



Community Award Winner: a man of wit, wisdom, discretion and dedication

By Kathleen Dunn

Retired businessman, educator, administrator, and spokesperson for Quebec's English-speaking minority, Martin Murphy is this year's recipient of the St. Patrick's Society's Community Award.

In his retirement tribute to Martin, a past-president of the English-Speaking Catholic Council, Clifford Lincoln, called him a man of "wit, wisdom, discretion and dedication." In nominating Martin for the 2013 Community Award, St. Patrick's Society member Robert C. Wilkins praised him for excelling in several careers and "contributing significantly in each of them to both the Irish-Canadian and the wider communities of Montreal, Quebec and Canada." In presenting the Community Award at the St. Patrick's Luncheon on March 15th, past-president Patrick Shea highlighted Martin's many accomplishments as a community leader and therefore a worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

Martin was born in Sainte-Agathe-de-Lotbinière, half-way between Quebec City and Thetford Mines, where his Irish ancestors had settled in the 1820s. The youngest in a family of six, he followed his siblings to Montreal to finish high school at Cardinal Newman High School. Upon graduation in 1952, the very next day in fact, he went to work for the CNR (Canadian



Photo: Anne Forrest

Martin Murphy seen here enjoying the St. Patrick's Society Annual Luncheon

National Railway). He studied nights at Sir George Williams (now Concordia University) to earn a BCom while working his way up at CN to becoming an analyst in marketing and research.

By 1962, Martin thought he might like to try his hand at teaching and was granted a year's leave of absence to study at St. Joseph's Teachers College. He never went back to CN. "Teaching was in the family genes," he says. He taught Grade 11 at the then new Marymount High School in NDG. In 1968, he moved to the West Island to teach at another relatively new high school then known as Villa Nova and now Pierrefonds Comprehensive. The next year he was on the move again, to St. Thomas High School in Pointe Claire where he taught for two years before going on sabbatical to complete his doctorate in education at the University of Massachusetts.

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A word from the President

Less than a month away from the AGM, this is a good time to review with you what has been a fantastic year.

Our push on membership saw us increase our numbers by an amazing 30% over last year. Thanks go to Karen Bright and her team for being so diligent and ubiquitous. Don't forget to pay your renewal. Your board agreed to restructure the membership fee so that it now costs you only \$25 per annum for a full membership, but I would urge you to continue to contribute the \$35 reduction on last year as a charitable contribution in return for which her majesty will give you back a juicy tax credit.

Our events were a major success again this year both at the social and financial levels thanks to hard work of Paul Doyle (golf), Carole McCormick (concert), Marilyn Meikle (ball) and Frank McMahon (lunch). The money raised at these events funds our charitable activities and this year we contributed in excess of \$75,000 to support educational and cultural activities in the Irish community. Without SPS, the Irish community would be a lot poorer in every sense of the word.

But we did not stop there. Last year we ran a very successful joint event with the Montreal Irish Rugby Club which we will repeat this year and in the spirit of "one community" will do more of with other organizations in the coming years.

I am personally very proud of the work we are doing with immigrants from Ireland because the initiative is a revival of a part of our core mission recalling the days when your ancestors would have turned to the Society for support and were

welcomed by the Irish already in Montreal. The 1834 version did not have a website or a Facebook page, but the goals were identical: reach out to new arrivals from Ireland and give them access to our network so that they can work and settle in this great city. We ran two networking events this year both attended by Dr. Ray Bassett, the Irish Ambassador to Canada and the most recent by Dr. Leo Varadkar, Ireland's minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

I am happy to acknowledge the great work being done by Ken Quinn and Paul Loftus to bring the Irish societies in Montreal under a single umbrella group. In our strategic plan, we emphasize the need to unite the community so we fully support initiatives such as this that recognise that we are members of a single family with common interests diligently pursuing our individual missions but never forgetting what binds us as friends.

I want to see as many of you as possible at our next outing which is the annual golf tournament on June 18th. Even if you are not a golfer, make the trip out for the dinner in the evening and enjoy the *craic* (ambiance!). Buy your tickets on the website.

I would also encourage you to attend the AGM on June 20th since it is the only general meeting we are required to hold under the revised by-laws. This is your chance to have your voice heard and help us improve the way we manage St. Patrick's Society on your behalf. Thanks to you, we are the premier Irish society in Quebec and, with your continuing support and advice, will remain so for at least the next 180 years!

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir!
 Paul Dunne
 May, 2013



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Deadline for submissions for next issue: September 1, 2013

Putting *NUACHT* together would not be possible without contributions from members of the Irish community in Canada and beyond. We would like to thank the following who contributed articles to this issue:

Alexandre Boulet	Mark Gallagher
Martina Branagan	Dana Hearne
Luc Chaput	David Hanley
Christine Clarke	Fergus Keyes
Pam Cotter	Jim McDermott
Janis Crawford	Catherine McKenna
James Donovan	Marilyn Meikle Rochford
Kathleen Dunn	J. Peter Shea
Paul Dunne	Patrick Short
Kester Dyer	Matina Skalkogiannis
Stephen Fogarty	

If you would like to submit an article for the next or future issues, we would love to hear from you.
Editor

News from the Society

Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the University Club of Montreal, 2047 Mansfield St. on Thursday, June 20, at 6:30 p.m. During the meeting, the election of officers and directors will take place.

The Nominating Committee comprising Ann-Mary Butts, Mary McDaid, John Mulholland and Matthew Mumley was chaired by Patrick M. Shea, the SPS immediate past-president.

Nominated for 2013-2014 are the following, each of whom has consented to his/her nomination:

	Officers	Non-Officer Directors		
President	Paul Dunne	Mark Billings	Ruth Hanna	Frank McMahon
Vice-Presidents	Christie Brown, Julie Dunn and Daniel Zangwill	Edward Brennan, Jr.	Brant Hickey	Thomas Mulcair
Treasurer	James Kellett	Karen Bright	James Killin	Lynda Premerl
Secretary	Marilyn Meikle	Paul Doyle	Amber LeBrun	Ken Quinn
Immediate Past-President	Patrick M. Shea (ex officio)	Vivian Doyle-Kelly	John Lemieux	
		Timothy Dunn	Carol McCormick	

Please note that any regular member or life member in good standing may nominate himself or herself or any other regular member or life member for any of the elected offices of the Society. Please submit these nominations in writing, signed by five regular members or life members in good standing, including an indication of the consent of each nominee. These should be sent to Michelle Vahey, Secretary, St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, 6767 Cote St. Luc Rd., Suite 001, Montreal, QC H4V 2Z6 or Fax (514) 481-0350 or e-mail to office@spsmtl.com and should reach the office no later than 5:00 p.m. May 30, 2013.

Society luncheon: a feast in every respect

By Anne Forrest

On March 15, those in attendance at the luncheon in the Hilton Bonaventure Hotel not only enjoyed a great meal but also a most entertaining guest speaker. Montreal-born movie producer, Kevin Tierney, treated everyone to anecdotes of what it was like to grow up as an Anglo Irish catholic in the 1950s. Poking fun at himself, Kevin talked about the different career paths he'd travelled including teaching in Algeria and Chad. Best known for *Bon Cop*, *Bad Cop*, the highest-grossing Canadian-made movie, he was introduced by Dorothee Berryman (a natural comedienne), who appeared in his latest production, *French Immersion*, and thanked by Lynn Doyle. Both women spoke most highly of their friend whose speech was regarded as one of the best in recent years.

Breaking with tradition, the Society invited Susan Cahill, professor of literature in the School of Canadian Irish Studies, to act as MC for the event. She did a great job and kept things moving along at a steady pace.

Early in the proceedings, Patrick Shea, the immediate past-president of SPS, invited Dr. Martin Murphy to the podium and presented him with the annual Community Award in recognition of his leadership qualities and the significant contributions he has made over the years.

With almost 500 guests, including a head table of well-known members of the Montreal Irish community, this year's luncheon was a great success. A special thank you is owed to Frank McMahon (Luncheon chair) and Erin Matheson and her team of volunteers who worked to make the luncheon memorable.

If you have not experienced this annual event, plan to attend in 2014. I guarantee that you will not be disappointed. 🍀



Community (cont.)

It would appear that Martin spent almost as much time studying as teaching. He earned a Master’s Degree in Education by travelling every Saturday for several years to St. Michael’s College in Winooski, Vermont, where he also spent six weeks every summer. All this while getting married and raising a family. And it was during this time that he got his taste for community involvement, serving as president of the Provincial Association of Catholic Teachers in 1966-68 and as a director of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation in 1968-71. He recalls fondly hosting the PACT convention in 1966 at Place des Arts with 3000 English Catholic teachers from across Quebec in attendance. Another highlight was successfully negotiating remuneration for teachers who had been on what he calls “a five-week just strike” in 1967. In those days, teachers’ salaries were very low. The return to work protocol awarded the teachers 70 per cent of their lost wages.

Martin was vice-principal at St. Thomas High School from 1972 to 1977 when he was appointed Director of Curriculum for the Baldwin-Cartier School Board. There he is particularly proud of his role in introducing the international baccalaureate program at St. Thomas in the late eighties, as well as the bilingual program for all the English sector schools of Baldwin-Cartier one year at a time starting in 1978. His own three children benefited from the latter program. There was more community involvement during this time. He served two terms as president of the Association of Directors of English Schools in 1982-84 and 1990-91, and as president of the English-Speaking Catholic Council in 1992-94. He retired from Baldwin-Cartier in 1995.

Retirement was short-lived. He was recruited the same year to become Executive Director of the English-Speaking Catholic Council (ESCC) and stayed for 17 years. As Clifford Lincoln pointed out, that meant “serving with 17 boards of directors, and no less than nine presidents – an imposing number of

individuals with an inevitable array of different ideas, opinions and foibles.” Martin, he added, was the “doer, the coordinator and catalyst, and the pivot around whom action revolved” in this volunteer advocacy organization. Martin knew his way around government, both federal and provincial, and presented at least 15 major briefs emphasizing English Catholic values and concerns in the areas of education, health and social services, employment insurance, confessional schools, the status of the French language, seniors’ living conditions, reasonable accommodation, dying with dignity, and palliative and compassionate care. Much to Martin’s chagrin, the government’s promise to give parents the option to choose religious education for their children in the new linguistic school boards, fell by the wayside. “We carried that flag, with others,” he says. “Leadership was alive and well and on duty.” To no avail.

