

# Joe Mell: Irishman of the Year

By Kathleen Dunn



It is fitting that Joe Mell, the 2014 Irishman of the Year, was born on St. Patrick's Day. Well actually, he quips, "at 11:45 p.m. on March 16<sup>th</sup>. 1932, in Montreal, it was already St. Patrick's Day in Ireland."

The title Irishman of the Year has been awarded annually since 1976 by the Erin Sports Association. Its President, Tim Furlong, explains that Joe was "the unanimous choice" of the 80-member organization. "He's very, very deserving," Tim adds, "and I'm shocked that he's not been Irishman in the past." He was chosen in recognition of what he has done for the Irish community in Montreal, the general community, and in particular for Point St. Charles. The list of his accomplishments is very long indeed.

Joe has been a life-long resident of "The Point" and has remained true to his roots. His community involvement began when he was 16, coaching a softball team of 11-and-12-year-olds in the Point with his brother Leo. Together they recognized the need for organized sports for youngsters of all ages in their working-class area and their efforts grew into what eventually became known as Leo's Boys Sports Association. The idea was to develop neighbourhood youngsters into strong competitors and good sportsmen through proper coaching. Sadly, Leo died of leukemia at the very young age of 20, on Joe's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, and while Joe was on his way to serve in Korea.



Photo: Anne Forrest

Joe Mell being sashed by Bill Hurley, the 2012 Irishman of the year.

Family and friends and the youngsters they coached rallied together and named themselves "Leo's Boys" to pursue the vision.

Joe put his fundraising skills to work to make sure that as many children as possible could participate, at no charge to their parents, in organized sports. He is particularly proud of the fact that there was never a paid staff member with Leo's Boys during its 35 years of minor sports operations. Nor were there paid memberships. All the work was done by volunteers, and all equipment, uniforms, ice time and travel expenses were paid for by sponsors. In addition to bottle and can drives, bingos, and dances, Joe and his board of directors would sweet-talk governments, politicians, and businessmen into supporting this worthy cause. That board of directors at one time numbered 63 and included hockey goalie Gump Worsley, football player Terry Evanshen, broadcaster Danny Gallivan, politician George Springate, judge Clarence Quinlan, businessman Martin Conroy, and entertainer Roger Doucet. All were good role models for the young players.

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## A word from the President

Spring kicks off on February 1<sup>st</sup> for me. OK, yes, I have looked out the window but humour me for a few more sentences. I have no evidence to back this up but St. Patrick's Day is but three days shy of the spring equinox which suggests that the Irish may have blended some older spring celebration with his feast. Maybe St. Patrick had the excellent timing to die just when there would have been a Spring hooley anyway or, who knows, maybe he died while celebrating the hooley. The timing certainly works in Montreal. Montrealers are a hardy bunch but to get hundreds of thousands of them to dress up like leprechauns in weather that usually keeps the brass monkeys indoors, can only be because it is a signal from the Irish in our own typically understated way that winter is on the run.

For me it all gets going on February the 1<sup>st</sup>, St. Brigid's Day, which this year was the day that UIS selected the Parade Queen. What a great job they do each year. You can't fail to be impressed by the passion and pride with which these young women speak of their Irish heritage and how articulately they express themselves. This is no classic "beauty contest." It is a showcase of the future of our community and, if we can find ways to keep them involved, our community will be in excellent hands for at least one more generation. The outgoing Queen, Alyssa Caughy, received a well deserved standing ovation for an impassioned oration at the end of a long evening and a too-short reign (see p.7). We must and we will find a way to keep these wonderful young women involved.

In the breaking news section, we have had confirmation that Irish opposition leader, Micheál Martin (pronounced Me-Haul – that's like U-Haul in the first person singular) will give the

CIS/SPS lecture on February 27<sup>th</sup>. He has not yet selected his topic but you can be certain it will be worth your while making the trip to Concordia to listen to him speak. He is a past Minister of Health and Minister of Industry and Commerce in the Irish government and is also his party's spokesperson on Northern Ireland.

He has also accepted our invitation to join us at the St. Patrick's Ball the very next evening at which our own Queen-for-life, Margaret Healy, will be the Guest of Honour. The ball is an event not to be missed. It may not be the largest of the Montreal charity balls, but it is easily the most fun. Gentlemen, dust off your little black numbers and ladies regale us with your beauty, charm and colour and make this ball the best ever.

Catch your breath for a couple of weeks then join us again on Friday March 14<sup>th</sup> for the annual St. Patrick's Day lunch. Not content with one opposition leader, we will have two this year as NDP leader, Thomas Mulcair confirms he will join us at the head table to enjoy a very entertaining talk from our special guest, Gazette cartoonist, Aislin, AKA Terry Mosher.

So look out the window and ignore what you see. The Irish have started the spring engine so winter's days are numbered.

