Galway Races and the Great Limerick Run. But, they'll be bigger. No, there won't be only trad music fests and corned beef. Initiatives such as Bring the Wine Geese Home, Ireland's Food Heritage, and the Galway Food Festival abound, as do gospel music sessions, award-winning orchestra tours and sacred harp conventions. Lefties of the world will unite in the Left Hand Festival in Mullingar, red-heads will light on Cork, while the Gallagher clan attempts the world's largest gathering in Donegal. Holding the fort up north is Derry-Londonderry, Europe's most complete walled city, which will be staging a wide array of arts, dance, entertainment, film and sporting events in its year-long celebration as UK's City of Culture 2013.

Third, the Gathering is an interactive, year-long, crowd-inspired series of events that draws strongly on local communities. So, if you can't find exactly the event you want among the huge smorgåsbord of events and festivals, you can organize your own. Simply create your own profile on the Gathering's website, send off the invites, and away you go.



Hurley's Pub January 30, 2013: Vivian Doyle-Kelly, president of Montreal's ICCG with Jayne Shackleford, marketing manager for Tourism Ireland in Canada

Photo: Tourism Plus

Specific on the menu for Canadians is a "Canada Come Home" gathering that will be held between September 13 and 15 on the Coolattin Estate in Co. Wicklow. Launched by Loyola Hearn, the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, the event showcases the experience of over 6,000 people who left Coolattin for a new life in Canada during the Great Famine (1845–1852).

As for me, I'll be there. If I time my visit well, I may fit in a third bog snorkeling competition. Wetsuits notwithstanding, I only plan to participate verbally. Like I said, there's something in the Gathering for all of us.

The Gathering is run in counties all across Ireland this year.

www.discoverireland.ie

www.thegatheringireland.com



MIRFC prepares for the upcoming 2013 season

By Mark Gallagher

Indoor training has begun for the Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club and as always, we're on the lookout for new players for the 2013 season.

We have three men's teams, two women's teams and a boys' and girls' U18 team, so there's a team for everyone and all skill levels - from beginners to premier division athletes. Indoor training is perfect for beginners or those newer to the game as there is no contact and we look at improving basic rugby skills and fitness.

Training will run on Monday and Wednesday evenings for the winter - usually until mid-April when we head outdoors. So if you want to play rugby this year, please come along to indoor practice. All you need are some shorts, trainers and a t-shirt. It's also a great way to meet people if you're new to the city.

Perhaps you may know someone who used to play rugby or who would enjoy playing rugby? Please pass them our details we'd be glad to have them join us.

Mondays:

Training is at UDGGER-DUVERNAY elementary school:
770 du Couvent, Montréal (St-Henri metro)
- Men: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.: Women: 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Training is at the BLACKWATCH Gym
2067 Bleury St, Montreal, (Metro Place Des Arts)
Women: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.: Men: 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

This year will also see the launch of the Montreal Irish RFC Mini rugby programme aimed at 4-12 year olds. Mini rugby is a fantastic all-inclusive non-contact sport for children and unlike other sports everyone is involved in the action, touching the ball and with a real chance to score - no more waiting around in the outfield! We're aiming to host our mini programme on Saturday mornings at St Julie, before senior games and we're hoping the Irish community will get involved and bring their kids and promote this programme.



MIRFC rugby players of the future!

Rugby is a great sport for building character and mini rugby has a low cost of entry - no more expensive equipment to buy! It's also for boys and girls and all age groups - so you can take all the kids to one location at one time. We hope to launch the programme in May and it will run throughout the summer until the end of August. We've set a target price of around \$75 for registration and this will also include t-shirt, etc. So please spread the word and bring your kids out for a guaranteed fun time!



Players being given a pep talk in the Blackwatch Gym

Photo: Mark Gallagher

Keep an eye on our website www.montrealirish.ca or facebook page www.facebook.com/#!/groups/MontrealIrishRFC or contact Mark Gallagher 514-805-3243 for further details on any of the above or general club queries.



Tara Golf Club announces summer plans

Tara Golf Club is hoping to attract many new members for the upcoming 2013 golf season. To date, 111 membership forms have been mailed and the club anticipates boasting at least 100 members.

There are two categories of membership: Full (\$30.00) and Social - non-golfing (\$10.00). Anyone who returns his/her application form before St. Patrick's Day (March 17) will be entered into a draw for a free golf fee and half cart at the first tournament of the season which takes place at Rivière Rouge, Coteau-du-Lac on May 18th.



In addition to organizing six tournaments during the summer and fall, Tara also plans social activities for its members and their guests. These include an afternoon at the Hudson Theatre and a bowling evening (see details on p.21).

Tara Golf has been in existence for over 50 years and if you would like to become a member, please contact Carole Dery (Membership Chairman) at carole@hudson.net or Tel. 450-458-2396.



The St. Columban cemetery restoration project continues ...

By Fergus V. Keyes

As many Irish Montrealers are aware, the descendants of the original Irish settlers in St. Columban have been working for some time on the restoration of the cemetery in that community. St. Columban was an almost 100% Irish community until the early 1900s and is now called St. Colomban with the French language spelling. It is located near the Mirabel airport – not far from St. Jerome in the Laurentians.

The project was started in 2005 when a group of descendants found that many of the original cemetery stones for these early Irish settlers had been unceremoniously thrown in the bush behind the local Catholic church.

After about five years of fundraising, we were able to build three walls in the cemetery and install all the broken stones, which were beyond repair into these walls. And then, on July 3rd 2010, there was a ceremony to unveil the walls. Images and information about this part of the project can be viewed on our site at www.stcolumban-irish.com

Phase two of the project was to create a nice weather-resistant plaque to note the history of St. Columban. Thanks to a grant from the Irish Government, Department of Foreign Affairs, Emigrant support programme 2010, we were able to design and order this plaque. It took some time to decide on the wording and actual design, but, we were very pleased recently to receive the completed plaque and all the necessary hardware to install it in the cemetery - and it looks great!

The plaque measures about 4ft. by 2 1/2 ft. and includes a written overview of the founding of St. Columban and the strong Irish connections to the village. It also includes a high resolution photo taken in June 1902, outside the Church which shows many of the Irish residents at the time, and the historical description outlined on the plaque is in English and French with a few notes in the “Gaelic” language added for good measure.

We are all looking forward to the warm weather to install the plaque in the vicinity of the walls that we built.



A plaque honouring the original Irish Settlers of St. Columban, Quebec
 Photo taken in front the St. Columban Catholic Church
 June 1902
 (From the collection of Claude Bourguignon)

Once this installation is complete, we hope to move on to the third and final phase of this effort. This phase will consist of finding the funding to repair the broken stones that remain in the cemetery and which can be repaired using a special outdoor weather-proof epoxy. The difficulty is that St. Columban exists in a micro climate that results in a great deal of movement of the cemetery grounds. So, many of these stones, which are now almost 200 years old, and of different quality, have a tendency to break or fall over. We believe that they can be repaired properly and that these repairs will (like our walls) last for many, many years.

However, we all feel that even though the completion of this project will have taken almost a decade, it has been well worth it, and we are all proud of our efforts to honour our Irish ancestors who first arrived in Canada around 1825.

And, of course all the descendants have always been extremely thankful to the executive (past and present) and general membership of the St. Patrick’s Society of Montreal who have provided the project with so much important support over these many years. (A mention of this help from both the SPS and the Irish Government is also inscribed on the plaque).

Once the plaque is installed in the spring, we plan to provide additional images.



Ciné Gael toasts Ireland with a concert

By Dana Hearne

Ciné Gael Montréal's concert, *A Toast to Ireland*, will take place on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, Concordia University (Loyola Campus). This concert has been organised to help finance a scholarship in Canadian Irish Studies in memory of **Patrick Valley**, co-founder of Ciné Gael, who died on the 9th of March, 2011 (all of the net proceeds of the concert will go to the Patrick Valley Scholarship fund).