During his watch, the ESCC became a founding member of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) and Martin served as its volunteer president from 2002 to 2007. It is now recognized by the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage as the official voice of the English minority in Quebec. One project that he remains involved with is the strategic plan and application for funding for the Provincial Seniors Action Committee which is primarily concerned with health care for Anglophone seniors.

Although he retired from the ESCC last December, Martin remains active with the communications project resulting from Bishop Tom Dowd’s desire to use new technology to keep the lines of communication open within Quebec’s English Catholic community and to keep the face of English Catholic Quebec visible in print and social media. He will be kept busy.

At 78, Martin is in good health and enjoying more free time with Brenda, his wife of 46 years, his three children, Greg, Colleen and Glen, and eight grandchildren.



Memories of a sunny but very chilly St. Patrick’s Day Parade

By Anne Forrest

The smiling faces on these photos reflect the fun that was had by those brave enough to walk the walk down St. Catherine St. on March 17. Luckily there were few delays and the pace was quite brisk. This was just as well because by the time we got to Philips

Square, hands, toes and noses were almost frozen. Even the wofhounds were shivering. This was a marked contrast from the 2012 Parade when the crowds sported shorts and suntops. Nonetheless, despite the sub-zero weather, there were many happy people lining the street, proud to be Irish for a day!



2013 Charity Ball – a *Flash* of Celtic flare

By Marilyn Meikle Rochford

The St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Ball was held Friday, March 1, 2013, at the Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel. What a way to kick off the "season"! Over \$50,000 was raised in support of the Society's charitable endeavours.

There were a few twists at the Ball this year. Past President Patrick Shea took on the role of MC and introduced the guests of honour, including SPS President Paul Dunne, who welcomed attendees and thanked our sponsors and donors. Then, with the lights dimmed, dinner music began and the wait staff entered the room with the first course. Guests who were regulars at the Ball were left wondering, "Where are the Celtic Grace Dancers?" In the middle of "Fly Me to the Moon" by Three's Company Orchestra, a crash of thunder erupted. Gorgeous young women in evening gowns and dashing men in tuxedos appeared from their tables, and suddenly the heart-stopping *a cappella* dance routine of the Bernadette Short Celtic Grace Dancers emerged. There have been over 1640 views of the YouTube video as I write! If you missed the Ball, you can see the flashmob at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBoHtSSDNJE



Erin Matheson, flanked by two princesses; Cristina McHenry and Elspeth McMurray

Honorary Ball Chair Louis Vachon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Bank of Canada was instrumental in securing several of our corporate sponsors, including the National Bank as a Silver sponsor. Guest of Honour Kathleen Weil (Member of the National Assembly, NDG riding) and her husband Michael Novak, who were Bronze Sponsors, opened the dance floor to "Brown Eyed Girl" and set the tone for a dance party all night! A special thanks is extended to our generous Platinum Sponsor: L'Équipeur, who was represented by Jim Killin, General Manager (Eastern Division).

Chef Richard Edwards outdid himself with the Celtic-inspired menu - Guinness, Jameson, and Bailey's were well represented in the 4-course meal. Hurley's Hotel Pub was packed until closing at 2:30 a.m.! Solstice had everyone dancing to the Celtic beat.

*Photos by: Luigi D'Astolfo and Andrew Moniatowicz
International Photo Imaging.*

In my second year as Ball Chair, and as we look forward to the 2014 Ball, I am thrilled to have this opportunity to thank the dedicated and multi-talented Ball Committee. We had some members step down and we welcomed new members this year. We range in age from "first-time-voter" to "OAS-eligible". We represent Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and Ireland. We speak English, French, Irish and Spanish. We have a common goal: to create the best event every year. It is costly



*Honorary Ball Chair, Louis Vachon,
Paul Dunne and Guest of Honour,
Kathleen Weil*

to produce a gala of this caliber and each one of us pays for our ticket to the ball. The price of a regular Ball ticket merely covers the overhead costs of the evening and does not contribute to the charitable aspect of the event. It should be noted that the ticket price for the St. Patrick's Ball is hundreds of dollars less than the price of tickets at many other charitable balls in Montreal. The purpose of this pricing is to encourage as many people to attend as possible. We often hear that it is difficult to afford the ticket price but I'd like you to think of it this way - a full price ticket to the Ball is \$225 - there are nine months until the 2014 Ball, about 36 weeks. That is \$6.25 a week to tuck away, less than \$1 a day. Won't you join us?



Guests dancing the night away!



The Fourth Edition of the *Défilé de la St-Patrick de Québec* - a resounding success

By Catherine McKenna

Once again blessed with fine spring weather, the 4th edition of the *Défilé de la St-Patrick de Québec* proved to be our most successful parade yet, with attendance estimated at a record 60,000 smiling québécois decked out in their best green.

Our “dream team” of three world-renowned police pipes and drums bands – New York, Boston, and Chicago – joined us this year, marking a first in North America. With nothing but kind words of appreciation and praise for Québec, all hope to return both to participate in our event once again and also to tour the city, most admitting at a warmer time of year. Mr. Daniel Collins, Captain and assistant bandmaster of the New York Police Department Pipes and Drums tells us:

of traditional Irish culture, and who honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Over 1,500 participants, including more horses – two Connemara ponies (the only breed of horse indigenous to Ireland) joined the returning six-horse hitch of Canadian (québécois) horses, with more breeders stepping out with their Irish wolfhounds, including a three-month old pup. Irish dancers, local and Montréal bands, Irish families, and street performers made up a parade more colourful than ever before, as they stepped out along the parade’s traditional route that had not been followed for 84 years before its warmly welcomed renaissance in 2010.



Photo: Allison Kirkwood

This route, mainly down rue St-Jean, winds its way into the walled city, gives a historic nod to the former site of the Sun Tavern, where the first St. Patrick’s Day celebration in Québec was held in 1765, and turns up the hill to l’Hôtel de Ville to culminate with a festive reception.

The post-parade party at the Pub St-Patrick featured New York, Boston, and Chicago together, with members of the all-new Service de police de la Ville de Québec pipes and drums band stopping in to partake in the festivities.

The organising committee hopes to broaden the scope of activities around the parade in the coming years, making a visit to Québec City on this weekend more exciting than ever.

The Shannon Irish Dancers kick up their heels during the Défilé

“Québec City has become one of our favourite, if not coldest parade locales. And we sincerely appreciate the warm welcome we get from the parade organisers, Québec City’s elected and government officials and the people of Québec City, particularly the parade’s spectators, whose hospitality, kind words and cheers make our trip up north so satisfying.”

Mr. James Barry, president of the Boston Police Gaelic Column of Pipes and Drums, also shared his impression of Québec City with us:

“What more proper place in the world than Québec City to celebrate the centuries-old traditions of Irish immigration and historic Gaelic bonds of the Irish and French. Québec City has always been about people sharing the diversity of music, culture, and heritage.”

We were honoured to welcome the Pipes and Drums of the Chicago Police Department for the first time, a band whose distinction is that all of its members are on active duty in their profession. The “dream team” are non-profit organisations of police and retired police who are dedicated to the preservation

Many of the same directors who began their work in 2009 under Irish-born québécois founder and President Peter Farrell collaborated with events producer Projet Y to make our event a resounding success.

The growing turnout is increasingly enthusiastic with each passing year, and our parade now ranks among the city’s most popular. Among our many avid fans and participants are Mayor Régis Labeaume and Deputy Mayor Michelle Morin-Doyle. They have consistently offered invaluable support; our event would not be possible without them. Our partners have also bestowed us with overwhelming generosity that has allowed the *Défilé* to invite top quality participants.

Each year presents new challenges, and 2014 will be no exception, as none of us has any intention of resting on our laurels. The original ambitions of a handful of people around a table at Pub Nelligan’s some five years ago now have not changed, and though some of us may come and go due to other commitments, obligations, and projects, we fully intend to ensure future parades adhere to our original vision.



James Donovan, Grand Marshal of the 4th edition of the *Défilé de la Saint-Patrick de Québec*

By Catherine McKenna



Photo: Allison Kirkwood

James Donovan, Grand Marshal 2013

Mr. Donovan, a Quebecer of Irish ancestry, is vice-president of the Corporation pour la mise en valeur du Lieu historique national de Grosse-Île. The Parks Canada Irish Memorial Historic Site commemorates the tragic history of mid-19th century Irish immigrants, and is the largest Irish burial ground outside Ireland.

From 1989 to 2004, James Donovan worked as a businessman in the Québec area, acting as vice-president of the Société de promotion économique du Québec métropolitain. This period would give rise to a new business model in Québec – a knowledge-based economy – to which he contributed significantly.



His involvement in the promotion of Irish culture and heritage in Québec includes l'Été Irlandais (1987), the installation of the Celtic Cross at Parc-de-l'Artillerie (2000), and the arrival of the replica Famine ship, the Jeanie Johnston (2003).

The parade's organising committee was thus very proud to recognise his tireless and dedicated work in the preservation of our Irish heritage, as well as his contribution to our business community in naming him Grand Marshal of the Défilé de la Saint-Patrick de Québec 2013.



Heritage Grosse-Île and Parks Canada participate in the *Défilé*

By James Donovan

A special feature of this year's event was the presence of a group of 21 students from history class teacher Debra Shea's secondary III class at St-Patrick's High School. The group had worked on a research project on Grosse-Île and walked in the Parade to remember 21 young Irish children among those buried at Grosse-Île in 1848. Each student carried a green, white, or orange balloon bearing the name of one of them. At the end of the march, the students launched the balloons in front of l'Hôtel de Ville as a gesture of remembrance.

Meanwhile, here at Grosse-Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada, we are getting ready for the opening of the 2013 Season.

Located in the middle of the St. Lawrence River, Grosse-Île dominates the Isle aux Grues archipelago. Grosse-Île commemorates the importance of immigration to Canada, particularly via the entry port of Québec, from the early 19th century to the First World War. Grosse-Île also commemorates the tragic events experienced by the Irish immigrants at this site, primarily during the typhoid epidemic of 1847. More than 7,000 people were buried on Grosse-Île, the majority of whom were victims of the typhus epidemic of 1847.

Grosse-Île is an unforgettable destination of great natural beauty, boasting breathtaking landscapes and a poignant history. Tour its

historical buildings on your own or with a guide and follow orders from the quarantine officer, see what it was like to be examined by the nurse, or chat with the teacher. Reflect in a moment of silence in the Irish Cemetery, where you might even find the name of one of your ancestors on the memorial.