*Paul Dunne*  
February 2014



## Ball Guest of Honour

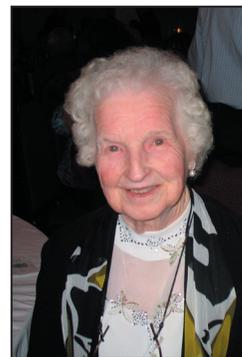


Photo: Anne Forrest

*Margaret Healy at the Queen's Selection Night, February 1, 2014*

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal is pleased to welcome Margaret Healy as Guest of Honour at the 2014 Ball. Margaret, a 2010 SPS Community Award Recipient, is known as a "beacon in and for the Irish community." Her father, Thomas P. Healy was a Member of Parliament for the St. Ann riding and was the parade's Grand Marshal in 1943. Sixty-two years later, Margaret became the first (and only) woman to hold the same position.

It is obvious that Margaret carried on the cultural traditions that were so important to her family. She is the past-president of the United Irish Societies (1997-98) and in 2009, the Pointe St. Charles YMCA inducted her into their Hall of Recognition for her volunteer work in the community. She is well known in all corners of Montreal's Irish community and is a member of St. Patrick's Society, the United Irish Societies, and Innisfail Social and Sports Association and is a former director of the English-Speaking Catholic Council. Her ancestors are from County Clare.

In 2012, Dr. Ray Bassett, Ambassador of Ireland, presented Ms. Healy with a Certificate of Irish Heritage for her long-standing commitment to the Irish community. Her motto is: "Everyone needs to give something back" and is one that she truly follows.



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# News from the Society

## Annual Christmas Concert

By Lynda Premerl

The 21<sup>st</sup> St. Patrick's Society Christmas concert took place in the magnificent St. Patrick's Basilica and was my first as chairperson and emcee. Quite the challenge! A big thank you to the committee for its hard work in making the event a success.

After Paul Dunne's welcome, the show began and was kicked off "literally" by our beloved Bernadette Short Irish dancers. Spinning, twirling and legs kicking, they performed a selection of Irish reels, jigs and slip jigs to some of our Irish music favourites.

Following the spirited young dancers, a determined group of more mature performers took the stage. The Montreal Welsh Male Voice Choir led by music director Claude-Marie Landré entertained us by singing in English, French and Welsh.

After a short intermission, 16 members of the Black Watch Pipes and Drums, led by drum major Cameron Stevens MMM. CD., marched up the aisle in full colourful regalia. The 10 bagpipers playing in perfect synchronicity was beautifully haunting and the countless drum beats reverberating throughout the massive Basilica were like a thousand heartbeats.

The final performer is as familiar with the Basilica as her own home. Carol McCormick who was accompanied on keyboards by Carlo Pietroniro, encouraged the audience to join her in singing "Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow." Her rendition of Christmas in Killarney brought back sweet memories of mother and me together in Ireland last September.

Advertising this year was primarily onscreen with three screens set up to display our patrons' names, sponsors and advertisers



*The Montreal Welsh Male Voice Choir*

as well as running a colorful montage of some spectacular scenes from Ireland.

The concert ended with a sing-along as Carol and I led the audience. During the last song "We wish you a Merry Christmas" people turned to each other and shared in some Christmas spirit and camaraderie.

As the audience slowly made its way out of the Basilica, one special young lady, Lorna Marsella from Venezuela received a proposal and engagement ring from Mark Nolan. Bravo to that young man for choosing such a wonderful occasion and venue for the special moment!

SPS wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all of you for your continued support. Next year's concert promises to be even more entertaining and also more comfortable as we plan to have some bottled water available and maybe even cushions for those hard pews.

Visit our website regularly for news of our upcoming events. [www.stpatrickmtrl.ca](http://www.stpatrickmtrl.ca)



## Members' Christmas Reception

By Anne Forrest



*Ken Quinn with his ubiquitous camera*

This year's SPS Christmas Reception was held in a converted toy factory – the Château St. Ambroise. It was an excellent venue and the 80 plus members who were there enjoyed the evening immensely. Following the president's few words of welcome, the musicians, Dave Gossage and Pat Lesyk took over the stage and provided a great backdrop of Irish medleys. A wonderful selection of canapés kept everyone happy as did their two complimentary drinks.

Thanks go to Erin Matheson for organizing this event. I, for one, am hoping that the Society will return to this unique and friendly



*Dave Gossage*



*Anne Marie Cote and Valerie Petit*

location. There are terraces overlooking gardens and the Lachine Canal – an ideal spot for a summer gathering!