The programme is being organized by three outstanding musicians: **Beverly McGuire**, **Kathleen McAuliffe**, and **Carol McCormick**.

Beverly McGuire started her musical career singing Irish songs at St. Anthony's Church and School in Little Burgundy. She loved to sing, and as a child, she performed with her two sisters and the group was fondly called the McGuire Sisters. Later, she sang folk songs and accompanied herself on the guitar. All that changed when she attended a concert by the great



Maureen Forrester. She was so moved by Forrester's singing that she decided to become a classically trained singer. Since then she has sung with l'Atelier Lyrique de l' Opéra de Montréal, and has performed many solo concerts, and toured Canada and Europe with the Tudor Singers of Montreal – one of the top three chamber choirs in Canada. In the late nineties, Beverly, inspired by the beautiful traditional songs of Ireland, particularly those in the Irish language, decided to return to her roots. She studied the language, and sang in many Celtic Festivals as lead singer with her traditional bands "Anam Cara" and "Maevé." She was one of the featured singers in Bernadette Short's production "From Galway to Grosse Île," and performed many times at the Ville Marie Feis and the Montreal International Celtic Festival. In 2001, she produced a CD of Gaelic songs. Beverly currently teaches in the music department of Concordia University.



Kathleen McAuliffe was born in Dublin, Ireland. "Music and performing are in the blood," she says. Coming from a family of six where TV was not a big thing and parties at home were, "everyone of us was expected to have our 'party piece' ready to entertain whoever the invited guests were. We were led and accompanied by my mother on the piano – a true artiste herself." Kathleen began her theatrical career at the Gaiety

Theatre in a variety of roles and was a soloist at the famed Medieval Entertainment presented at Bunratty Castle in County Clare. In 1974 she moved to Montreal, where she added a touch of Gaelic to Le Festin du Gouverneur's Banquet for some thirty-

four years. Now a proud Canadian citizen, Kathleen has turned her attention to theatre (she has a multitude of theatre credits to her name) and musical theatre and, although much of her work involves a wide spectrum of styles, Irish music and Irish poetry have always been especially close to her heart.

Carol McCormick was born in Montreal of an Irish Canadian father and a French Canadian mother. At eight years old, Carol won first prize in vocal competition at the CND Conservatoire de Musique. She has played the lead role in such musicals as: *The Boyfriend*, *Little Mary Sunshine*, *Oliver*, *The Fantastics* and *The Telephone*. She has produced 3 CD's and can be heard at St. Patrick's Basilica, Montreal where she is the lead soprano and cantor every Sunday and for special events.



The Concert Itself:

According to those in the know, *A Toast to Ireland* promises to be an evening of fun and nostalgia. After many hours of weeding through their vast repertoire of Irish music, Beverly, Kathleen and Carol have come up with a varied programme which they are confident will delight the audience. They have chosen some of the most popular and best-loved Irish songs. Included in the programme are some of the familiar songs which many Irish Montrealers grew up singing: "My Wild Irish Rose," "Irish Lullaby," "Sweet Rosie O'Grady" etc. Others are funny and entertaining songs from great Irish composers like Percy French which capture the wit and humour of the Irish people. Also included in the programme are well-known traditional songs, ballads, sing-a-longs, lullabies, jigs and lilts.

The songs will be enhanced by pianist Kris Epps who delighted Bloomsday audiences last July, and fiddler Sarah Frank of the Irish band "The Bombadils." Both are very talented and extremely versatile musicians making their mark on the Montreal music scene.

Throughout the concert, the performers will weave a journey of Irish music which will include songs from here and songs from Ireland, songs that will make you laugh, and songs that will bring a tear to your eye. **Robin Burns** will be our Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

This event will be one of the major highlights of the March celebrations. There will be only ONE performance! Each ticket will cost \$20 (children under 12, \$10). Doors open at 6:15 p.m. There will be a cash bar before the show and at intermission. The concert starts at 7 p.m.

For tickets or more information, please contact Lynn Doyle at 514-481-3503 or at ldoyle311@yahoo.com.



James Guerin: mayor and the very model of a modern Montreal anglophone

By Patrick M. Shea

The day after Michael Applebaum's election as mayor of Montreal by Montreal's city council to serve the duration of the term of former-mayor Gérald Tremblay, Robert N. Wilkins, a local historian (not to be confused with St. Patrick's Society of Montreal member Robert Wilkins), wrote an op-ed piece in *The Gazette* ("The last anglophone mayor of Montreal: not who you might think," *Opinion*, November 17, 2012). Wilkins explained that Henry Ekers, who served as Montreal's mayor from 1906 to 1908, should be considered the city's last anglophone mayor prior to Applebaum, rather than James Guerin, who was mayor from 1910 to 1912.

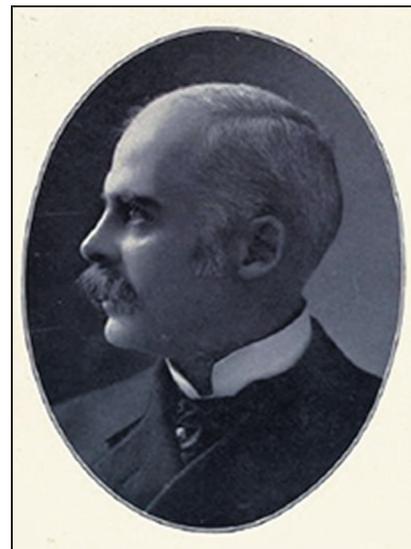
I thoroughly disagree with Wilkins's disqualification of Guerin as a veritable anglophone mayor. His central argument was that Guerin attended a French-language high school and taught at, and received an honorary degree from, a French-language university. Shame on Guerin! By that same measure, many young anglophone Montrealers of today – who often attend French-language schools, operate within largely francophone workplaces and otherwise interact regularly with francophones and francophone institutions – would not be entitled to consider themselves as legitimate anglos.

Wilkins wrote that Guerin had "hardly the typical curriculum vitae of an anglophone Montrealer, especially during that particular time period". That conclusion, despite Wilkins's extremely selective disclosure of Guerin's biographical highlights, is somewhat true. Instead of consequently disowning Guerin as one of us, however, we should laud him for being the very model of a modern Montreal anglo of the future, one who is comfortable in both linguistic circles, whether socially, culturally or professionally. Guerin's progressive crossovers between the supposed Two Solitudes of his time are strikingly similar to the tendencies demonstrated by fellow-anglo-Montreal mayor Sir William Hales Hingston, who was in office between 1875 and 1877, not only because Hingston was also a doctor, an Irish-Canadian and a member of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal but also because a portion of Hingston's own education and medical practice took place, like Guerin's, at French-language institutions. Do we therefore need to disqualify Sir William too?

Although there is certainly nothing wrong with an anglo like James Guerin who was clearly comfortable among, and accepted by, French-speaking Montrealers, Wilkins's recounting of Guerin's résumé nevertheless left out a very long list of turn-of-the-century anglo bona fides. Guerin studied medicine at McGill University and at the Royal College of Physicians in England. He received an honorary degree from Trinity College Dublin. He was a director of the Royal Edward Institute, a governor of the Victorian Order of Nurses and a member of the Mount Royal Club, which stood at the very pinnacle of the anglophone Montreal establishment, as well as the University Club. He was director of the National Real Estate and Investment Co. and a vice-president of Standard Gold Mines Ltd. And he was

a predecessor of mine as president of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, the leading Irish organization in the city (both then and now!).