Pause at the Celtic cross for a deep breath of fresh St. Lawrence River air or relax in the sun on a bench in the heart of the village. Whether you visit by boat, foot, or trolley, you're sure to love the site for its beauty and history.

Our new terminal and park facilities at Berthier-sur-Mer are set to greet you. On the island, located in the first-class hotel, a new conference centre is now operational and available for corporate or social groups. Groups up to 60 people can take advantage of this quiet environment to hold a one-day event.

Remember, Grosse-Île is where most of our Irish forefathers began their North American journey. Hear the story. Share it with the next generation.

Thinking of organising a visit to Grosse-Île? For more information: www.grosseile.ca.



The Regimental Colours of the Duchess of Connaught's own Irish Canadian Rangers 199th Battalion, C.E.F.

By J. Peter Shea

The regimental colours of the Irish Canadian Rangers have hung over the altar in the Loyola College Chapel in western N.D.G. for 80 years. They were deposited in the chapel when it first opened in 1933. The Colours consist of three flags: The King's Colours, which consists of a Union Jack with a crown and Irish Canadian Rangers' insignia; The Regimental Flag, which is a dark green banner featuring the Irish Canadian Rangers' regimental badge (which consists of a shamrock encircled by the regimental name with a crown on top, flanked by branches of maple leaves) and the motto: "Quis separabit"; and The Camp Colours, which is a light blue flag featuring a gold crown with the initials "L.M." which was presented to the Regiment by Louise Margaret, Duchess of Connaught, the wife of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn and, from 1911 to 1916, Governor General of Canada.

About two years ago, my wife Margaret and I were attending a memorial service in the Loyola College Chapel during which Margaret pointed out to me that the Colours were no longer there. After a short investigation, I was able to determine that the Colours had been taken down and given to the Concordia University Archives, for safe-keeping. I was unable to find out who the individual or individuals responsible for the removal of the flags were, but it seems to be related to the change in the mission of the Loyola College Chapel. From its original role as the chapel of Loyola College, a Catholic and Jesuit institution, it is now an inter-denominational centre under the jurisdiction of the Concordia Multi-faith Chaplaincy Office. Perhaps someone felt that these martial banners had no place in a spiritual setting.

Fortunately, I was able to convince Andrew Woodall, Dean of Students at Concordia and responsible for the Chaplaincy Office, that the proper place for the Colours was back in the Loyola College Chapel, and they were re-installed just before St. Patrick's Day of this year.

The Irish Canadian Rangers have a fascinating history. In 1914, at the outbreak of the first World War, a small group of Irish-Montrealers, led by Harry J. Trihey, a Montreal lawyer, organized the raising of the 55th Regiment Irish Canadian Rangers. Prior to then, there had been no militia units in Canada representative of the Irish-Canadian population. Trihey, who would become the commanding officer of the Regiment, and many other officers of the Regiment, including its Catholic Chaplain, Rev. W.H. Hingston, S.J., a son of the former mayor of Montreal, Dr. William Hingston, were alumni of Loyola College (and its pre-1896 predecessor institution, St. Mary's College). Harry Trihey was also an outstanding athlete and was posthumously inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1950 for his play as captain of the Montreal Shamrocks, Stanley Cup champions in 1899 and 1900. Fr. Hingston would later become Rector of Loyola College in 1918. Another Loyola/St. Mary's "Old

Boy" on the founding committee of the Regiment was the Hon. Charles J. Doherty, Conservative Member of Parliament for St. Ann's and Minister of Justice in Robert Borden's Government. He introduced the legislation in the House of Commons to create the Regiment, which was passed by an Order-in-Council on August 29, 1914. Another founding committee member was Rev. Gerald McShane, Pastor of St. Patrick's Church (now Basilica), who was a very staunch promoter of the Regiment. Not surprisingly, most of these men were members of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal. Charles J. Doherty served as President of the Society from 1902 to 1903.



Photo: J. Peter Shea

Regimental Colours hanging over altar area

The original Regiment was formed as a militia unit for home defence only. As the war progressed and as Canadian and British casualties mounted, it was unanimously decided at a meeting of the officers of the Regiment in October 1915 to seek authorization for a battalion for overseas service. In February 1916, authorization for the raising of the 199th Battalion Irish Canadian Rangers was granted. The official opening of the general recruitment campaign could not have started on a more inappropriate date. It was Easter Monday, 1916, the very day of the beginning of the Easter Rebellion in Dublin. As news of the rebellion spread through Montreal and across Canada, with the accounts of the reprisals, the declaration of martial law, the executions, etc., one would have thought that its effect on recruitment by the Battalion would have been detrimental. Despite the disturbing news from Ireland, however, recruitment for the Battalion continued unabated.

On June 15, 1916, in a moving and elaborate ceremony on the Champs de Mars in Old Montreal, the regimental Colours, which had been donated by St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, were presented to the Battalion by the President of the Society, G.H. Semple. He declared in making the presentation: "that it was the proudest day in the history of the Society." An eloquent address was delivered by Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, Chief Justice of Canada, who was also a staunch supporter of the Battalion.

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Colours (cont.)

On July 2, 1916, the Colours were deposited in St. Patrick's Church, received by its pastor, Father McShane, in a solemn ceremony, and they remained in the church's sanctuary during the war. Before leaving his post as Governor General of Canada, Prince Arthur wished that the name of his wife, the Duchess of Connaught, be attached to the 199th Battalion. (Prince Arthur, who was the seventh child of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, became the first Governor General of Canada of royal descent when he was appointed by his nephew, King George V.) Henceforth, the Battalion took the name of the Duchess of Connaught's Own Irish Canadian Rangers. Similarly, the name of the Duke and Duchess' daughter, Princess Patricia, had already become attached to a Canadian regiment, namely the Princess Patricia's Light Canadian Infantry Regiment, which is still active today. On October 11, 1916, in her last public act in Canada, the Duchess of Connaught, Louise Margaret, presented the Battalion with the Camp Colours, adorned with her monogram "L.M." It was reported that the Governor General waited until he had completed the inspection of all the military units then in training in Canada before choosing the 199th Battalion for this singular honour.

If the "luck of the Irish" seemed to be on the Battalion's side prior to disembarking overseas, the luck of the Battalion began to change thereafter. Shortly after departing for Halifax and boarding the troop ship for Liverpool, Lieutenant-Colonel Trihey received news that his house in Westmount had been gutted by fire. Things would get worse. On landing in England, the officers and men were astonished to hear that the Battalion was not to proceed to France, and to the front lines, as a unit. The Battalion was to be broken up into drafts and used as reinforcements in other battalions. This was devastating news for its members. As the war had dragged on into its third year and the carnage at the front continued unabated, it was not unexpected that some battalions would be broken up and used to reinforce existing units whose ranks had been decimated. Knowing this possibility, however, the leaders of the Irish Canadian Rangers, before leaving Canada, had repeatedly asked for assurance that they would proceed to the front as a unit. And they had been given assurances from the Minister of Militia of Canada, the Minister of Justice of Canada and others in authority that they would not be broken into drafts.

Considering the fact that they were the first Irish-Canadian regiment and that they had been bestowed with a special honour by the Governor General, they expected that they would stay intact. As a protest against this betrayal, the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Trihey, and the second-in-command, Major W.P. O'Brien, resigned and returned to Canada. To add insult to injury, the Battalion was told that they would undertake a "goodwill" tour of Ireland before being broken up into drafts. The eight-day tour would see them parade through Dublin, Armagh, Belfast, Cork and Limerick. It was essentially a glorified recruiting tour of Ireland conjured up by the Imperial War Office to help improve lagging recruiting efforts in Ireland resulting from the British response to the Easter Rebellion. Cynically viewed by many, the tour was a hypocritical propaganda ploy. The British authorities were attempting to present to their Irish subjects a



Photo: J. Peter Shea

Stained glass insignia of Regiment in Canadian Jesuit Martyrs' window

shining example of harmony, cooperation and unity between Catholic and Protestant Irish-Canadians. The proportions of Catholics and Protestants in the Battalion were approximately 65% and 35%, respectively.

The Irish Canadian Rangers were warmly received in Ireland during their eight-day tour. Most of the troops were first members of their families to return to the old country. The visit of the Irish Canadian Rangers to Ireland was indeed a fine example of how Irish Catholics and Protestants could come together for a common cause.

The decision to break up the Battalion was made before the tour was announced. The answer to the question that constituted the Battalion's motto, "Quis separabit" (i.e., who will divide/separate us?), was the Imperial War Office itself! Members of the Irish Canadian Rangers went to the front in France in separate drafts to reinforce the 14th, 24th and 87th Battalions. They would win battle honours with these units, including at Hill 70 and Amiens.

On March 21, 1922, at the first mess dinner of the newly created Loyola College Canadian Officer Training Corps, Hon. Col. Charles J. Doherty and Lt. Col. Wm. J. Shaughnessy, Officer in Command, handed over the Colours of the Duchess of Connaught's Own Irish Canadian Rangers to Loyola College "for her perpetual custody." When the Loyola College Chapel was completed and opened in 1933, and with generous financial contributions from returning members of the 199th Battalion (and from families of the men who did not return), the Colours were installed over the chapel's altar. The stained glass window over the front entrance of the chapel, which depicts the Canadian Jesuit Martyrs, is in memory of the Irish Canadian Rangers, whose regimental crest is depicted in one of the glass panels thereof.

J. Peter Shea is the Historian of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal



MIRFC launches Wolfhounds mini-rugby program

By Mark Gallagher

The Montreal Irish are proud to announce the launch of their ‘Wolfhounds’ mini-rugby program! This is aimed at kids under the age of 12 and will take place on Saturday mornings at the Irish grounds in St. Julie, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, running from June 1st until August 17th with breaks on St-Jean Baptiste and Canada Day weekends.

The program is designed to allow kids to learn the basic skills of rugby in a safe and controlled environment, but most of all, to allow them to have fun. Kids love mini rugby because everyone gets to touch the ball and run with it and have a chance of scoring a try – no more riding the bench or standing in the outfield waiting for a ball.

It’s also open for boys and girls and promotes team work and support play. Parents love the concept too, as they can drop all their kids off to one place at the same time every week – no more entire days spent driving here, there and everywhere.

Unlike some other team sports mini rugby has a low cost of entry and there are no expensive equipment costs as everything will be supplied by the Montreal Irish RFC. The program is open to everyone and only costs \$75. For this, the kids get registration and insurance with Rugby Canada and a practice ball and t-shirt and a snack after trainings.