*The Honour of Your Presence is Requested at  
the*



# Annual Charity Ball

Friday, February 28, 2014  
Marriott Château Champlain

Guest of Honour  
**Margaret Healy**

*“a beacon of the Irish community”*

Corporate Sponsorships - Tables of 10 are available  
Regular Ticket: \$225    Junior Ticket: \$150 (aged 30 and under)

**Featuring:**

The Bernadette Short Celtic Grace Dancers  
New Band: The Directors Showband  
Hurley's Irish Pub

**Tickets / Billets**  
[www.spsmtl.com](http://www.spsmtl.com)  
Tel: 514-481-1346



**St. Patrick's Society  
Annual Luncheon**  
Friday, March 14  
Hilton Bonaventure Montreal



**Guest Speaker: Terry Mosher “Aislin”**  
award winning political cartoonist

**Reception: 11:00 a.m.    Lunch: 12:00 p.m.**

Presentation of the 2014 Community Award

**Sponsorships Opportunities -**  
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at the Society office

Corporate Tables of 10: \$1,250  
Individual Tickets: \$80

**Tickets / Billets**  
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Tel: 514-481-1346

## Joe Mell (cont.)

During what Joe calls its “glory years” in the sixties and seventies, Leo’s Boys fielded 110 teams annually in hockey, football, softball, track and field, and boxing, and included some 1600 youngsters. The late Gazette columnist Tim Burke once called it “a sports and recreational organization for youngsters second to none in the province.” Showing concern for others, they also organized an exchange of boxers between the Point and Northern Ireland, including both Catholics and Protestants. As Joe loves to say, “pretty good for a working class area.”

Meanwhile, Joe had a day job with the CPR, working his way up from junior clerk to assistant to the vice-president. He left in 1965 to go into business for himself and focus on community work. He joined the Board of Catholic Community Services and soon found himself getting involved with Catholic Rehabilitation Services and working to amalgamate it with the John Howard Society. He was a founding board member of Centraide of Greater Montreal. He became district supervisor of Ville Marie Social Services’ southwest area, and became founding president of Fairshare Inc., a community employment project that sent over 100 men and women out to work daily at a decent wage. As Executive Director of the Good Shepherd Residence, a 32-bed facility for elderly men, he oversaw its merger with the 60-bed St. Margaret’s Home for elderly women, and arranged funding for the new Centre d’Accueil St. Margaret’s in Lower Westmount serving both men and women. By now Joe’s professional and community skills and interests had become one.

Next came a shift in focus for Leo’s Boys as the minor sports program started to decline and Joe got more involved first with reintegrating prisoners into society and later with seniors. Together, in 1973, they started Cross-Roads House, a half-way residence for federal and provincial parolees. Cross-Roads soon became affiliated with the St. Leonard’s Society, a national association of half-way houses, and Joe served with the latter organization until 2007, part of that as vice-president for Quebec. In 1976 Cross-Roads founded Decision House for men coming from provincial jails and it operated until 1994.

Meanwhile, in 1988, Cross-Roads (remember, still an offshoot of Leo’s Boys) helped set up Waseskun, a native healing centre for aboriginal offenders that grew from six beds in the Point to its current 32 beds in St. Alphonse Rodriguez. Joe is the only non-native Board member and is still active as vice-president, finance and development.

Joe retired from paid employment in 1994 but his community involvement continues unabated. Since 1952 when he returned from Korea and joined the Point St. Charles branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, Joe has been instrumental in staging an annual New Year’s Eve show at the Queen Mary and St. Anne’s veterans’ hospitals. “I figure I’ll do it for another three years,” says Joe who never seems to run out of steam or ideas.

Leo’s Boys Sports Association has now become Leo’s Boys Community Services. As for Joe, his name has been associated with countless other organizations such as the Canadian Sports Friendship Exchange, Foundation of Catholic Community Services, Catholic Men’s Hostel, Point St. Charles Boys & Girls Club, United Irish Societies, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Montreal-Chomedey Lion’s Club, St. Patrick’s Society, Roger Doucet Seniors Project, Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, to mention but a few. It was he who brought the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann concert tour to Montreal in 1975 as a fundraiser for Leo’s Boys and liked it so well he kept bringing them back every other year.

Joe is father to five and grandfather to nine and is married to Carole Costello Shaw, also of the Point. Joe tends to shun the spotlight, preferring to work in the background. His efforts have been recognized by the English-Speaking Catholic Council in 1996, by St. Patrick’s Society in 1994, by the Royal Canadian Legion in 2005, and by St. Leonard’s Society in 2013. Irishman of the Year is the icing on the cake.



## Erin Sports pre-sashing evening a huge success

By Anne Forrest

On February 7, 120 members of Montreal’s Irish community climbed the stairs into the Erin Sports’ clubhouse where they enjoyed an evening of lively music, good food, and conviviality.

MC Mike Kennedy got things going promptly and invited Francis Baddeley to perform the Irish and Canadian national anthems. He was followed by John Faherty who said grace. Next, the representatives from the various sister organizations were welcomed together with Verdun councillors Luc Gagnon and Sterling Downey, the female athlete of the year (Aaliyah Corbin) – basketball player from Dawson, the 2014 Queen and her princesses, the former Irishmen of the Year, and, of course, the guest of honour, Joe Mell.