Guerin also had illustrious careers in both provincial and federal politics as a Liberal. From 1895 to 1904, he served as a member of the Quebec Legislative Assembly for a largely Irish-Canadian Montreal constituency, where his predecessor and



James John Edmund Guerin

successor MLAs were anglophones James McShane, Patrick Kennedy, Michael Walsh and David Tansey. He was also a provincial cabinet minister during that period. Over a decade after the end of his tenure as Montreal's mayor, Guerin served from 1925 to 1930 as the member of Parliament for the largely Irish-Canadian St. Ann's riding, where his predecessor and successor MPs included anglophones Charles Doherty, Joseph Walsh and John Sullivan. And Guerin was married to a fellow Irish-Montreal anglophone, Mary O'Brien.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were, for better or for worse, an era of deep-rooted identity politics in Eastern Canada during which the citizens of urban constituencies like the St. Ann's riding of Montreal knew very well who was, and who was not, one of their "own," and very frequently voted for candidates who shared their linguistic, ethnic and religious background. James Guerin, who was a highly successful politician at each of the municipal, provincial and federal levels, was clearly and widely recognized as an anglophone by his fellow English-speaking Montrealers. Interestingly, Wilkins mentioned that mayor Henry Ekers ran for Parliament twice and was defeated twice (by, I note, another anglo, Robert Bickerdike). It's probably fair to conclude that Montreal anglos took much less of a shine to Ekers than they did to Guerin!

Michael Applebaum's election as interim mayor of Montreal on November 16, 2012 clearly makes the Guerin-versus-Ekers debate moot. But students of local history should not be mistaken about who was the city's second-to-last anglophone mayor of Montreal. That would be none other than James John Edmund Guerin, a modern Montreal anglo ahead of his time.



Montreal in the time of war: how people coped

Life on the Home Front: Montreal 1939- 1945

By Patricia Burns

Vehicule Press • 292 pages, \$20.00

Reviewed by Anne Forrest

Long-time SPS member, Patricia Burns, recently published her third book, *Life on the Home Front, Montreal 1939-1945*. This latest work which was four years in the making, follows on the heels of *The Shamrock and the Shield: An Oral History of the Irish in Montreal* (1998) and *They Were So Young: Montrealers Remember World War II* (2002).

Pat, the eldest of eight children, was born shortly before the outbreak of the war. She lived with her family in Notre Dame de Grace and many of her colourful vignettes relate to residents of this community. She claims to remember very little about what went on during the war and has based her writing on information gleaned from the internet, old newspapers, documentaries and, primarily, from talking to survivors of that critical period.

Organized chronologically, each of the ten chapters in the book deals with a different theme. The first sets the scene and in the second we are provided with an unbiased historical backdrop to what was happening as Burns focuses on the political disputes that developed as those in power debated to what extent they would commit this country. Later, in one of my favourite chapters, “Use it Up, Wear it Out, Make it Do, and Do Without” we learn of the innovative ways people were able to make meaningful contributions to the war effort. For example, a young lad attending Gilson School collected paper toothpaste tubes, pots and pans. Also, because nylon stockings were virtually unavailable, women used to paint their legs with “Duration Leg Do” which apparently turned their limbs into a terra cotta horror. Rationing was introduced and housewives quickly learned how to trade stamps.

In chapter 7, “Montreal: A Helluva Town,” I was amazed to read about the many big-name performers such as Helen Hayes and Tallulah Bankhead who spent time on the Montreal theatre stages providing great entertainment. It was around this time that our own Oscar Peterson was finally recognized as a great musician and was able to break the colour barrier that still existed. And the chapter that dealt with the so-called aliens of Italian, German and Japanese heritage was especially informative and made me realise how intolerant we were as a society.

The book concludes with both a vivid account of the return of the triumphant soldiers to their relieved families (sometimes, children even failed to recognize their fathers!) and conversely with the sadness experienced by those whose fathers, sons and brothers were lost forever.

NDG, where I lived and worked, was my stomping ground for many years, and several of the people who were profiled in the book were familiar to me: the Stanway family, Joan Mullins

and Ruth Stevenson. And reading about Ma Heller’s “home away from home” reminded me of the meals I enjoyed in her restaurant after spending an evening on the tennis court. I certainly did not appreciate her contribution to the community back in the ’70s and only now can understand why my friends at that time were so anxious to eat in that particular location.

Another person with whom I became better acquainted was George “Buzz” Beurling, the young aviator from Verdun. By the time he turned twenty, he had shot down 29 planes as a pilot in the RAF. His untimely death six years later when he was en route to join the Israeli airforce was a great tragedy; he died in a plane crash in Rome.

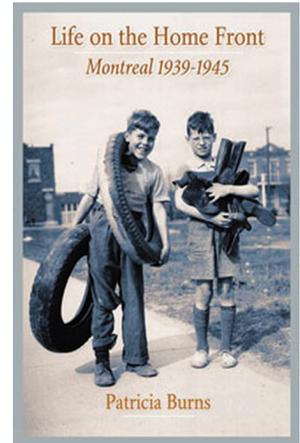
In this book, there are countless stories detailing the different ways in which Montrealers coped with the stress and anxiety of these traumatic years. It would seem that Burns has left no stone unturned as she retells the tales told to her by so many. We learn that volunteerism was practised by almost every woman whether it be in the form of knitting toques, mittens and scarves, feeding the German prisoners of war as they passed through Bonaventure Station, or preparing food packages to be sent overseas to Commonwealth POW’s.

Childhood memories abound. Parades served as magnets for the youngsters and they’d often skip school in order to watch soldiers marching by. Usually, no punishment followed!

One feature I particularly appreciated were the numerous photographs of people or posters. These helped me to picture more clearly what was happening. Those promoting the sale of war or victory bonds were especially riveting and surely attracted attention when they were posted.

Patricia Burns’s writing is both simple and comprehensive; it flows seamlessly throughout the book. It is most readable. However, I did note several typos, but there the fault lies with the proofreaders and not with the author.

It would appear that St. Patrick’s Society is blessed with several excellent writers. In November we reviewed Peter Kirby’s first novel. And let’s not forget Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan. Kudos to Patricia on her latest offering. Perhaps there are more of you out there whose opuses are still in the melting pot.



A long way from Clare to here

By Vivian Doyle-Kelly

My wife, who is from the Caribbean, tells me that the Irish do funerals very well and on Wednesday, January 9, the Irish laid to rest one of the finest ambassadors that Ireland has ever sent abroad, Eamonn O’Loughlin.

I was in Toronto and, as Eamonn (among his other numerous involvements in the Irish Community) was the Executive Director of the ICCC in Toronto, I went to the funeral home on Tuesday night to pay my respects and offer the condolences of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce – Montreal to the family. I joined a queue in the street outside the funeral home following many others. About an hour and three quarters later, as the line moved forward as efficiently as decorum allowed, I offered Montreal’s condolences to Madeleine, Treasa and Ruari. They were, as the entire Canadian Irish community was, in shock as Eamonn had been admitted to hospital for a “routine” procedure but had not recovered from the surgery.



Eamonn O’Loughlin

suffered by those closest to him and were part of the many that were touched by his actions. Colm Wilkinson (*The Phantom of the Opera*) recounted the story of meeting Eamonn twenty years ago in Galway and sang his tribute of “Amazing Grace.”

I had known Eamonn a little until last summer but had spoken with him relatively frequently since I rejoined the ICCC – Montreal Board last June.. We had the opportunity to meet at a number of ICCC-Toronto events since then and Eamonn had helped me connect with people in the Toronto Irish business community. We also met a couple of times in Montreal as Ruari is studying in McGill and Eamonn appeared coincidentally at, at least, one ICCC event here. I spoke to many people about the ways he had helped both me and the Montreal Chamber and the answer was always the same: “Ah, but sure, that was Eamonn.”