To encourage participation the ‘Irish’ are opening up the first practice as a free one, so parents can bring their kids along and ‘try before they buy.’ We’re sure they will love it though and want to sign up right away.

If anyone would like additional information please contact Mark Gallagher mjdgallagher@hotmail.com or at C: 514-805-3243 or please visit our website; <http://www.montrealirish.com/site/mini/minis-information/>



University College Cork postgrad students win top international competition

By Anne Forrest

In late April, eight teams arrived from the US and Europe to compete with two Montreal teams in the International Graduates Competition (IGC). Hosted annually by HEC Montreal, postgrad students from top business schools had to find the best solution to a business or education-related case study. On May 1st, following a week-long series of events and workshops, each team delivered a 15-minute pitch and presented a 40-page report to the panel of international judges.

The four-member team from University College Cork (UCC), coached by business professional John O’Donoghue, consisted of Timothy Crowley (team captain), Kevin McDermott, Stephen O’Donoghue and Thomas Tobin. Previously, other UCC teams had placed 5th out of 24 in the John Molson Undergraduate Case Competition.

On the evening of May 1st, selected as finalists, UCC faced the reigning champion, the Simon School of Business, Rochester, NY. Each team gave a 30-minute presentation and responded to 20 minutes of questions. Check these out at www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVL6A1RhZgg (UCC begins at 59 mins.)

At the Gala held the following night, UCC was announced as the winner and also recognized for presenting the best-written report. The Simon School of Business placed second. In addition, Tim Crowley won a prestigious six-month fully paid internship with Proaction.

This was UCC’s first victory in an International Case Study Competition and may result in international accreditation and a promotion in its world ranking that stood at 190th prior to May 1st.



Photo: J. O'Donoghue

Celebrating at Hurley’s. Back (l. to r.): John Bolger, Dr. Michael Kenneally, Stephen O’Donoghue, Paul Dunne, Marlene Shocair, Vivian Doyle-Kelly. Front (l. to r.): Kevin McDermott, John O’Donoghue, Timothy Crowley and Tommy Tobin

Team members were ecstatic: “We’re absolutely astonished to be chosen to compete in the final of the competition and then to go on and win the top prize is completely surreal.” “We’re completely exhausted after solving this case study but getting into the final of the competition gave us the adrenaline to keep going.” “The whole week in Montreal was a once-in-a lifetime experience that we are never going to forget. We’re massively grateful to UCC for sending us and we hope that by winning this competition we have done our university and country proud.”

During their stay in Montreal, the team met with several members of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce to discuss how to strengthen ties between Ireland and Canada. ICCA president, Vivian Doyle-Kelly, commented on how impressed he was by the amazing talent of this brilliant group of young men.



Centaur Theatre continues to delight its audiences

By Fergus V. Keyes

The Centaur has been a gem of professional live theatre in Montreal for almost 50 years. Having offered the very best in local, Canadian, and international English language plays (including a number by distinguished Irish playwrights), the Centaur has the deserved reputation of being one of the best theatre companies in the country. As a member of the Board of Directors at the Centaur for almost a decade, I am always amazed by how the theatre has adapted to the changing times while staying focused on its main objective of providing the very best in English language theatre.

Founded in 1969 by Maurice Podbrey, Centaur Theatre Company initially rented the partially renovated Old Stock Exchange Building (which housed the first Stock Exchange in Canada) prior to purchasing the building five years later and undertaking renovations to include a second theatre space. A number of new works evolved in the early years but it was Montreal playwright David Fennario's play, *On the Job*, which was considered the breakthrough production for the company. Other new works sprung from direct commissions over the years including Centaur's 1979 production of David Fennario's play, *Balconville*, which brought national and international acclaim to Centaur. The production toured parts of Canada, as well as England and Ireland.

Maurice Podbrey's 28-year tenure was noted for supporting and producing new works by some of Montreal's finest playwrights; Vittorio Rossi, David Gow, Linda Griffith, David Freeman, Bowser and Blue as well as David Fennario, and working with important international directors and playwrights from Russia, Ireland, France and, most notably, South Africa's Athol Fugard. In 1997 Maurice Podbrey retired and Gordon McCall replaced him.

In 1998, Centaur's English-language world premiere of Michel Tremblay's *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*, translated by Linda Gaboriau, and directed by Gordon McCall, marked a turning point in the history of theatrical collaboration between the Anglophone and Francophone communities in Montreal. It then went on to a successful tour of Canada in partnership with Toronto's Canadian Stage Co. The conclusion of the year-long tour had its American premiere as part of Washington, D.C.'s Arena Stage's 50th Anniversary in the fall of 2000. Further international collaboration included exchanges with The Abbey Theatre in Ireland as well as the Melbourne Theatre Company in Australia. In 2003 Centaur's *Mambo Italiano* by Montreal playwright Steve Galluccio and directed by Gordon McCall played a sold-out engagement in the Mirvish Productions' season in Toronto following its record breaking English-language world-premiere run at Centaur. In December 2006, Centaur won the Grand Prix Theatre nomination from the Conseil des arts de Montréal for its remarkable contribution to Montreal Theatre life, highlighting the 2005/06 "Montreal Stories" season, which comprised six new works by Montreal playwrights, including David Fennario and Vittorio Rossi. In September 2007, Gordon McCall stepped down as Artistic and Executive Director and following an extensive international search, the Centaur Board of Directors appointed Roy Surette.



A calèche outside the theatre on Rue St-Francis Xavier in Old Montreal

Centaur has co-produced productions with National Arts Centre, Canadian Stage, and Arts Club Theatre. In 2011, Roy Surette directed *God of Carnage* and commissioned and directed the hit *Schwartz's: The Musical* by George Bowser and Rick Blue. This was selected by The Montreal Gazette as the 'hit of the year' and *God of Carnage* as the Best English-language Play of 2011. *Schwartz's: The Musical* played an extended run and was brought back for three weeks in July/August, the first time Centaur has ever done summer programming.

Recent Centaur productions directed by Roy Surette include the world premiere of Morris Panych's *In Absentia*, an extended run of *Good People*, and *Innocence Lost*, a play about Steven Truscott by Beverley Cooper which opened on January 29, 2013. Also, thanks to generous sponsorship by St. Patrick's Society, *Trad* by Mark Doherty, ran in February and March of this year.

Centaur has won nine Les Masque Awards including Best Actress, Revelation, and Best English-Language Production as well as a Toronto Dora Mavor-Moore award. In addition to a regular six-play season, Centaur produces an annual Wildside Festival showcasing new and emerging theatre companies, The Brave New Looks programme of presenting emerging Montreal theatre artists, and is associated with Théâtre Urbi et Orbi (*Urban Tales*) as part of Centaur's commitment to support and encourage the well-being of the Montreal English theatre community. The Saturday Morning Children's Series completes a full range of programming and community outreach that is a hallmark of Centaur's artistic philosophy.

THE 2013-2014 SEASON

You can help to support the Centaur and English language theatre in Montreal, by subscribing to the upcoming season which is sure to delight audiences. For additional information, or to subscribe (you can subscribe for four, five or all six plays), visit the Centaur site at www.centaurtheatre.com or call the box office at 514-288-3161.



May III evening a well-attended success

By Christine Clarke

More than 70 persons attended the most recent Irish Immigrant Integration Initiative (III) networking event of St. Patrick's Society held on Friday, May 10th, at L'Auberge Saint-Gabriel in Old Montreal. The main theme of the evening was, "How to find employment in Montreal." Guests of Honour were Dr. Ray Bassett, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada and Dr. Leo Varadkar, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Government of Ireland. MC for the evening was III Chair Stephen Fogarty, Honorary Legal Advisor to the Embassy of Ireland.

After a period of mingling while enjoying canapés and refreshments, the event kicked off with introductions and acknowledgements by St. Patrick's Society president, Paul Dunne. Dr. Bassett, in his warm and engaging manner, then spoke words of welcome to the newcomers and our local Irish community, and introduced the Minister. The charismatic Dr. Varadkar delivered a very warm address well appreciated by all, touching on Ireland's strong ties with Canada, the Irish Diaspora, the 2013 Homecoming festivals, and Ireland's economic recovery.

I/CAN Executive Director Cathy Murphy spoke briefly about the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre in Toronto. She was followed by our guest speakers, Iris Unger, Executive Director from YES Montreal (Youth Employment Services) and by Michael O'Leary, Regional V-P of Robert Half International, an international placement agency, both of whom provided very useful advice.

The final segment of the evening gave our recent Irish arrivals the opportunity to further mingle with community representatives and to network with the corporate guests. Other guests of note for the evening were Dr. Michael Kenneally, Honorary Consul General of Ireland, Ms. Mary Deros, Member of the Montreal Executive Committee responsible for Cultural Communities, and presidents of several Irish organizations.



Photo: Alison Slattery

(l. to r.) Christine Clarke, Emlyn Nardone, Erin Matheson, Stephen Fogarty, Andrew Fogarty, Marie Carrigan, Eibhlinn Lynam, Paul Dunne and Katherine Boushel

Special thanks go out to the III team whose planning made the staging of this event appear effortless: Stephen Fogarty (Chair), Paul Dunne (St. Patrick's Society president), Katherine Boushel, Marie Carrigan, Christine Clarke, Andrew Fogarty, Eibhlinn Lynam, Erin Matheson and Emlyn Nardone.

The entire III committee expresses its deep gratitude to Dr Bassett for his ongoing interest, support and encouragement in our endeavours and for his having ensured that Minister Varadkar was available to meet with us here in Montreal at our III event.

The III committee also acknowledges the significant and ongoing support of St. Patrick's Society for this important activity.

Please note the III web site is up and running. Event photos have been posted while the date and details of the next event will be up soon: <http://www.irishinitiative.org>.



... preceded by a great luncheon

By Anne Forrest



Leo Varadkar at the podium

Congratulations to Tourism Ireland and the Irish Embassy in Ottawa for hosting a most enjoyable luncheon on May 10. This was held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Montreal and attended by some 80 prominent members of the Montreal and Quebec Irish community.

Guest of Honour, Dr. Leo Varadkar, was introduced by the Irish Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Ray Bassett. Speeches were short and

focussed on the promotion of tourism in Ireland. This is the year of "the Gathering" and all in attendance were urged to make the journey to Ireland in 2013 to share in the celebrations.