When Richard McConomy, this year’s Breakfast Chairman, arrived from Ottawa where he had been delivering a speech on

English language rights in Quebec, he oversaw the pre-sashing ceremony. Unfortunately, John Meaney the 2013 Irishman of the Year was not present to sash Joe Mell. His job was taken over by Bill Hurley, the 2012 honoree.

During the evening, everyone relaxed as they loaded their plates with the appetising food prepared by the women (not members!) who were associated with Erin Sports. Mention must be made of the fine singing of Lisa Forget, Bernie Woffenden, Francis Baddeley, Bev McGuire and Elizabeth Quinn all accompanied as usual by the inimitable Terry Clahane.

Kudos to Tim Furlong and his team for yet another success story. We look forward to a great breakfast at the Sheraton Centre on March 8.



# United Irish Societies' honorees of 2014

## Grand Marshal: Bill O'Donnell



William O'Donnell was born on William Street, in Griffintown, to Doreen Donnelly and Gerald O'Donnell and baptized at St. Ann's Church. The family, a brother Charlie and sister Ann, later uprooted and moved to south shore St. Lambert where Bill spent most of his youth playing a variety of sports for the local teams, particularly hockey. Bill went on to coach these same teams.

In 1981, having owned a small office-furniture store, Bill joined his brother and father in the family business, King's Transfer Van Lines. Bill is now president of the transport company. The office, located on Eleanor Street in Griffintown, once housed the old St. Ann's nursery school.

In 1982 Bill married Catherine Harrison and together they have three daughters, Erin, Emily and Clare. While raising a family and working full time, Bill attended Concordia University and in 1990 received his Bachelor of Commerce. This was one of his proudest accomplishments.

Passionate about his city and a true Montrealer, Bill believes in giving back. Following O'Donnell tradition, he has supported and promoted many worthwhile causes including the annual "Gerald O'Donnell Golf Tournament" which, to date, has raised over \$300,000 for local charities.

Like his father before him, Bill is proud of his Irish heritage.

## Chief Reviewing Officer: Brian MacKenzie

Brian MacKenzie has been a key player in Montreal's Celtic community for close to 30 years. He has held the position of Pipe Major both for the Pipes & Drums of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada and the recently revived Black Watch Association Pipes & Drums. Currently he is director of the Black Watch School of Piping and Drumming which he helped to build. His passion towards Celtic arts in Quebec resulted in the establishment of the Quebec Piping and Drumming Society of which he is the past-president.



A committee member of the Montreal Highland Games, Brian focuses on the piping and drumming competitions. He is vice-president of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal and chairman of the St. Andrew's Ball.

Brian is a Lead Systems Administrator at CN, where he has worked for over 36 years. He lives on the South Shore with Julie Perron and their young son John; he also has two children, Alexandra and Jason. His ancestry includes not only the MacKenzies of Verdun but also the Tooheys from Point St. Charles. He is very proud of his Scots/Irish roots.

## Liam Daly Award: John Gilroy



John Patrick Gilroy was born in Montreal and from the beginning was immersed in the Irish culture, his parents being Irish-born. John started as a parish marshal for St. Gabriel's Parish in Point St. Charles. He then joined the United Irish Societies and has been a marshal with them since 1965. John has served as president of Comhaltas and hosted the Comhaltas concert tour and organised ceilidhs during his tenure. He is past

president of Innisfail Social and Sports Club, and has served as programme and entertainment chairperson for the United Irish Societies for 37 years. In the early '90s he was a member of the Bernadette Short Adult Dance Class and in the past a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

John can be found setting up and tearing down the equipment needed to run the show and if he's not doing that he is behind the camera taking photos of the events. In his spare time he competes in the pub quizzes or he is on his computer checking on what's happening in Ireland via newspapers and R.T.E. John's involvement in and enthusiasm for Irish culture makes him a very deserving recipient of The Liam Daly Heritage Award.

*Ann Broden*

## Simon McDonough Humanitarian Award: Francis Baddeley



Francis Baddeley is no stranger to the Irish community of Montreal. Anyone who has attended a celebration of something Irish during the last many years, will probably have heard his renditions of both the Irish and Canadian national anthems.

In addition to his fame as a singer, Francis is an active member of the Erin Sports Association, St. Gabriel's Parish and the Royal Canadian Legion. He is always willing to give his time to help others.

The UIS is happy to name Francis Baddeley as the 2014 recipient of the Simon McDonough Humanitarian Award.

*Photos taken on February 1 at the Queen's Selection Night by Anne Forrest*



# The Queen's Selection Night – as successful as ever

By Anne Forrest

Once again the United Irish Societies put on a great evening that showcased 19 talented young women who were competing to be members of the 2014 royal court. This year the organizers streamlined the proceedings; introductory speeches by both this year's honorees and the contestants were brief.