Having met Madeleine in UCC, Eamonn had followed his heart from Ennistymon, County Clare to Canada as so many have and do. With his larger-than-life personality, his deep interest in the people he met and his passion for helping everyone he was known across Canada, across the Atlantic and across the globe.

Ireland’s senior diplomats in Canada travelled from Ottawa and the ICCC was represented by its Presidents from Edmonton, Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. The most senior members of the Irish-Canadian community at large were there to pay their respects and share a great loss. *Ni fheicimid a leithead aris.*

Around a thousand of us attended the funeral Mass and were charmed by recognizable anecdotes of Eamonn’s huge personality in the eulogies. We were saddened by deep loss

We left the church to the last, long, lingering, haunting line “It’s a long, long way from Clare to here.” It is, and this time the Irish did a funeral very, very well.



St. Patrick’s Society mourns one of its own

By Michael Kenneally

The death recently of **Phyllis Rabbet** marks the passing of a dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of all things Irish in Montreal. Phyllis was an active member of St. Patrick’s Society in the 1980s and 90s when the Cultural Committee was extremely active in sponsoring events at various universities and beyond. She was a central figure in these deliberations and was always ready to contribute her time and ideas to achieve success.

with creative writers and other artists. Phyllis made frequent trips back to her family in Ireland and was an active participant in the Montreal art scene. Aside from her dedicated work on different committees of St. Patrick’s Society, she was an enthusiastic supporter in the early days of the idea of developing Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia. She donated a collection of her books and academic journals to the School and attended many of the Irish Public Lectures in the 1990s. Sadly, she had been in declining health for about a decade. But she remains one of the many of those earlier supporters of Canadian Irish Studies whose enthusiasm, commitment and support is so central to later developments.

Having emigrated to Saskatchewan from Ireland in the early sixties, Phyllis went on to meet the love of her life, a doctor, and the married couple enjoyed a wonderful but sadly a short time together, until his sudden death. Moving to Montreal, Phyllis made a new life for herself, central to which was participation in Irish academic and cultural events, both in Montreal and elsewhere in Canada. She was a faithful participant for many years at the annual conference of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies, and enjoyed the tradition of combining scholars

Phyllis Rabbet was a warm and generous person who enriched the lives of her friends and those she knew in Montreal’s Irish community.



Let's get ready to welcome a new wave of young Irish!

By Stephen Fogarty

A new wave of talented young citizens of Ireland aged 18 to 35 will be coming to Canada starting in April under the latest incarnation of the Working Holiday Programme (WHP) through the International Experience Canada initiative between Canada and Éire, the Republic of Ireland.

The quota of places available to Irish nationals for Canada jumped by 1,000 up to 6,350 for 2013. Even with this increase, demand was extremely high. The WHP opened on-line at 3:30 p.m. Dublin time on January 29th, and less than 36 hours later, the quota was met. On February 1st, Canadian officials announced that they would permit an over-subscription to allow for possible cancellations and refusals among the pool of applicants, but the demand continued to be so high that no new applications were permitted starting February 4th. This situation contrasts sharply with the 2012 programme which took until May 28th to fill the then 5,350 places.

Some might say that this is a sign of bad times for the Irish economy and a measure of despair among Irish youth. There might be an element of worry in the picture, but this should be viewed more as a European, rather than a strictly Irish phenomenon. For example, the WHP for young French nationals destined for Canada in 2013 saw its quota of 6,750 places filled in only one day. This is hardly surprising, as there are as many strong green ties between Canada and Ireland as there are blue ones between Canada and France, and young persons are more mobile than ever before. The WHP for UK nationals (including from Northern Ireland) opened on February 14 and the first round of 1,000 available spots was filled in just 3 1/4 hours. No doubt the remaining 4,350 places for UK citizens will also be grabbed very quickly when they come open.

The bigger picture must include the fact that Canada's economy has fared quite well compared with those of many other nations. In addition, Canada continues to be one of the top draws in the world

for anyone considering relocation and this is the case for all streams of Canadian immigration, not just WHP for the Irish.

Under the 2013 WHP, Irish nationals will arrive with an open Work Permit which, for the first time, will be valid for two years. This will allow them to take on any type of employment not specifically prohibited on their permit or reserved to members of a particular trade or profession. The two-year validity of their Work Permit will give employers the opportunity to more fully weigh the capabilities of these young persons and give them more senior responsibilities. (Work Permits for Northern Irish under their particular WHP will continue to have a one-year validity, but renewable for a second year.)

If we wish to attract more young Irish to stay here on a longer basis, their work experience must be of a kind that will open the door to permanent residency status under the regulations. It won't do our newcomers or our Irish community much good long term if the only posts they can find will be as cleaners or night watchmen or waiting on tables.

So let us hope that our Montreal Irish community will welcome these new arrivals from Éire and Northern Ireland and assist them in finding employment. Given their usual high level of education, given the opportunity, many among them will be ready to create employment, not just seek it. We can also help assuage their worries about the French language and encourage them to improve their French-language skills where necessary so that they might seek permanent immigration in Quebec and not end up in Alberta.

Stephen Fogarty is a member of the Quebec Bar and of the Law Society of Upper Canada. He practises at his office Fogarty Law Firm in Montreal. Website www.fogartylaw.ca, and Twitter [@Stephen_Fogarty](https://twitter.com/Stephen_Fogarty).



News from the Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation

By Leo Delaney

At the Valleyfield meeting held in mid February of the Jeanie Johnston Educational Foundation, several decisions were made.

On March 17, the 104th Regiment Colour Guard of approximately 20 persons, will march in this year's St. Patrick's Parade.

In the fall, more activities are planned. On October 5th there will be a re-enactment of the battle at Ormstown. A History Conference, sponsored by McGill University will take place on the 18th and 19th October. Speakers from Canada, the USA, the UK and Ireland will participate.

A week later, on October 26, there will be a military ceremony at the obelisk near the battle site. The Black Watch, the Grenadier Guards and the Royal 22nd Regiment will participate. This will

be followed by a luncheon reception on the battle site, Parks Canada Facilities, to be hosted by the Jeanie Johnston Foundation and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. After the meal, lectures will be delivered. And, in the evening, a musical recital given by the military bands will take place in Valleyfield Cathedral. There will also be a presentation to members of the descendants of Lt. Colonel de Salaberry, leader of the Canada forces.

Invitations to the ceremony at the obelisk will be sent to the Governor General, the Prime Minister, local MPs, the Mayor of Valleyfield and to representatives from the Quebec government.

Throughout the year, leading up to the conference, there will be debates across Canada, in schools and universities, on the topic of the war. Subjects will be presented and finals of the debates will be held in Montreal in early October 2013.



A London weekend, *Oklahoma* preparations and more

By Pam Cotter

Time goes by way too fast for my liking. Somehow Christmas has already come and gone and my trip home to Canada is now only a memory. Even though my time there passed too quickly, I did manage to indulge in some great Quebec traditions: poutine, Fairmont bagels, and of course, snowstorms. I believe it was the night I came home to find the snowplough had blocked me out of the driveway that I realised Irish rain is not that bad. There is nothing like shovelling heavy, hard-packed snow at midnight to give you perspective!

As I mentioned in the last article, just before Christmas, I was lucky enough to find a €15 flight to London for the weekend. So before I made the twelve-hour journey to Montreal, I was spoiled with a one hour flight to Stanstead. Our hotel was in Kensington, a place I have come to know as bakery central. With our bellies full of red velvet cake, we proceeded to the nearby district of Notting Hill. It may have been raining the entire time, but we did not let that stop us from browsing the famous Portobello Road markets. After a successful day of shopping, we went to see the play *The 39 Steps* at the Criterion Theatre in Piccadilly Circus. A hilarious twist on the Alfred Hitchcock classic, four brilliant actors share one hundred and thirty different roles. Not only was it impressive to see the quick change of costumes and voices, but the comedic timing throughout left my sides sore from laughter! I definitely recommend this to anyone looking for a great evening out.