Alison Metcalfe of Tourism Ireland was a most gracious hostess and was responsible for what was a very pleasant way to end the week.

A good time was had by one and all!

Photos courtesy
Tourism Ireland 



Patrick Shea and Erin Matheson

Photo: Alex Steau

Four men in a boat for our future – Part 1

By Martina Branagan

Four intrepid adventurers will push the limits yet again by rowing 1,802 miles/3,000 km from Inuvik to Pond Inlet in a custom-built sea-faring boat with no sail or motor so as to draw attention close-up and personally to the effects of climate change on our world. One local Canadian is among the mainly Irish crew and he's half-Irish anyway – Patrick Vallely who holds the world record for the fastest trek to the South Pole.



The courageous crew with their "Arctic Joule"

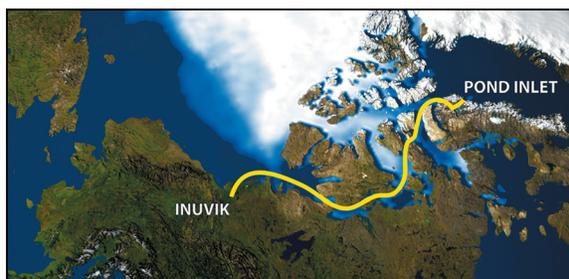
Starting on July 1, 2013 they hope to achieve their unique expedition to be the first human explorers to traverse the Northwest Passage solely under human power in a single season – the season of 24-hour daylight or thereabouts. The choice of beginning and end points of their voyage is significant: "they represent the start and finishing points of the ice maze that confounded mariners looking for a northern sea route from Europe to the Orient." These men are under no illusions about the harsh conditions and potential dangers they face in this handsome, hostile and hazardous environment; history demonstrates that the elusive Northwest passage has taken many of their predecessors or caused them to give up. They will need the team's vast experience and strength to make it but it is above all their passion that will pull them through the rough troughs and ice-traps that Mother Nature lays in store for them.

According to his article in the Irish times, Paul Gleeson, another team member, believes that there is also a historical connection for this expedition and the crew: apparently the second-in-command on the infamous Franklin expedition through the Northwest passage was an Irishman, namely Francis Crozier

an experienced Artic and Antarctic explorer from Banbridge in Co Down. So, the team has some "unfinished business for Ireland."

They need our encouragement and support. You can have front row seats to keep abreast of the expedition's progress via their blog, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and Vimeo. Visit: <http://mainstreamlastfirst.com/?slide=crew> for all the latest and the links.

For boating enthusiasts, Flickr has great pictures showing the creation of this cool looking 25-foot boat which needs to battle stiff winds, choppy swells and obstructive ice conditions. Depending on the angle you look at the design, it either looks like a dolphin or a space module with an open cockpit. The team agrees that their specially designed gem, *The Arctic Joule*, reinforced with Kevlar to withstand any ice they might bump into, is beautiful and believe that "she has their best interests at heart." They are spending time getting to know her. She has already impressed them – they have made adjustments to the oars and the capsized test was a success. God knows how they'll manage to turn her right side up in the frigid waters of the Artic though.



Their planned route through the Northwest Passage

These men are not just a courageous team but extremely fit also. It will be a revelation to follow their progress in what looks like very cosy conditions that will test even the strongest relationships 24/7. Here's wishing them God speed as they complete their final preparations before pulling together on their one-of-a-kind adventure through the sea route that connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Photos courtesy of the team's Flickr and website



Join the Siamsa Singers: a group that's a hoot!

By Janis Crawford



If you like to sing, whether alone in the shower, around the fire or as part of a group, you should join the Siamsa Singers! Our group focuses on music from the Celtic nations and the folk tradition. Our director, Sarah Burnell, has the passion and skill to help anyone improve their singing with all the humour and patience in the world. Beyond singing, we are also big fans of sharing delicious food and drink! Disconnect from your week and reduce stress; meet

and connect with fun people on a different level; and experience comfort, and communal bonding and empowerment

The Siamsa Singers are part of the Siamsa School of Music and practise every Thursday evening at Marianopolis College in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Registration is on a semester basis; for details go to www.siamsa.org/pages2/classes.htm. To find out more about us, check out our facebook page at www.facebook.com/SiamsaSingers



Ciné Gael season 2013 wrap-up

By Dana Hearne, Kester Dyer and David Hanley

Cine Gael's 21st season opened on January 11 with *Jump*, a post-Troubles youth film from Kieron J. Walsh (*When Brendan Met Trudy*) which mixes teen angst and violence with flashes of dark humour as it weaves together several interlocking narratives, following multiple characters as they make their way through the streets of Derry on a memorable New Year's Eve. Two weeks later, the second screening featured *Parked*, a gritty story of a man (played by veteran Irish character actor Colm Meaney) who returns to Dublin after years living and working abroad, and is forced to live out of his car in a parking lot. The film is a downbeat portrait of post-Celtic Tiger Ireland which finds moments of humanity among the social wreckage of the economic meltdown. Next up, on February 8, was *Silence*, a thoughtful and melancholic meditation on landscape and exile that has become a critical favourite on the festival circuit and features a journey of self-discovery through the beautifully photographed landscape of Ireland's west coast. The next week, on February 15, featured *Dreamtime Revisited*, a poetic feature essay which showcased the ideas of Irish writer, poet, and philosopher John Moriarty, which has received rave reviews in its home country.

Cine Gael Montreal's popular evening of award-winning short films from Ireland drew a near-capacity crowd once again this year, with regular members and newcomers curious to get a sample of the most recent short films to grab awards in festivals in Ireland and around the world.

Another eclectic mix of genres and themes composed this year's line-up, including: animation (*After You*, Damien O'Connor), period piece (*Uisce Beatha*, Seán O'Connor), dance film (*An Rinceoir*, Elaine Gallagher), animation/fantasy (*Tríd an Stoirm*, Fred Burdy), gothic/sci-fi (*The Girl with the Mechanical Maiden*, Andrew Legge), and hybrid live-action/animation documentaries (*Irish Folk Furniture*, Tony Donoghue; *Two Wheels Good*, Barry Gene Murphy). The individual films provoked considerable debate and discussion, and seemed to leave no-one indifferent.

Overall, however, *Rhinos* directed by Shimmy Marcus (Director of Aidan Walsh: *Master of the Universe*; *Soulboy*; and *Headrush*), a tender and touching tale of cross-cultural romance mediated through the Dublin cityscape and the occupants of Dublin zoo, captured the heart of the Cine Gael audience and was the runaway winner. This year, Cine Gael Montreal inaugurated the annual Audience Favourite Award's prize of €100, which now comes with the distinction of having been chosen by our discerning members from a high-calibre program of shorts previously acclaimed in other prominent festivals.

Our Weekend with film Director and Producer Margo Harkin was a great success. The three films we screened were extremely significant in the history of film in Ireland and in Northern Ireland particularly. And Margo herself was generous, engaging and informative in the stories she told in response to questions from our audience.



Margo Harkin at Jameson Dublin International Film Festival, February 2012

Margo's documentary *Bloody Sunday: A Derry Diary* is the first account by a local director who was herself an eyewitness to the tragic events of January 30th, 1972, a day which represents one of the most significant human rights abuses in British history. On that day the British Army shot dead thirteen unarmed civilians on a civil rights march in Derry, Northern Ireland. At the subsequent Tribunal of Inquiry Lord Chief Justice Widgery exonerated the soldiers and blighted the reputation of those who were killed and wounded by describing them as gunmen and bombers. A new Inquiry (The Saville Inquiry) was established in 1998 by British Prime Minister Tony Blair as a result of unceasing campaigns for a second inquiry by families of those killed and injured in Derry on Bloody Sunday. The results, which were published on 15 June 2010, was a complete vindication of the Civil Rights marchers and of those killed and wounded, and a complete condemnation by David Cameron in the House of Commons of the British Paratroopers' actions on that day.

Paradiso, directed by Allesandro Negrini and produced by Margo Harkin and shot in The Fountain, a Protestant enclave in Derry, is the very touching story of musician Roy Arbuckle's successful efforts to reunite his former showband and organise a major dance night in the hopes of getting Protestants and Catholics dancing together like they used to before war, fear and politics divided the two communities. The dancing sisters May and Kathleen were a special highlight.

The Far Side of Revenge, directed and produced by Harkin, explores themes of forgiveness and rebirth as it follows dramatist Teya Sepinuck and a group of Northern Irish women from politically diverse backgrounds – including Kathleen, whose husband was blown up by the IRA in 1990 and Anne, a former quartermaster in the IRA, whose uncle was murdered by the British Army on Bloody Sunday in 1972 - as they develop a project presenting their own, often shocking, stories to the public. Harkin's film shows how, in the process of telling their painful individual stories over a nine-month period, a deep bond develops between the women. "A lasting friendship" Anne called it.

Wrap-up (cont.)

The season finale ended on a high note with *What Richard Did*, the new film from Ireland's most prominent new director, Leonard Abrahamson (*Adam and Paul*, *Garage*), who filmed an introduction specially for the evening's screening. A low key and realistic coming of age story, it arrived after a successful showing at the Toronto International Film Festival and a sweep of the Irish Film Awards. The reception following the film gave our members a chance to mingle, as well as to share their views about the film. We heard lots of positive feedback about Cine Gael during the evening and we look forward to seeing you all again next season.

And a note from Antoine Maloney:

Many of our friends, and most of Ciné Gael's regular audience, follow our programming and schedule via our website [www.cinegaelmontreal.com] or our periodic emails, or on our Facebook Group or Page. We have lots to say during our season of course, but we try to stay in touch throughout the year. If we're just getting on your radar, visit the website to find lots of material about this past season and prior seasons. If you'd like to get on our email list, click on "contact us" at the top of our home page, or directly on our email address at the bottom.

And remember, if you're on our list, but change your email address during the summer / fall, let us know.



Don't miss the Douglstown Irish Week

By Luc Chaput

Be sure not to miss the 2013 Douglstown Irish Week to be held from July 29th to August 4th. Many renowned artistes will be under the tent including Conor and Rory Makem, and Liam and Mike Spain who will perform Irish traditional songs on August 1st. On the following evening, the talented New Brunswick fiddler and dancer, Kathleen Gorey-McSorley currently studying in Dublin, will take the stage together with Maria Gerehan (piano) and Eoghan Mac An Ghail (accordion, flute and whistle). Then on August 2nd, Salty Dog, the ever-popular group from Montreal, returns. In addition, short late-afternoon concerts will take place in the Holy Name Hall.