Kim Sullivan, a former princess, was MC, and Terry Clahane provided musical accompaniment when needed. And, of course, after the judges had been piped in, Francis Baddeley led the singing of the Irish and Canadian national anthems. The judges were: Sharon Doyle-Driedger (author); Jodi Jarvis (Mary Kay Products); Gary McKeown (Airbase Services Inc.); Jane McGaughey (Canadian Irish Studies); Ronan Corbett (Coca Cola); Bernard Betts (Future Electronics); and Beverly Hall (Geo. A. Hall Inc.). Their two advisors were Dr. Michael Kenneally and Dr. Rhona Kenneally. Sheila Showers and Patricia Mulqueen were scrutineers with Ken Quinn acting as the technical consultant.

Before the contest began, the 2014 Grand Marshal (William O'Donnell) and Chief Reviewing Officer (Brian MacKenzie) were sashed and presented with the traditional gifts – the ceramic horse and the fancy walking stick.

Two impressive young singers, Shea O'Donnell (9) and Alexa Artzy (14) opened the entertainment and during the evening they



*Elspeith McMurray, Carly Meredith, Queen Sarah Murphy, Kathleen Zuk and Kelsey Hannon*

Photo: Peter McCabe

were followed by the amazing Bernadette Short Irish Dancers and other vocalists – Genevieve Beaulieu and the Melotonz.

The contestants, divided into three groups, introduced themselves, after which the 19 were pared down to 10 semi-finalists. Again, there was a change. Earlier, each young woman had drawn the topic for her long presentation (some subjects were more user-friendly than others). This meant that the audience didn't have to listen to three or more speeches on the

importance of the Black Rock, or Giant's Causeway. Then the judges had the difficult task of selecting the 2014 court.

Next, each of the finalists had to respond to the question: "What is the greatest challenge confronting today's youth?" Not unexpectedly, several referred to the impact of social media.

Before the Queen was chosen, Alyssa Caughey, the 2013 Queen, delivered an eloquent speech. Then came the moment everyone was waiting for. The princesses were named in random order – Kelsey Hannon, Elspeith McMurray, Kathleen Zuk and Carly Meredith – and the last woman standing, Sarah Murphy, was proclaimed Queen. The evening ended after coronets were donned. Thank you, UIS!



## The 2013 Queen's retrospective

By Alyssa Caughey

A lawyer, a doctor, a businesswoman, a historian and a teacher walk into a building and come out with tiaras. This sounds like the beginning of a joke. Instead it was the start of the amazing journey I took with the 2013 UIS St. Patrick's Parade Court.

I can still hear voices saying "The calibre of girls of the 2013 Court is the highest in 30 years." And I would have to agree. At first, I was concerned about spending time with women I had technically beaten in competition. It's not something that is expected in the world of competitive sports. But I spent six intense weeks with the 'Dream Team' of four diverse, well-spoken and delightful women from the Montreal Irish community. I also got to know Mr. Don Pidgeon, Chief Reviewing Officer and Mr. Andrew Fogarty, Grand Marshal, two amazing men who became stand-in grandfathers for the ones I lost before I had the chance to know them. I am forever blessed by the privilege of their kindness.

As Queen, I travelled throughout Ireland this past summer and saw the wonder and history of that country. When in Northern Ireland, I saw the beauty and the division. I travelled down the wall dividing one side from the other and the site of Bloody Sunday. Though this tore at

me, it reminded me of what Mr. Pigeon had told me, "Sometimes in order to truly discover our roots we have to leave home." I feel that is what we have done here in Montreal. We have moved away from the division and made the survival of the Irish culture for our children and families a priority.

Although I was selected by and represented the UIS it was also thanks to the sister societies that made my experience as Queen incredible. The Erin Sports Association relaxed my nerves and began my Irish season with a warm welcome. And it was the St. Patrick's Society that fulfilled the dreams of the Disney Princess inside me by granting me the honour of a grand entrance at the Society Ball. And unlike during my years of international sporting competitions, my mother was able to be a part of my tale. Through the gracious generosity of the Irish community, she received a welcome more radiant and warm than the sun itself.

My fairy tale is over. To the members of Montreal's Irish community, I offer my gratitude and love for your kind generosity in making possible this amazing chapter in my life.



# Fr. Dowd celebrated at The Gathering, November 2013

By Gabriel Matthews

*In June, 2013, Gabriel Matthews read an article online from the Drogheda Independent dated 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012. "A CELEBRATION to mark the life of Father Patrick Dowd in Dunleer, incorporating Paris and the Canadian city of Montreal, would be a perfect 'local' event as part of 'The Gathering' in 2013. Margaret Murphy, now 91, and a native of Ballinfull, Hackballscross, Co. Louth is proud to say that Fr. Dowd was her great-grand uncle and she would love to see his story revived and his memory truly honoured in Dunleer."*

*Fr. Patrick Dowd was Gabriel's great-grand uncle too – born two hundred years ago on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1813. Although Gabriel's mother was also from Ballinfull, the family did not know Margaret Murphy. Following the first anniversary Mass of Margaret's death (27<sup>th</sup> October 2013), Gabriel made contact with her relatives and added 320 people to the Family Tree. It was Margaret's idea and inspiration to celebrate Fr. Dowd's bicentenary and his ambition to see it fulfilled*