Photo: Conal O'Keane

Pam with the Lego Queen in Hamley's toy shop

Now that I am settled back in Limerick, I will be starting a new venture as Dance Captain for the Limerick Musical Society. We will be performing Roger and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma* at the University of Limerick Concert Hall in April. While my main duties include running warm-ups and stretching, I also assist with teaching the choreography and demonstrating the moves. As a result, this old dog is learning new tricks. Just last week I did my very first cartwheel at age twenty-six! I have to admit it was a bit difficult to walk the next day, but I have no regrets.

Doing partnering moves and being flipped in the air is a lot different from my usual Irish dancing classes and it is a thrilling experience. The entire production will be complete with a live orchestra and professional costumes. I only wish I had a private jet to fly my parents in for the show! All my friends from college have already booked time off to venture down to Limerick for the event. It seems everyone is doubtful that I can flip. I think they are also tickled by the prospects of my singing once again. It is well known amongst my former BA classmates that I do not have the best voice around. Let us just say weekly song class was my least favourite part of the four-year degree course. I vividly remember my last song class at UL and thinking I would never have to sing again. Just goes to show, never say never!

The next few months are going to be quite hectic but a lot of fun. Between Irish dancing and the musical, I am at rehearsals five days a week, but I still manage to have some down time. Just last week a group of us gathered in Limerick for an outdoor concert in the city. While it is common practice for girls in Ireland to sacrifice warmth for fashion, my friends and I decided to be 'old' and dress weather-appropriate. Of course, this was the night a photographer took our picture for the 'Out and About' section of the city paper. I still cannot figure out if he wanted our picture because we looked nice, or because we were the only ones in winter coats at the concert. Either way, my friends say our lives will forever be changed since we are now famous.

My brother will also be coming to visit just on time for Paddy's Day; so there are bound to be a few Cotter Capers with which to entertain you in my next article. He has already told me he wants to take the 'Father Ted' tour in Co. Clare and explore many castle ruins along the way. Stay tuned for some silly pictures!

Pam Cotter has completed her MA in Ethnomusicology at University College Cork.

Here is another interesting account of how she spends her time both in Ireland and overseas. It would appear that there is never a dull moment in her life.



Photo: Ciarran Carroll

Sarah Devaney and Pam dressed appropriately for outdoor Limerick concert



What you may have missed from the Irish papers!

By Paul Dunne

Pub-owners with a social conscience

You've probably already heard about the widely reported vote by Kerry County Council to request that the Irish Minister for Justice permit drivers in rural Kerry to imbibe over the legal limit for alcohol consumption while driving. Kerry, like most counties in the west of Ireland, is dotted with numerous isolated small farms and the only social outlet for the farmers would be a pint or six at the local (which might not be all that local). In the good old days, they might jump on the tractor of an evening for a drop of the black stuff and clamber back on for a low-speed boozy rumble back to the farm completely unimpeded by actual or even threat of road block and breathalyzer. However these days it's not worth the risk so many stay home leading to a lonely-farmer syndrome widely recognized as a social problem in rural Ireland. To the rescue the heroic rural publican spurred by a keen social conscience (and only incidentally by a precipitous drop in Guinness sales). By pure coincidence, Danny Healy-Rae who introduced the motion and most of the councilors voting for it are rural publicans. Upshot? No change in the law, no reduction in the number of lonely farmers, priceless international publicity for Danny Healy-Rae's pub in Kilgarvin.

Things suck today but 2023 will be great!

On February 6, The Irish Times produced a spoof version of the paper dated February 6, 2023 (when, of course, we will remember with fondness and wonder the days when The Irish Times disseminated news only once daily on actual "paper"). In 2023 an Obama will still be president of the United States (Michelle), Bob Geldof will be president of Ireland, Leonard Cohen will emerge from retirement for yet another farewell tour and all the emigrants who left in 2013 will return home. I suppose the thing is that if there's not an awful lot to be cheerful about in 2013, at least you can fantasise about a better future. For example, there's a newly built wing of Mountjoy prison reserved for bankers

which may turn out not to be necessary because, as of today, not one single banker has spent a day in prison for frauds perpetrated while in office and, sadly, none probably will. Yet while one letter writer to the future paper celebrated the inauguration of an Irish woman as Pope (written in a year when we have yet to see a woman priest!), one omission stands out in the newspaper of the future and that is the lack of mention of a united Ireland. Though the exercise is a tongue-in-cheek-spoof, it speaks volumes about attitudes today on the topic that people believe a decade will bring no change to Ireland's political geography. I would like to think that's because the people of Ireland will have already united as two cultures fused into a single Irish identity and the political map is irrelevant to everyone except those who thought it was worth murdering for. That was always the only sensible definition of a united Ireland.

Freakonomics, Irish style

In February, Ireland agreed to extend the payment terms on some of the debt it owes to the European Central Bank. That's because Ireland doesn't have the funds to make current instalments which call for repayment of the €30bn owed in 10 years. More precisely, Ireland would have to borrow to make the repayments meaning, even if they could do it which is far from certain, replacing lower interest debt with higher interest debt. Now if politicians are good at anything, it would be choosing a topic most people barely understand and converting popular ignorance to political advantage. So ministers are busily blowing trumpets about the money "saved" the Irish exchequer and the number quoted is the reduction in annual repayments resulting from the extension of the amortization of the debt from 10 to 27 years. This money is not "saved," it is deferred, and in fact the total interest paid will increase.

Or rather, that's how most people would measure the effect. Politicians are not most people.



Power Financial Corporation to invest in Great-West Lifeco

On Tuesday, February 19, Great-West Lifeco Inc. announced that it is buying Ireland's biggest life insurer for \$1.75-billion. Could this mean that the end of the European economic crisis – which killed the same deal more than a year ago – is in sight?

The acquisition, still to be approved, has all the hallmarks of a Desmarais action. The Montreal family, which controls Great-West through its Power Financial Corp. unit, has built a financial services empire by acquiring underperforming or undervalued insurers and asset management companies and turning them around.

Great-West will fold the Irish operations of its Canada Life subsidiary, which has worked in the country since 1903, into Irish Life. It is acquiring a business that has been profitable, with a solid capital ratio, even as many European financial institutions struggle to recover from the economic downturn.

"We thought Irish Life was a great property, we just wanted to bide our time as things improved," Great-West chief executive officer Allen Loney said in an interview from Dublin. "It allows us to achieve - with a single transaction - the leading position in life insurance, pensions and investment management."

"We've been there through thick and thin," Mr. Loney said. "And although things have been fairly unpromising recently for us in Ireland, this is the dawning of a new day."

SPS director, Danny Zangwill, vice-president of real estate for Power Corporation, is delighted with this new development.

For more detailed information on this transaction, check out <http://www.powerfinancial.com/en/news/view/529/>



News from the School of Canadian Irish Studies

Michael Kenneally, Principal

New major in Canadian Irish Studies!

The School of Canadian Irish Studies is delighted to announce that the Minister of Education has approved our proposal for a Major in Canadian Irish Studies. Concordia University will be unique in Canada in offering a degree that studies Ireland's history and culture along with the rich narrative of the Irish Diaspora. This degree has been planned for more than fifteen years and has been achieved through the cooperation of Concordia and all those in the Irish community who have contributed to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, whose role is to provide financial assistance to Concordia in the development of Canadian Irish Studies as an academic discipline. St. Patrick's Society was the first major donor to support this project and continues to be centrally involved through its annual scholarship and Irish Public Lecture. The School of Canadian Irish Studies, its programs, professors and students are now established as a vital and permanent Irish academic and cultural presence in Montreal. For more information on the activities of the School contact cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca or visit cdnirish.concordia.ca. You can also now follow us on Facebook (<https://facebook.com/canadianirishstudies>) and Twitter ([@canadian_irish](https://twitter.com/canadian_irish)).