For those interested in genealogy, Réjean Martel will talk about the Irish families of the Gaspé Peninsula and Gary Schroder, president of the Quebec Family History Society, will hold two training sessions on how to find ancestors in Quebec and Ireland.

Finally, workshops given in both French and English will be offered: Irish choir, fiddle, square dance and foot-tapping, Celtic knot drawing techniques and Celtic jewelry-making (these last two are new).

Register early as places are limited. Go to www.semaineirlandaise-irishweek.com.



United Irish Societies: new executive appointed



Beverly Murphy

The UIS announces its new Executive:

Beverly Murphy – President

Danny Doyle –Senior Vice-President

Patty McCann – Vice-President (organization)

Kevin Murphy – Vice-President (advertising & public relations)

Jane Skelton – Treasurer

Millie Griffin-Gagnon – Corresponding Secretary

The position of Recording Secretary is vacant until September, when it will hopefully be filled.



An Easter Rising blessing from Belfast

By Jim Mc Dermott

On March 28, the Irish Republican politician, Sue Ramsey, received a great welcome at Hurley's as guest speaker for this year's celebration of the 97th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising.

Attending was an audience of teachers, politicians, lawyer, writers, trade unionists and PhD students. All took delight in meeting the MLA of West Belfast whose childhood upbringing was sadly rocked with the horror of the Troubles.

The gifted speaker brought the group up to date on what was happening in the North. The union flag issue is still causing disruption and rioting back in the six counties due to the intransigent royal- loyalist people who adore the British flag so much they want to fly one on every lamp post and paint their sidewalks red, white and blue. It really is their silly way of showing their anger, towards Nationals, when they actually refused to accept the democratic changes that prohibited the union flag, flying atop city hall, all year round. The times are truly changing in the north of Ireland. At the start of 2013, a bill was passed at Belfast city hall, which limited the flag hoisting to 17 days, (instead of all year round), that would include special occasions such as the Queen's birthday.

During her speech, Ms Ramsey made an intriguing and thought-provoking comment regarding the greatness of Irish women of 1916 and she particularly stressed that the outstanding roles of many Irish women was somewhat omitted from the history books.

It was indeed an honour to have met and learned from Sue Ramsey, a passionate and brilliant woman. I think in the near future she is going to lead her party to greatness.



Visit one of Ireland's hidden treasures

The Claddagh: Stories from the Water's Edge,

By Sandra Bunting, Evelyne Diskin,
Paul Malone and Edith Pieperhoff
The History Press • 160 pages, \$15.00
Reviewed by Anne Forrest

Before I dipped into *The Claddagh: Stories from the Water's Edge*, I checked Wikipedia and discovered that Claddagh (or *an Cladach*) means “the stony shore.” The map showed me that this former fishing village that originated no later than the 5th century and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland is located close to the centre of Galway where the River Corrib enters Galway Bay.

This fascinating and informative paperback is co-authored by Sandra Bunting (a recent SPS member), Evelyne Diskin, Paul Malone and Edith Pieperhoff. In his Foreword, Tom Kenny – contributor of old photos excavated from the archives – states that the book “... is about the people of a village ... and is about the extraordinary awareness of, and pride of these people in the heritage of their area.” He concluded by saying, “Above all, this eminently readable and beautifully illustrated book confirms that the special community spirit and sense of local pride are still very much alive in the Claddagh.”

Mr. Kenny was right. Almost every glossy page has at least one photograph or other graphic (often in colour.). Visually it is a delightful combination of text and illustration. Twenty chapters provide background information ranging from the earliest days in the Claddagh to its current vibrant status. I especially enjoyed learning of the history of the famous Claddagh ring with its two clasped hands holding a crowned heart; it originated at least 350 years ago. And then there are the hookers. (Don't be shocked! A hooker is a fishing boat that boasts maroon or brown sails and is featured prominently throughout the book). Ironically, women are not permitted on board the hookers except at the annual Blessing of the Bay.

Did you know that the Claddagh has its own King? Records show the existence of the King of Claddagh as early as the 16th century. The chosen king had to be a fisherman who owned his own boat, and had to be the most honest, likeable and trustworthy seaman in the Claddagh. Also recognized as Admiral of the Bay, he was the one who decided when the fishing season began, the type of fish to be caught, where they fished, and checked that nets and other equipment were in good condition. He punished those who did not obey the rules and his hooker was the only one with white sails. Another prerequisite was the gift of the gab. Currently, Michael Lynskey has reigned since 1998. Other monarchs profiled were Martin Oliver (1961-1972) and Ladneen Curran (1973-1989).

Another fascinating chapter dealt with the Famine and how it affected those in the Claddagh. Although the proliferation of fish suggested to me that the community would fare less badly than the potato farmers, it was not so. People still needed to buy

potatoes and grain, and as prices became prohibitive, the fishermen had to pawn nets and boats. Also the cholera epidemic of 1847-1849 decimated many families. The population of the Claddagh was estimated to be 528 in 1695. A century later it had risen to over 2,000, and by 1834 had reached 6,000. This number decreased by 50% following the Famine, the emigration and the epidemic. Today it stands at 2,614.

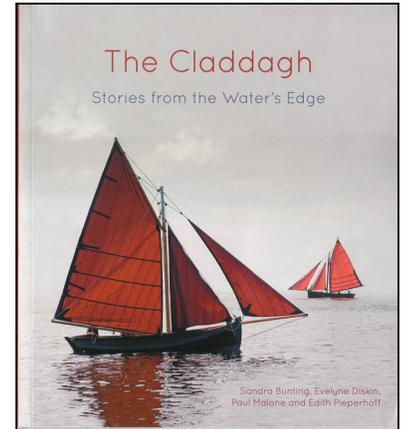
The uniqueness of this picturesque community comes across strongly. We are told that in 2008, the Claddagh was featured prominently in David Okuefuna's book *The Wonderful World of Albert Kahn: Colour Photographs from a Lost Age*; thatched cottages, geese, women wearing traditional Claddagh costumes, and the fishermen mending nets were included. These photographs were originally from a 1913 French project to take photos of disappearing customs throughout the world. I also learned that clothes could be waterproofed by boiling them in fish oil and potatoes!

Other chapters deal with the importance of the schools and the church, in particular the influence of the Dominicans who opened a piscatorial school in 1846 to educate children in English and to equip boys for a life at sea. Interestingly, in 1982, the St. Nicholas National school was one of the first in Ireland to take in students with impaired hearing.

Not to be overlooked is the ever-present focus on fishing and how it was the life-blood of the Claddagh for centuries. The authors, assisted by the many explicit photographs, explained how the residents were tied inextricably to the ocean on which they depended for their livelihoods. I could almost taste the salt and breathe the ozone.

Kudos to everyone who put together this delightful visual record of one of Ireland's most historic areas. It will surely inspire readers to pay a visit to this special area of Galway the next time they are on Irish soil. Unlike many texts that I've reviewed in recent years, this one had very few errors whether they be grammatical or typographical. Again, I cannot praise it enough.

Copies are available online from The History Press, Ireland if you are prepared to pay postage: www.thehistorypress.ie. Here in Canada, try Amazon at www.amazon.com.



Hookers off the coast of Claddagh



Dublin, Dingle and more dancing!

By Pam Cotter

The last few weeks have been an incredible whirlwind of events. As Dance Captain for the Limerick Musical Society, I have been kept very busy since January. In addition to daily rehearsals for the show *Oklahoma*, my time was recently filled by two visiting Canadians. While I had been expecting a trip from my brother for months, my mother also decided to make an impromptu visit specifically to see the show. I suppose the image of me doing cartwheels in a petticoat was too good to pass up!

My brother, Nicholas, flew into Dublin airport on St. Patrick's Day weekend, so it was only fitting to remain in the capital for the festivities. This was my first Paddy's in the city and the experience was exhilarating. The traditional weather did not keep people away and the city was absolutely packed for the parade. Once our shoes were sufficiently filled with water, we warmed up in a local coffee shop before moving on to museums and watching the Grafton Street performers. That night we were exhausted and had to wait longer than usual for a bus down to Limerick. To the average person, waiting outside in the cold and rain would be a problem, but not for us Canadians. Nicholas was prepared with extra mittens, foldaway mats for us to sit on, and even a sleeping bag. I think we definitely stuck out as tourists!



Nicholas Cotter with his sister, Pam braving the elements in Killarney National Park

Back in Limerick, Nicholas divided his time between exploring the city and escorting me to rehearsals. Spending hours watching musical rehearsals is not really his cup of tea, so we made sure to also do some activities he would really enjoy. Nicholas is a Canadian Park Warden so we decided to swing by Killarney National Park on our way to Dingle for the famous deep fried mars bars. Of course, in typical Cotter fashion, the trip was not without its complications. After a great night in Dingle, we only made it ten miles out of the town before the clutch popped on my car. Luckily for us someone pulled over to see if we were all right and he just happened to have a mechanic friend who lived close by. A few minutes later, a rope was tied to the front of my car and I steered as the car was towed to the mechanic's house. I kid you not. My Irish friends always tell me roadside assistance is a waste of money when you can do it yourself with a rope. Until now, I always thought they were joking.

As nice as the mechanic was, we were still stranded in Dingle until he could get the parts from Tralee. Since I had to get back to Limerick for work, the solution was obvious; we stuck out our thumbs and hitchhiked! Within ten minutes, a sweet couple from Nenagh, Co. Tipperary picked us up and took us the whole way. Nicholas claims it was our friendly Canadian smiles that caught their attention. A few days later, my car was all fixed up, so we returned to Dingle the old-fashioned way (by bus) to collect it. Even though the car trouble put a monkey wrench in our sightseeing plans, Nicholas claims he now has an even better story to tell. It is not every day you get to hitchhike around Ireland or sit in a car being towed by a rope!

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

Her career is taking off as she assumes the responsibility of Dance Captain with the Limerick Musical Society.

My mother came to visit the week leading up to opening night, which meant she spent most of her days at rehearsals too. I felt bad that I could not take her sightseeing, but I do think she enjoyed herself regardless. After all, she brought a book with her every day and I never once saw it leave her bag. The cast joked that I was very cruel to drag her along; little did they know she has years of practice thanks to *feiseanna* and tap competitions when I was younger. The show itself was a great success; the concert hall was filled every night and each show received a standing ovation! I have to say it was made all the more special having family in my cheering section for a change.