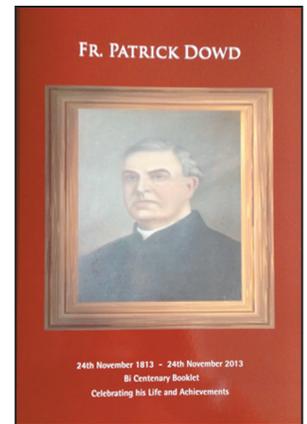
## This is his story:

I read that Dr. Jason King, a native of Montreal, had done research on Fr. Dowd at the University of Limerick, and had given a talk on Fr. Dowd at the Famine Commemoration in Drogheda in May 2012. This was attended by An Taoiseach and Jimmy Deenihan, T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht who paid tribute to Father Dowd and called upon the nation to "remember Fr. Patrick Dowd who was born in 1813 and curate of Drogheda... he moved to Montreal in 1848 to work with the Grey Nuns looking after the Irish famine victims." I immediately contacted Dr. King and the Drogheda Independent for more information.

I promoted Margaret's Gathering Commemoration idea with my family and decided to travel to Montreal to trace the footsteps of my famous great grand uncle. I met Dr. King, now living in Dublin, who put me in touch with Lynn Doyle. She introduced me (electronically) to Alan Hustak, Paul Dunne and Ken Quinn. I travelled to Montreal in September 2013 and visited le Grand Seminaire where Fr. Dowd is buried in the crypt and met with the Archivist Marc Lacasse. I also visited St. Patrick's Basilica and met Mary McGovern. Both of them subsequently sent me documentation and photographs.

Back home on the 13<sup>th</sup> October we had our first Fr. Dowd bicentenary commemoration committee meeting, well aware that we had a very tight deadline. We wanted to produce a booklet about his life, works and achievements. Then we could

focus on promoting his life and works in the local community, in the country and in Montreal. I undertook research under two headings: the family tree, to list who was related to him and the contacts between his family in Ireland; and, a review of the writings about Fr. Dowd from a number of sources particularly Alan Hustak, Dr. Jason King and Montreal's St. Patrick's Society.



*The booklet*

On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr. Dowd's birth, a large crowd gathered in Dunleer Church. Various descendants of Fr. Dowd's family participated in the Bicentennial Mass. Fr. Dowd's Chalice of 1727 was used by Fr. Murtagh PP, Dunleer during the Mass attended by local people from Dunleer and beyond. Placed beneath a portrait of Fr. Patrick Dowd was a bowl of shamrock and maple leaves to represent his life in Ireland and Canada. Fr. Murtagh gave a great sermon on Fr. Dowd's life and a local priest, Fr. Quinn, remarked that if Fr. Dowd had remained at home he would have become a prominent churchman in Ireland too.

After the Mass there was an Exhibition in St. Brigid's Hall hosted by Dunleer and District Historical Society. It included: an interview with Alan Hustak; letters Fr. Dowd had written home in the 1850s; a video on the life of the Irish in Montreal in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries from St. Patrick's Society; the Dowd family tree (to be completed this year); and letters from Paul Dunne and the Superior General of the Congregation of St. Sulpice, Paris.

Our booklet was launched at The Gathering. It includes a genealogy project on Fr. Dowd's family and the many descendants of his four sisters. It also comprises contributions by prominent historians – Prof. Sherry Olsen, Prof. David Wilson, Prof. K.J. James, Dr. Jason King, Alan Hustak and The Grey Nuns Diaries. Essays on Fr. Dowd's works are featured, with links to websites on further books, articles and research. Also included is a summary of Most Rev. Gerald Berry's 1946 article on why Fr. Dowd refused his appointment as Bishop Elect Coadjutor of Toronto and subsequent appointments as Bishop of Kingston and Halifax, preferring to stay with his Irish congregation in Montreal.

In the afternoon there were three lectures: the Famine Hero by Dr. Jason King; The Famine in Ulster by Dr. Anthony Russell and my own talk on Fr. Dowd's family and local connections. Dr. King told how Fr. Dowd saved thousands of lives in Montreal during the famine migration of 1847-1848 and helped provide homes for Irish orphans and widows left destitute in the city's

*Cont. p.20*

# University College Dublin wins MBA award in Montreal

By Paul Loftus

The Montreal Chapter of the UCD Alumni Association hosted a Meet and Greet Reception for the team representing The Michael Smurfit School of Business of University College Dublin on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 at The Irish Embassy Pub and Grill.