Upcoming Events

Kevin Barry will be reading as part of the Writers Read at Concordia Series on Friday, March 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hall Building (1455 de Maisonneuve West, 7th floor, Room 767).

If you missed Kevin when he read at Concordia last summer, you may have heard of his spell-binding reading style and will not wish to miss him this time around. He is the author of the story collections *Dark Lies the Island* and *There Are Little Kingdoms* and the novel *City of Bohane*. He has won the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Prize, the European Union Prize for Literature, the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, and the Authors Club Best First Novel Award. He has been shortlisted for the Frank O'Connor Short Story Award and the Costa First Novel Prize. His stories have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Best European Fiction*, the *Granta Book of the Irish Short Story* and many other journals. He also works on screenplays, plays and graphic stories. He lives in County Sligo.

Poets **Rita Ann Higgins** and **Matthew Sweeney** will read at Concordia on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the McEntee Room of the School of Canadian Irish Studies (1455 de Maisonneuve West, 10th floor, Room 1001.01).

Rita Ann Higgins was born in Galway. Her first five collections were published by Salmon Publishing: *Goddess*



Rita Ann Higgins

Photo: Christy Higgins

on the Mervue Bus, Witch in the Bushes, Goddess and Witch, Philomena's Revenge and Higher Purchase (1996). Bloodaxe Books published her next three collections, including *Throw in the Vowels: New & Selected Poems* in May 2005 to mark her 50th birthday. Her plays include: *Face Licker Come Home, God of the Hatch Man, Colie Lally Doesn't Live in a Bucket* and *Down All the Roundabouts*. She was Green Honors Professor at Texas Christian University, in October 2000. Other awards include a Peadar O'Donnell Award in 1989 and several Arts Council bursaries. *Sunny Side Plucked* was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation.



Matthew Sweeney

Photo: John Miniham

Matthew Sweeney was born in Donegal. His poetry collections include *A Dream of Maps, A Round House, Blue Shoes, Cacti, The Bridal Suite* and *A Smell of Fish* (2000). *Selected Poems*, representing the best of 10 books and 20 years' work, was published in 2002. He won a Cholmondeley Award in 1987 and an Arts Council Writers' Award in 1999. He has also published poetry for children, collections including *The Flying Spring Onion, Fatso in the Red Suit* and *Up on the Roof: New and Selected Poems*. His novels for children include *The Snow Vulture* and *Fox*. His latest poetry collections are *Black Moon* and a new selection

Summer Courses 2013 (May-June)

The Irish Short Story Tradition

Fall Courses 2013 (September to December)

The Irish in Montreal

Introduction to Canadian Irish Studies

History of Ireland

Irish Emigration and Settlement

Irish Plays: Dramaturgy

Irish Traditional Music in Canada

James Joyce

History and Memory in Ireland

The Making of the Irish Landscape

Reading Irish and Canadian Landscapes

For information about Canadian Irish Studies courses, programmes, and scholarships, contact: cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca or 514- 848-2424, ext. 8711 or visit <http://cdnirish.concordia.ca>

La chevauchée fantastique de Cú Chulainn - II Marcaíocht iontach Chú Chulainn – II

Par Alexandre Boulet



The Celtic myth
continues ...

Le bois de Leitrím

Durant trois nuits et trois jours, *Cú Chulainn* se reposa sur les hautes herbes fraîches près d'un lac situé au pied de la colline où il avait affronté les satires. Ce lac apporta, à lui et son cheval, poissons et eau douce tandis que le héros se laissait bercer par le chant des ondines qui guérirent ses plaies et purifièrent ses pensées. Rétabli de sa lutte, il enfourcha sa monture pour galoper vers le bois de Leitrím. Ce lac porta désormais le nom de lac aux Ondines.

Alors que le trot de son cheval l'amenait près du bois, le soleil s'éclipsa par-delà les collines, jusqu'à s'évanouir dans les bras d'un crépuscule sans lune. Il ignorait si c'était l'atmosphère ou les interdits transgressés qui occultaient sa conscience, mais le chemin devenait lugubre. Une forme de maléfice s'intensifiait. À l'orée du bois, *Cú Chulainn* ne sentait plus ses jambes et son esprit divaguait entre le réel et la fabulation. Seul son fidèle guide ferré pouvait maintenant le guider à travers ce bois.

Son cheval pénétra dans le bois aux arbres centenaires où fleurs et trèfles baignés par les derniers rayons du soleil créaient un lumineux duvet au sol. Par contre, dans la conscience de notre héros, ces arbres incarnaient des créatures monstrueuses qui se dressaient de chaque côté sur son chemin. Des visages menaçants se dessinaient sur leur écorce. Parvenu au cœur du bois, *Cú Chulainn* ressentit qu'une présence maléfique l'observait. Il balaya la cime des arbres, s'efforçant de reprendre ses esprits. Son regard fut attiré vers un bouleau blanc qui contrastait la pénombre du jour. Sur une de ses branches, un corbeau noir s'y était perché. *Cú Chulainn* le regarda comme hypnotisé par la discordance du noir de son pelage et du blanc de l'écorce de l'arbre avant de s'écrier : c'est la Morriganne! L'alerte sonnée, Morriganne plongea sur lui.

L'impact des griffes sur le corps de *Cú Chulainn* fut si puissant qu'il projeta notre héros à la renverse. Il tomba sur un lit de feuille. Il essaya de se relever, mais ses jambes étaient dures comme le roc. Pendant ce temps, Morriganne gagna en l'altitude pour plonger une seconde fois sur lui, griffe devant, pour lui arracher le cœur. Paralysé au sol, le protecteur des Ulates crut que la mort le réclamait. Cependant, son instinct guerrier prit le dessus sur sa conscience. Dans un geste instinctif, il dégaina de

sa ceinture sa brillante dague de cristal de quartz et effectua un balayage aveugle devant lui. La dague atteignit le corbeau à la patte, lui coupant une griffe. Un terrible son de douleur résonna à travers le bois dans la nuit obscure alors que le corbeau s'enfuyait au-dessus des cimes des arbres.

Cú Chulainn rampa au sol en direction de la griffe. Il y perça un trou à l'aide de sa dague pour se confectionner un pendentif. Ce pendentif se transforma en talisman, car posséder une des griffes de la Morriganne permettait à son propriétaire de conjurer les interdits qui pesaient sur lui. Ses jambes se délièrent et redevinrent souples comme les branches d'un sapin. Sa conscience s'éclaircit et devint aussi limpide que le lac aux Ondines.

Cette nuit, *Cú Chulainn* dormit au creux d'un arbre mort. À l'aurore, il se remit en selle pour se diriger vers le pont du Gae Bolga. Son ultime destination. À suivre...



D'autres articles sur la culture québécoise et irlandaise vous attendent sur mon blogue : www.lesbuzzculturels.overblog.com.

Canada & Québec Immigration



ÉTUDE LÉGALE
FOGARTY
LAW FIRM

514 289-9289 www.fogartylaw.ca

McConomy
Collard
Eustace
INC.

FAMILY LAW
SOLUTIONS
EN DROIT DE
LA FAMILLE

AVOCATS ATTORNEYS
MÉDIATEURS MEDIATORS
COACHS COACHES

mceavocats.com
tel. 514.866.4666
fax 514.866.4667

People in the news ...