Chorus girls from the show: Pam is fourth from the left on the back row

Photo: Ian Collins

The show may be over now, but I guarantee the songs will be stuck in my head for weeks to come. With rehearsals finished and my family gone home, I finally have time to put up my feet. This calm will not last very long though, since I have now been appointed the official Dance Captain for the Limerick Musical Society. Preparations will begin soon for the next show and I am very excited to see what crazy flips are in the cards for this one!



Canadian Immigration: Major changes on two fronts

Temporary foreign worker rules, definition of “dependent children”

By Stephen Fogarty, immigration lawyer

Work permits to become harder to obtain.

Following the recent media uproar concerning the Royal Bank using non-Canadian workers for certain support tasks, on April 29th the Harper government announced major changes to the rules for hiring foreign workers under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP). The most important of these changes are aimed to provide that:

- employers will not be permitted to pay foreign workers lower salaries than the prevailing wage for the job concerned;
- the Government will have greater powers to suspend and revoke Work Permits (WPs) and Labour Market Opinions (LMOs) to deal with misuse of the program;
- the TFWP is not used to facilitate the outsourcing of Canadian jobs;
- employers must prove they have made substantial recruitment efforts to find Canadians to fill posts;
- employers have a firm plan in place to transition to a Canadian worker for the post;
- fees are charged for LMO applications and WP fees increase.

The first three of these changes appear reasonable, while the latter three may prove problematic. What will be required to prove increased recruitment efforts has not been finalized at press time, but will likely comprise longer advertising times in more places (whether more websites or newspapers), as well as detailed evidence that Canadians were given full and fair consideration for the job advertised. All of this will have to be checked by government officials which is likely to mean even longer processing times than the already 14-16 weeks for approval of LMOs in Montreal.

Quebec-bound foreign workers seeking an LMO already pay provincial processing fees of \$374. Sources indicate the federal LMO processing fee will add another \$250 to the cost, while WPs will also jump from \$50 to about \$300.

The obligation for employers to show how they plan to transition a particular job from foreign worker to Canadian marks a definite policy shift for the government, which had been stating for several years that Canada desperately needs qualified foreign workers to satisfy the requirements of our economy. For example, it appears that many young Irish workers who have come to Canada under the Working Holiday Program may find it harder to obtain additional WPs under these new rules once their initial two-year WP expires.

Age cut-off for eligible dependent children reduced to 18 years

The Canadian government will be modifying the definition of “dependent child” for immigration purposes effective January 1, 2014. This change will reduce the age limit of dependent children to 18 and younger (down from 21 and younger). In addition, there will no longer be any exception

for full-time students older than the cut-off age, even if they are living at home.

The “lock-in” date for determining age under an immigration application will be when it is received by the Canadian visa office charged with that type of case. Thus it will be essential to submit properly completed applications to the correct visa office before dependents turn 19.

Those 19 and older will have to apply for permanent Immigration to Canada on their own merits unless they are financially dependent on their parents due to physical or mental health conditions. (In many instances persons suffering from significant physical or mental difficulties are inadmissible to Canada. This in turn makes all family members inadmissible legally for permanent residency in files such as skilled-worker applications.)

This policy change on the age limit for a “dependent child” will apply in situations such as these: families applying for permanent residency to Canada; individuals wishing to sponsor a spouse who also has dependent children; individuals wishing to sponsor parents or grandparents who have dependent children; work permit holders wishing to bring dependent children family members with them to Canada.

Here is an example of possible consequences of this new policy: Families with children 19 and older considering permanent immigration to Canada will have a major dilemma. First, they will have to decide whether they will want to leave their young adult children back in Ireland, for example, even though the child may be enrolled full-time in university or unemployed or working in a low-paying job. Presuming these children were living at home, alternative accommodations will have to be found for them. Secondly, as a “solution” the parents and family members 18 and under could come as permanent residents while their older children might come along under student visas as temporary residents, assuming they find admission to a suitable Canadian university and can afford the higher-priced foreign student tuition.

If the first option is chosen, the family with children aged 19 and older would be split in two geographically, and with the second choice, the whole family would be in Canada but split in two legally since only some of them will have permanent residency status.

Stephen Fogarty is a member of the Quebec Bar and of the Law Society of Upper Canada and is Honorary Legal Advisor to the Embassy of Ireland. He practises immigration and citizenship law at his office Fogarty Law Firm in Montreal. Website www.fogartylaw.ca, and Twitter @Stephen_Fogarty. The views in this article are his alone. This article is for information purposes only and is not intended to give or to replace legal advice.



News from the School of Canadian Irish Studies

Michael Kenneally, Principal

Award-winning Irish-Canadian novelist to read at Concordia

Emma Donoghue will read at Concordia, jointly sponsored by Writers Read at Concordia and the School of Canadian Irish Studies. Her 2010 novel, *Room*, was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize. *Room* has sold over a million copies and won several awards including the Hughes & Hughes Irish Novel of the Year.

Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 7 p.m.
Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve,
Hall Building, 7th Floor, Room H767
This is a FREE event open to the public.

School of Canadian Irish Studies welcomes Ruth Canning



Dr. Ruth Canning has recently been appointed as a Marie Curie International Research Fellow by the European Commission, a post which she holds jointly between Concordia University, Montreal, and the National University of Ireland, University College Cork. With a special focus on Ireland's Nine Years' War (1594-1603), her research examines the socio-political impact of war and identity formation amongst Ireland's minority Old English population. Dr. Canning is a former Government of Ireland Scholar who completed a PhD in history at University College Cork in 2012. Originally from Galway, Ireland, she completed a BA at Mount Allison University and an MA at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

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Fall 2013

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Prof. Jane McGaughey

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did they go? You can answer these questions by taking part in Professor McGaughey's inter-disciplinary course, examining the diaspora by looking at historical documents, cultural creations, and literature, and becoming involved in academic debates about the importance of Irish ethnicity outside of Ireland.

Irish Theatre: A History

Prof. T.B.A

This course traces a colourful history of Irish theatre from the mid nineteenth century to the present, moving through key playwrights, playtexts and productions, including the globally successful melodramas of Dionysius Bouicault; the witty, pithy plays of Oscar Wilde; the political (and arguably propagandistic) work of WB Yeats and Augusta Gregory; the existentialism of Beckett; the commercial phenomenon of Riverdance; and the Tarantino-inspired violent comedies of Martin McDonagh.

Irish Traditional Music in Canada

Prof. Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin

Making of the Irish Landscape

Prof. Patrick Duffy

Winter 2014

Irish Cultural Traditions in Quebec

Prof. Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin

Highlights of Irish Literature

Prof. Susan Cahill

Irish Film Studies

Prof. T.B.A

Irish Identities Abroad

Prof. Jane McGaughey

Performing Irishness

Prof. T.B.A

These courses can be counted for credits in our various programs. Any of these courses may be audited by members of the public.

For registration assistance or for further information about Canadian Irish Studies courses, programmes, and scholarships, contact Matina Skalkogiannis:

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La chevauchée fantastique de Cú Chulainn - III

Marcaíocht iontach Cú Chulainn - III

Par Alexandre Boulet



The Celtic myth continues ...

(résumé du conte précédent)

Accablé d'interdits, Cú Chulainn pénétra, sur le dos de son fidèle cheval, dans le bois de Leitrim pour atteindre la tour Mionn Mallacht. Lors d'un périlleux affrontement avec la Morrigan, il réussit à lui couper une de ses griffes grâce à sa dague de cristal de quartz et sa légendaire dextérité. Il s'en créa un talisman pour se libérer de ses interdits. Après une nuit de repos, il parvint à l'orée du bois.

Cú Chulainn sortit du bois de Leitrim. La majestueuse rivière Shannon s'écoulait —tranquille — devant lui. Mais le ciel s'était couvert de nuages noirs et une odeur de putréfaction emplissait l'atmosphère. Il commanda à son cheval de trotter jusqu'au pont du Gae Bolga où il constata que la rivière avait franchi une dangereuse phase de dépérissement. Son eau revêtait une teinte d'un vert gris opaque et des bulles éclataient à sa surface. Le pont, victime des effluves de la rivière, était dans un état de décomposition avancée. Songeant à la raison de cette dégradation, il entendit un chant plaintif. Il scruta la rive opposée pour y apercevoir des créatures maléfiques qui semblaient occuper les fenêtres de la tour Mionn Mallacht. Cú Chulainn descendit de son cheval. Il lui demanda, dans la langue des chevaux, d'attendre son retour.

Pour éviter d'être repéré, il disparut de la surface de la réalité grâce à son don d'invisibilité et se dirigea vers le pont. Les planches mouillées étaient instables. Il s'agrippa au cordage, mais le relâcha aussitôt avec dégoût. Une sorte de pourriture humide, une mousse verte duveteuse le recouvrait. Tandis qu'il continuait à avancer sur le pont, une des planches, plus pourries que les autres, se fracassa sous ses pieds. Il n'eut que le temps de poser son pied sur la prochaine planche avant que celle-ci ne tombe dans l'abîme de l'eau opaque de la rivière.

Une fois arrivé de l'autre côté de la rive, il se retrouva au pied de la tour, sous le regard menaçant de ses fenêtres qui l'observaient telles des yeux inquisiteurs. Il pouvait y distinguer de vagues silhouettes qui y avaient pris position. Les ténèbres du ciel naissaient de leur présence. Seuls des éclairs déchirant l'obscurité lui permettaient d'entrevoir leur nature : deux satires aux grandes bouches molles qui balançaient leurs longs bras.

Cú Chulainn ouvrit la lourde porte de la tour et y entra. À l'intérieur, le chant des satires s'amplifiait. Il amorça l'ascension d'un escalier en pierre éclairé d'une douce lumière qui émanait de bougies disposées au-dessus de la rampe. L'escalier se

déployait en spirale jusqu'à l'étage où Medb s'était réfugiée*. Dans les recoins obscurs, des entités féminines, que la pénombre ne laissait entrevoir que les yeux, étaient prêtes à fondre sur quiconque s'aventurait dans l'escalier.