The four-member team was here to represent UCD in the John Molson International MBA Case Competition, a bilingual competition for outstanding MBA students, which this year had 36 teams from 13 countries representing all five continents. The competition was held from January 5 to 10 at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. The competition was created in 1981 and is currently the oldest and most international MBA case competition in the world. The competition is a round-robin format where the teams are given three hours to solve a business case with which they are not familiar. The winners receive the coveted Concordia Cup and a cash prize of \$10,000. This year's event involved over 350 volunteers, 270 local business executives (including Paul Loftus who was a lead judge) and 200 MBA candidates.

The first place prize went to the University of Minnesota which received \$10,000 and the Concordia Cup. The second place prize of \$7,000 went to the University of South Carolina. The University of Kaiserslautern won the third prize and received a cheque of \$5,000.

The UCD team was awarded the competition's distinguished Richard Outcault Award which was established in 1999 by Northeastern University. This award is given to the team that best reflects the integrity, collegiality and competitive spirit of the competition. The winner is selected by the coaches of all the participating teams, which this year, included such prestigious universities as: Yale, Notre Dame and Purdue in the United States; Queensland University of Technology, Australia; Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel; FIA Business School, Brazil; National University of Singapore; and University of Capetown, South Africa. Local universities included Concordia (the hosts), HEC Montréal, Université Laval and Université de Sherbrooke. McGill University was conspicuous by its absence.

Paul Loftus, UCD chapter president in Montreal, welcomed everyone to the "Meet and Greet" reception and introduced the captain of the UCD team, Jim Gannon. Jim in turn introduced his other team members who were Shaun O'Keefe, Peter Lee and Steve Kelly. Jim is a consultant in the energy industry; Shaun is with Apple's Supply Demand Management Team in Cork; Peter is manager custom operations at Maxim Integrated, a manufacturer of analog and mixed-signal semi-conductor products; and Steve is Airbus A320 fleet manager and a captain with Aer Lingus. The UCD team members are all in the Executive MBA programme. The team was accompanied by their coach Dr. Pat Gibbons who



Photo: Ken Quinn

(l. to r.) Steve Kelly, Patricia Hurley, Jim Gannon, Paul Loftus, Peter Lee, Shaun O'Keefe, Patrick Gibbons, Eithne Taylor and John McGuinness

is the Jefferson Smurfit Professor of Strategic Management. Dr. Gibbons has confirmed that the team will compete annually.

Such an undertaking requires a considerable expense. In addition to support from UCD, the team gratefully received sponsorship from both Molson Coors Ireland and Aer Lingus.

Many of the Irish organizations in Montreal were represented at the Meet and Greet reception for the team: Mike Kennedy and Ken Quinn from the Federation of Irish Societies; Tim Furlong, Erin Sports Association; Ronan Corbett, Gaelic Athletic Association; Danny Doyle, United Irish Societies of Montreal; Vivian Doyle-Kelly, Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce; and Victor Boyle, national president, Ancient Order of Hibernians. Also attending were Byron Toben, Montreal Press Club and several of his members. In addition to Paul Loftus, other UCD alumni residing in Montreal who attended were Patricia Hurley, Eithne Taylor and John McGuinness. Many of the other alumni expressed their regrets from Florida and Mexico.

The UCD Alumni Association thanks Paul Quinn, owner, Irish Embassy Pub and Grill, for providing our visitors with their refreshments and the entire attendance with their food for the evening.



# Happy and blue

By Pádraig McLean

The first and third Sundays in September every year have a special place in the hearts of Irish traditional sports fans - the annual All-Ireland hurling and football finals. Recent years had brought a certain predictability about the hurling finals, Kilkenny having won six of the previous eight finals, with slightly less predictability about the football finals, Kerry winning five All-Irelands since 2000 and Tyrone three.

Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) fans in Ireland are notoriously loyal to their teams, there being little movement in loyalty between counties, the exception being loyalty changes by nuptial activity, a specific example being the Brogans in Dublin: their mother is from Kerry but with three sons toggging out in blue and navy to represent Dublin, she is inclined to swing the colour pendulum. Gaelic games are still the most popular amateur games in the world, the provincial finals and games involving Dublin at Croke Park (the GAA headquarters) attracting in excess of 80,000 fans.

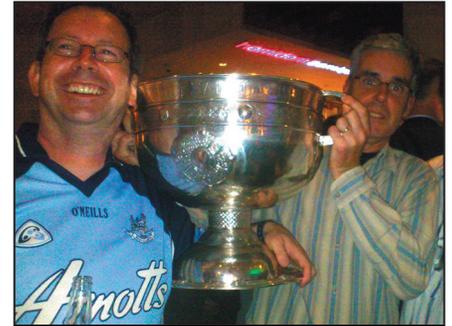
My first vivid recollection of an All-Ireland football final was in 1972, Offaly v Galway. The latter had a very strong team and competed in both the '73 and '74 finals. For Dublin fans, the 1974 final was memorable: they were contesting their first All-Ireland since 1963, a long time for a county with such a strong football tradition and were managed by Kevin Heffernan, a veteran of a number of All-Irelands in the 1950s. His experience in losing to Kerry in 1955 (although winning with Dublin in 1958) was entrenched in his psyche and drove his motivation to win with Dublin as their manager. Between 1974 and 1979, Dublin contested six All-Irelands, winning three of them, most memorably the 1976 (Dublin v Kerry) and the 1977 semi-final (Dublin v Kerry).