Congratulations to three women, all SPS members, who have been recognized for outstanding achievements recently. The first of these is **Maura McKeon** (wife of **Robert Wilkins**) who was presented with the Governor General of Canada's Caring Canadian Award at a ceremony on November 27, 2012. This took place in the armoury of Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal Regiment. The citation stated that this was for her long-standing compassion towards society's most vulnerable, and for the home-cooked food hampers she makes for them.



Photo: Roxanne Shewchuk

Maura McKeon and His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada



Andrea Bobkowitz

Also last November, the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, announced the appointment of **Andrea Bobkowitz** to the 11-member Board of Trustees with the Canadian Museum of Civilization Corporation. The Board oversees the operation of both the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War museum. Andrea has

been very involved with her local volunteer organizations for many years and has business experience and financial acumen that will make her a valuable addition to the CMCC Board.

Then on February 10 of this year, Margaret Healy was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal in recognition of her 50 plus years of service to the community. Tyrone Benskin, MP for Jeanne-LeBer, made the presentation in Margaret's home in the presence of her family and close friends.



Photo: Gerry Showers

Margaret Healy and Tyrone Benskin

Kudos also to **Jon Phelan**, son of **Scott** and **Paula Phelan**, who is making a name for himself on the rugby field. A member of the Canadian Senior Men's Rugby Team, his goal is to represent Canada in 2015 at the next Rugby World Cup. Jon will be sitting at the head table at the Irishman of the Year breakfast. He is presently finishing his Masters in Structural Engineering at McGill.

Having just completed her 2012 reign as Queen of the Montreal Irish Parade, Ms. **Keira Kilmartin** is now heading to Ottawa as a Montreal Rose of Tralee. This event takes place over the St. Patrick's weekend and about 15 young ladies from different parts of Canada from Ottawa to the Maritimes will present themselves to be selected as the Ottawa delegate to The Rose Of Tralee event later in the summer. Organizer Austin Commerford was very emphatic that this not be called a competition but a festival.

Marie Short heads off to Glasgow, Scotland with 10 Irish dancers who will compete at the All-Scotland's Feis taking place from February 21 to 25. We wish them all safe travels and the best of luck as they represent Montreal at this event.

The Society is delighted to welcome the following new members: **Carl Beaulieu, Sandra Bunting, Susan Cahill, David Fuzes, Keira Kilmartin, Claire Mattimoe, Jane McCaughey, Brian Patrick O'Connor, Barry Murphy, Ken Quinn** and **Henry Ryan**.

Sadly, *Cosantóir*, the SPS team and holders of the much-coveted McKeown Trophy, were dethroned on February 20 at the ICCC's annual Irish Community Pub Quiz. However, **Vivian-Doyle Kelly** and his team (formerly known as the *Eternal Bridesmaids*) were the victors. Despite the poor turnout (blame it on a snowy evening), everyone had a great time as usual at Hurley's.

It could be described as the wedding of the year. The bride and groom, **Julie Dunn** and **Conall Francœur**, were married in the historic Bon-Secours Chapel in Old Montreal on February 16. Seven elegantly dressed bridesmaids, seven groomsmen and two charming little flower girls led the procession down the aisle. During the ceremony, **Patrick** and **Bernadette Short** read the General Intercessions and **Mary McDaid** delivered the traditional Irish Blessing. The sun shone on the happy couple as they made their way to the Windsor Hotel where they and their guests partied until well past midnight. Of course, no celebration would be complete without the Bernadette Short Dancers (of which Julie was a long-time participant). Sadly, **Pat Dunn**, Julie's late father and a former president of the Society, was not present physically, but his presence was felt most keenly. The couple's parents, **Kay Dunn, Patty O'Connor** and **Emmett Francœur**, became friends before Julie and Conall were born and this story seems to have a fairy tale ending.



Photo: Anne Forrest

Dr. and Mrs. Conall Francœur





Kells Summer School

The goal of the Kells Academy Summer School Program is to provide a creative and appropriate learning environment for all registered students.

The program affords an opportunity to fulfill course/grade requirements already offered during the past school year, make up lost credits and change attitudes about learning. It allows students to focus and enhance their skills in Math, English and French in a reduced stress environment and irrespective of their level of achievement.

Using state-of-the-art technology and a flexible program, students work in small groups or one-on-one with a dedicated team of teachers in bright, air-conditioned classrooms that are conducive to learning. We strive to make it different from the regular classroom and an enjoyable experience for the students.

- Small group instruction (Grades 5 - 9)
- Credit course review sessions (Grades 10 & 11)
- One on one tutorials
- Bridge courses in Math (Grade 10)

Please call us for more information.

KELLS ACADEMY
6865 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montréal, Québec H4B 1T1
Tel: 514.485.8565
Fax: 514.485.8505

www.kells.ca



THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL OF MONTREAL
Est. 1861

TAKE A CLOSER
LOOK

CALL FOR YOUR
PERSONALIZED
TOUR



Courage et Confiance

For families seeking an education that combines
academic excellence and timeless values

- Français langue d'enseignement, enrichie et de base à tous les niveaux
- All three math streams offered in Secondary IV and V
- Beginning in Sec. I, accelerated mathematics leading to AP Calculus
- Small classes ensuring individualized attention
- Proud member of the global network of 168 Sacred Heart Schools in 32 countries

(514) 937-2845
admission@sacredheart.qc.ca

3635 Atwater Ave., Montreal, Qc
www.sacredheart.qc.ca



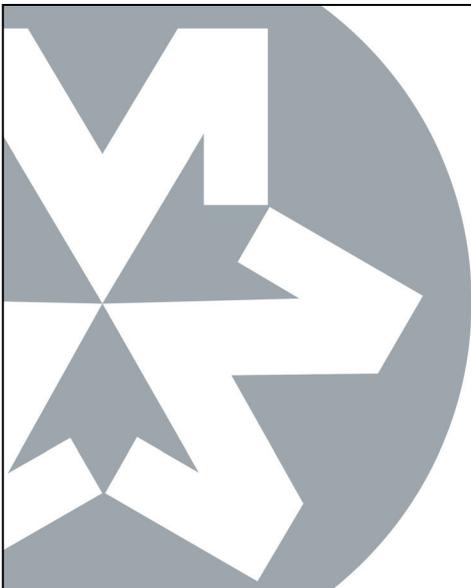
It will be a pleasure to help you plan your next:
Purchase or Sale
Residential – Commercial – Industrial – Property
HOME STAGING: Painting, Cleaning and Packing

CAROL(E) McCORMICK

B.A., ASP, SRES

CELL: 514-386-8082 FAX: 450-444-1421

carol@carolmccormick.ca



Wealth preservation is about patience and perseverance. MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier is Canada's oldest independent brokerage firm, with over 160 years of experience and more than \$4 billion under management. Everything we do is based on our core values of integrity, independence, service, performance and trust. We offer investment services ranging from brokerage to fully integrated wealth management. Our reputation is founded on principles of service, integrity, independence and discretion.

Proud supporters of the St Patrick's Society of Montreal



MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier Inc.

Service to Investors Since 1849

Place du Canada, 1010 de la Gauchetière West, Suite 2000, Montréal, Québec H3B 4J1

(514) 394 - 2633 www.3macs.com



Around town

First the Ball...

March 1, 2013 (despite it being St. David's Day which is honoured by the Celts from across the Irish Sea) is the day that Montreal's Irish dance the night away. This year they have a week to recover before heading to the Erin Sports' breakfast. Once again, this event will take place in the Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel. The Ball was sold out in 2012 so if you want to attend, buy your ticket(s) soon! Regular tickets are \$225 or \$150 if you are under 30. More details are on p.5 or check the Society website www.spsmtl.com

... followed by breakfast

One of the Season's most popular events, the Irishman of the Year Breakfast, will take place on Saturday, March 15 at 9 a.m. in the Sheraton Centre, René Lévesque. John Meaney, this year's man of the year, will be joined at the head table by the following: Ted Bird and Mitch Melnick (TSN690); Gerry Cooney (boxing great); Eric Lapointe (former Alouette); Jon Phelan (Canadian National Rugby team); Aislin/Terry Moisher; Neil Janna and Jess Solomon (comedians); and others still to be confirmed. To obtain a ticket which costs \$65 (and don't delay!), contact Tim Furlong 514-713-3207 or timber32@sympatico.ca.