Rendu au dernier palier, Cú Chulainn traversa l'orifice du mur pour pénétrer dans la pièce où Medb résidait. Au fond, un ovate méditait, assis les jambes croisées, sur un bol rempli de sable où il avait tracé le même dessin que l'ovate d'Ulster avait découvert lors de sa voyance. Quatre sorcières l'entouraient et récitaient des formules magiques. Près des fenêtres, où les satires proféraient leur chant maléfique, Medb, la reine de la nouvelle couronne maléfique, une plume à la main, rédigeait une lettre avec une encre rouge-ocre. « Amour de l'ouest. Je suis invulnérable en ce lieu. Ta loyauté m'apportera le royaume d'Ulster grâce à l'envoi de dix centaines de guerriers vers moi, mais ton éloignement deviendra ton tombeau. »

Elle enroula le parchemin sur la patte d'un corbeau qui s'envola en direction d'Ailill.

À suivre...

* voir La prophétie du Sidh 2 dans *Nuacht* novembre 2011.



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

Canada & Québec Immigration



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People in the news ...

In December 2012, the Society's immediate past-president **Patrick Shea** was recognized by Lexpert magazine, the leading Canadian legal industry publication, as a "Rising Star" and one of Canada's leading forty or so lawyers under the age of 40. Patrick is a partner and a corporate lawyer at the Montreal office of Blake, Cassels Graydon LLP, one of the oldest, largest and leading law firms in Canada.



Photo: Dennis Koop

Society secretary, **Michelle Vahey**, gave birth to her first child on March 29 at St. Mary's Hospital. The delivery was not an easy one, but after an emergency C-Section, **Dylan Anthony Koop** weighed in at a healthy 8 lb 4 oz. The baby will be brought up trilingually (English, German and French).

Sleeping beauties: Michelle and Dylan

Koop look forward to introducing Dylan when they take him with them to the Vahey Gathering—celebrating Michelle's parents' 40th wedding anniversary – in Ireland in July.

Michelle and her husband, **Dennis**

The Society welcomes the following new members: **Ann Bernadine Boucher, Christine Clarke, Ashley Clarkson, Ann Cote, Lillian Murphy de Romer, Stephen Fogarty, Anne Gaynor Forrest, Brenda Gallagher Hodges, Ann Kearns, Douglas Leahey, Jamie Lovell, John G. McGovern, Pdraig McLean, Charlotte McLeod, Robert Murray, Don Pidgeon, Rob Roy-Laliberte, Margaret Ann Smith and Christopher Willis.**

Congratulations to **Keira Kilmartin** who was selected as the Ottawa Rose for the Rose of Tralee Festival 2013.

The World Championships of Irish Dancing were held in Boston during Easter Week and *la crème de la crème* were in attendance. There were 11 countries represented from Brazil to Taiwan and all of the dancers had qualified in their own regions in order to be able to attend. Whilst Boston has very nice facilities in the Hynes Center and lovely hotels attached, there was something missing from what it takes to be a world class event. Perhaps it was the lack of tiered seating for the audience. Sight lines were obstructed by the risers for the adjudicators. Enough, already, how did our Montreal dancers do? Well **Natasha Woytiuk** took 8th place in Senior Ladies. This is the highest place ever achieved at Worlds by a Montreal dancer. **Lucas Lawton** was placed 12th in his age group while **Liandra Doonan** came in 21st in Junior Ladies. **James Houghton** was placed 28th in his competition. There was a total of 11 dancers from Montreal at Worlds and although the others did not place, they performed their best and were a constant support to their fellow dancers.



Ville Marie Feis continues to be popular community event

By Marilyn Meikle-Rochford

In Ancient Ireland, Gaels would come together at local festivals for competitions in song, dance, music, theatre and sport. The largest of these was the Aonach, the great festival at Tara. For the past 34 years, dancers, musicians and aficionados of Irish culture have been welcomed to Montreal's own great festival - Ville Marie Feis.

The *Feis* opens with the Irish, Canadian and US anthems. Participants vie for prizes in Irish music (fiddle and tin whistle) and dance competitions. Bernadette Short, Montreal's doyenne of Irish dance teachers, has seen many of her former students become registered teachers and open their own schools; a tribute to her teaching but more importantly, an assurance that Irish culture continues to spread across our province. Currently, Quebec boasts the Bernadette Short School, The Moran Academy of Irish Dance, The Marie-Claude Rousseau School, and The Young Academy of Irish Dance. There are also beginner dancers at St. Gabriel's in Pointe St-Charles where Bernadette volunteers her time in the after-school program. On May 18, the Short School dancers impressed adjudicators who travelled from Ireland, USA, and

western Canada. Savannah Principe won The Montreal Junior Cup, Championship Level, U-13, Guillaume Choiniere-Shields won the U-14 Prelim-Championship, and Kayla Gagné took home the Over-16 Prelim-Championship. Musicians, playing traditional Irish music, accompany the dancers. These artists now include local Francophone fiddlers who have learned the Irish tunes.

The *Feis* is a community event. Countless volunteers build stages, set up the trophy room and hand out medals, prepare homemade goods for the Feis Café, clean up the venue, and work together to ensure the event happens each year. There is a camaraderie that extends over generations. Former dancers return to manage stages, SPS members volunteer at the BBQ station, and everyone pitches in to ensure that over 600 dancers and their families feel welcome. Between the dancing to watch, the concert band to listen to (this year Salty Dog performed), and the BBQ to enjoy, (with the occasional Guinness), Ville Marie Feis is a modern day *Aonach*.



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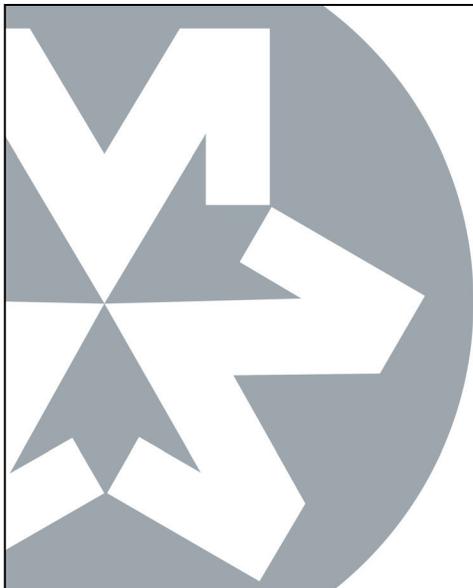


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Around town

Celebrate summer with ICCC on June 12

Once again, the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce will hold its AGM at Hurley's Irish Pub, 1225 Crescent St., to be followed at 5:30 p.m. by a social gathering to welcome the summer. This is always a fun event so be sure not to miss it. For more information, call 514-845-0973.

Concordia and McGill cooperate to present Bloomsday events

Celebrate Bloomsday from June 13 to 16 at several venues throughout Montreal, including Concordia and McGill universities, the McCord Museum and Atwater Library. Michael Kenneally, Principal of the School of Canadian Irish Studies and Associate Professors Susan Cahill and Jane McGaughey, will each give a lecture at this year's Bloomsday celebration. Highlights will include music, storytelling and dramatization, dancing, expert talks on James Joyce, films on Bloomsday and the Irish, a *Ulysses*/Joyce trivia contest, and multilingual public readings of *Ulysses*. For more information, please visit the Facebook page, Bloomsday 2013 – Montreal Celebration, or call 514-848-2424, ext. 8711, or 514-398-8234.

Tee off at the Society's charity golf tournament

Be sure to mark your calendars for the annual St. Patrick's Charity Golf Tournament that will take place on Tuesday, June 18, at the Belle Vue Golf Course. Despite the rain last year, it proved to be a great Irish party with good golf. 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.

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

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Irish Community Summer Party

Don't miss this cross-community get together which will begin at 5:30 p.m., June 25, on the back patio of The Irish Embassy Pub and Grill, 1234 Bishop St. Dr. Ray Bassett, the Ambassador of Ireland to Canada, will be the special guest. Traditional Irish music will be provided by Siamsa. Go and enjoy the happy hour prices and complimentary finger food. Bring your friends and meet new ones.

Annual SPS lecture

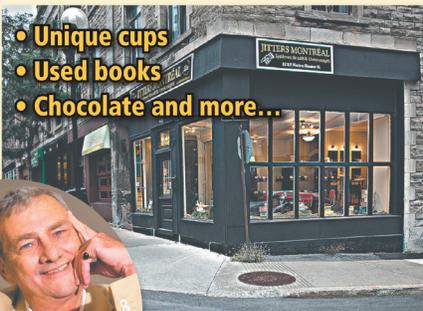
David McWilliams, the popular Irish economist who predicted the collapse of the Celtic Tiger when most others in Ireland dismissed him as a naysayer, will give the St. Patrick's Annual Lecture in Irish Studies in September 2013. An Irish journalist and economist, McWilliams was educated at Trinity College Dublin and the College of Europe. He has worked as an economist with the Central Bank of Ireland and as a banker with UBS bank and Banque Nationale de Paris. McWilliams has been forefront in the debates in Ireland about political reform and – of interest to Irish Montrealers – is in favour of extending the vote to members of the Irish diaspora.

Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 7 p.m. Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve, Hall Building, 7th Floor, Room H767
This is a FREE event open to the public.

Oyster night to be repeated

On October 10, the Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club will hold an Oyster Night fundraiser with proceeds benefitting the St. Patrick's Society. Last year's event attracted over 150 guests who enjoyed an evening of delectable dining on fresh oysters and sipping Irish vodka. Contact Erin Matheson at 514 481-1346 for further details.

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2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2013

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION	
May 30	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
June 12	ICCC's AGM and summer get together, Hurley's Irish Pub, 5:50 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
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 20	SPS Annual General Meeting, University Club of Montreal, 2047 Mansfield St., 6:30 p.m.	Erin Matheson	481-1346
June 20	AOH Golf Tournament (venue to be determined)	Victor Boyle	928-7196
June 25	Irish Community Summer Party, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ken.quinn@videotron.ca	
June 27	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
July 13/14	Tara Golf Tournament, Craig Wood, Lake Placid	Joan Tousaw	487-2863
July 25	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
July 26	AOH Mass in the Park, Griffintown-Saint-Ann 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
Aug. 29	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Sep. 15	Tara Golf Tournament, Le Victorien-Mirabel	Joan Tousaw	487-2863
Sep. 19	SPS Annual Lecture, Concordia, 1455 de Maisonneuve, Hall Bld., 7 th floor, Rm. H767, 7 p.m.	Matina Skalkogiannis 848-2424 x 8711	
Oct. 5	Tara Golf Tournament, Hemmingford (closing tournament and dinner)	Joan Tousaw	487-2863
Dec. 3	ICCC's Christmas Reception, Westin Hotel, 270 St- Antoine St. West, Montreal, 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973



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