... and then the Luncheon

Be sure to sign up for this year's St. Patrick's Society Luncheon, held as usual at the Bonaventure Hilton Hotel. This will take place on Friday, March 15, beginning at 11:15 a.m. when the bar opens. Lunch will be served at noon. If you've read Andrea Stanford's cover story, you will know that attendees at this year's event will be well entertained by Kevin Tierney. Tickets for this event are \$80 per person or \$1,250 for a corporate table. Check the Society website www.spsmtl.com or contact Erin at 514- 481-1346.

Tara Golf plans two social activities

Tara Golf Club has organized an afternoon at the theatre. The show, *Oklahoma*, will take place in the Hudson Village Theatre, 28 rue Wharf, Hudson, on Saturday, March 16 at 2 p.m. Tickets (including tax) are \$31.04 and may be obtained from Carole Dery at (450) 458-2396 or carole@hudson.net. Also, in late April or early May, the Second Annual George Mulqueen Bowling Tournament will be held followed by dinner at Place Tevere in Dorval. For information on this, please contact Carole.

What's happening at St. Patrick Square

On March 3, The Square is hosting an Open House from 2 p.m to 4 p.m. Then, on March 12, The Square will observe National Brain Awareness with an interactive presentation, *Flexing the Mental Muscle*. Also, on April 21st, the annual art vernissage and water colour sale will be held from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. And, on April 26 there will be a volunteers appreciation day brunch beginning at 11 a.m. For more information on these and other events at The Square, contact 514- 481-9609.

Celebrate Bloomsday from June 13 to 16

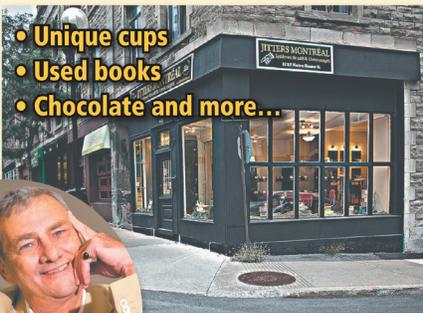
Although the summer is far away, make a note of June 16, when Montrealers celebrate Bloomsday, the date made famous in James Joyce's *Ulysses*, with an all-day roster of activities. This is the second year of gatherings and events held at multiple locations over four vibrant days in Montreal. Festivities will be held all over the city, including Concordia and McGill Universities, the McCord Museum and the Atwater Library. From the School of Irish Studies, Michael Kenneally and Susan Cahill will each give a lecture on aspects of Joyce's work, and Jane McGaughey will lecture on the events which took place in Montreal on June 16, 1904, while Leopold Bloom was making his way around Dublin. This event will be an occasion to celebrate the universality of this great novel, both its themes and the people who love it.

Please note that we welcome your opinions and would appreciate feedback on the contents of *NUACHT*. Send your comments to nuacht@spsmtl.com

NUACHT Advertising Rates

	Per Issue	Yearly (4 Issues)
Business Card	\$75.00	\$250.00
Quarter Page	\$150.00	\$500.00
Half Page	\$250.00	\$800.00
Full Page	\$400.00	\$1,300.00

Calling All Keurig Coffee Machine Owners



Fergus Keyes

- Unique cups
- Used books
- Chocolate and more...
- Jitters is your best source for Keurig K-Cups
- More than 100 different coffee; tea & hot chocolate K-Cups
- Mix and match – make your own variety packs
- Plus – a selection of Keurig Single Cup coffee infusion machines from just \$99!



www.jittersmontreal.com • info@jittersmontreal.com
1752 Notre Dame West (2 blocks west of Guy) 514.788.8872

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2013

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION	
Feb. 28	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Mar. 1	SPS Annual Charity Ball, Marriott Chateau Champlain	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 3	St. Patrick Square Open House, 6767 Cote St. Luc Rd., 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Georgia Remond	481-9609
Mar. 9	Irishman of the Year Breakfast, Sheraton Centre Hotel, René-Lévesque Bld., 9 a.m. \$65.00	Tim Furlong	713-3207
Mar. 9	“Toast to Ireland” benefit concert, Cine Gael, Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, 7 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 10	Mass of Anticipation, St. Gabriel’s Church, 2157 rue Centre, Montreal, 11:30 a.m.	Beverly Murphy	830-4504
Mar. 12	St. Patrick Square, “Flexing the Mental Muscle” at 4 p.m. Free and open to all.	Georgia Remond	481-9609
Mar. 15	SPS Annual Luncheon, Hotel Bonaventure, from 11:15 a.m., \$80	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 17	Green Mass, St. Patrick’s Basilica, 10 a.m. Celebrant: Archbishop Christian Lepine.	Mary McGovern	866-7379
Mar. 17	190 th St. Patrick’s Parade, noon	director@montrealirishparade.com	
Mar. 23	Québec City’s Défilé, 1:30 p.m.	Peter Farrell	(581) 998-8378
Mar. 23	UIS Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance, Buffet Sorrento, LaSalle	sdoyle@firstonsite.ca	
Mar. 28	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Apr. 5	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia. Evening of award-winning Irish short films	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 12/13	Cine Gael, Film Weekend, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, <i>The Far Side of Revenge</i> (on Fri.)	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 19	Innisfails’s Pasta Night (70 th Anniversary), NDG Legion, Addington/de Maisonneuve, 7 p.m. \$12.00		
Apr. 19	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, closing film and reception	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
April 21	St. Patrick Square, Annual Art Vernisage from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free and open to all	Georgia Remond	481-9609
May 18	Tara Golf Tournament, Rivière Rouge, Coteau-du-Lac	Joan Tousaw	487-2863
May 26	AOH Walk to the Stone	Victor Boyle	928-7196
June 15	Tara Golf Tournament, La Cité, Hawkesbury	Joan Tousaw	487-2863
June 18	SPS Annual Charity Golf Tournament, Belle Vue Golf Course, 12:15 p.m.	Erin Matheson	481-1346
June	SPS Annual General Meeting (date and venue to be determined)	Erin Matheson	481-1346
June 20	AOH Golf Tournament	Victor Boyle	928-7196
July 13/14	Tara Golf Tournament, Craig Wood, Lake Placid	Joan Tousaw	487-2863
July 26	AOH Mass in the Park	Victor Boyle	928-7196
Aug. 15	Tara Golf Tournament, Valleyfield	Joan Tousaw	487-2863
Aug. 17	AOH Grosse Île Pilgrimage	Victor Boyle	928-7196
Sep. 15	Tara Golf Tournament, Le Victorien-Mirabel	Joan Tousaw	487-2863
Oct. 5	Tara Golf Tournament, Hemmingford (closing tournament and dinner)	Joan Tousaw	487-2863



Saint Patrick Square

Apartment community
for 55+

We look forward to hearing from you!

ST. PATRICK SQUARE
6767 Cote St. Luc Road
Suite #1
Cote St. Luc.

514-481-9609
www.stpatricksquare.com



Andrea Bobkowicz

Sun Life Building
1155 Metcalfe, Suite 1438
Montreal, Quebec H3B 4S9
Telephone: **514-871-4339**
1-866-843-3088
Fax: 514-843-4447

E-Mail: andrea.bobkowicz@nbf.ca

 **FINANCIÈRE
BANQUE NATIONALE**
GESTION DE PATRIMOINE