The 1970s thus were remembered as very successful years for Dublin, "spoiling" the active Dublin fans. Little were we to know that the following 30 years would be lean in terms of All-Ireland wins. I was lucky to have attended the All-Irelands that Dublin won in '76, '77, '83 (with 12 men against Galway) and '95 against Tyrone. The 2011 final provided neutral GAA football fans with a memorable pairing – Dublin V Kerry - the first time the two had contested a final since 1979, when Kerry inflicted a heavy defeat on Dublin. In many ways both Dublin and Kerry would claim that a true All-Ireland victory is all the sweeter when it involves inflicting a defeat on the other on the way.

The 2011 All-Ireland victory for Dublin was truly a remarkable result for a number of reasons: Dublin were the underdogs going into the match and were in fact seven points in arrears with 12 minutes to go. The game was a cliff hanger as Dublin powered on to win with a late goal by Kevin McManaman and a point

## Many 'firsts' in Gaelic football with Dublin

- First time a penalty was saved: 1974, Paddy Cullen (Dublin) v. Galway's Liam Sammon
- First all ticket – 1977, Dublin v. Armagh
- Highest score – 1977, Jimmy Kearney 2-6 v. Armagh
- Highest number of players ever sent off – 4: 1983, Dublin (3) v. Galway (1)
- First player ever to have been sent off twice – 1995, Charlie Redmond (Dublin) v. Tyrone
- First goalkeeper to kick the winning score – 2011, Stephen Cluxton, Dublin
- Highest TV audience – 2013, 1.4m people in the final stages of the game



*Pádraig with the holy grail*

scored in the last minute by Dublin captain and goalkeeper Stephen Cluxton. Unfortunately, with no ticket available and work pressures, I watched it live in Montreal - nothing beats being there in person!

In 2012, it was upsetting as Dublin failed to retain the Sam Maguire in disappointing circumstances, falling easily to Mayo in the semi-final. It's very difficult to follow on with consecutive All-Ireland wins: the exhilaration effect of winning and the challenge of remaining motivated for a further 12 months. With the 2012 change in management, Jim Gavin, a seasoned Dublin player, an All-Ireland 1995 champion, brought a fresh perspective on matters and reduced any possibility of complacency in the camp. There was throughout 2013 the beginning of a swagger in the manner in which Dublin dispatched their competitors in Leinster (winning the Leinster title for the sixth time in seven years) and disposing of Cork in the quarter final. The semi-final paired Dublin and Kerry again and true to form both teams served up a treat, which most GAA commentators now claim to be an example of the greatest game played in the GAA since the 1977 All-Ireland semi-final between the same two teams. It was Kevin McManamon of Dublin who again scored the decisive goal to extinguish Kerry's All-Ireland aspirations for 2013.

On the other side of the draw, Mayo had obliterated all who came before them including dispatching the holders from 2012, Donegal, in the semi-final in a very easy manner, setting up a final with Dublin, as All-Ireland favourites. This time, I searched high and low with my contacts at home and I did manage to get a ticket and booked a flight for the weekend to see my first All-Ireland Final since 2001 and my first with Dublin since the win in 1995.

The day itself was a fantastic late autumn day in Dublin, sunny and warm. I met up with friends in Abbey Street and had lunch before walking from O'Connell Street to Croke Park, surrounded by a sea of blue and navy and green and red. The match itself was not a terrific affair. Mayo seemed weighed down by the history of six All-Ireland losses since their last win in 1951, with Dublin intent on reclaiming the prize so easily prized from their grasp the previous

*Cont. p.11*

## MIRFC in training for upcoming season

By Mark Gallagher

The Montreal Irish are now in pre-season training which offers an excellent opportunity for beginners or new players looking to join the club to come out and meet players and club members.

The 'Irish' are known for warmly welcoming new players into the fold and investing time and effort into developing the skills and fitness of new players. Training takes place on Wednesday and Thursday evenings with Wednesday seeing skills and aerobic exercise and Thursday seeing strength and conditioning. Everyone is welcome to come out to these sessions.

Wednesday practices are from 6-8 p.m. for women and 8-9:30 p.m. for men at Beurling Academy, 6100 Champlain Blvd, Verdun, H4H 1A5.

Thursday sessions are from 7-8:30 p.m. and are open for men and women. We encourage anyone from 17 years and up to come along. These are held in L'Usine Crossfit, Griffintown.

The club is also pleased to announce the first of hopefully many youth initiatives in the SW area of the city. In conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club of Verdun, MIRFC will run a rugby programme for 9-12 year olds on Monday evenings, 7 p.m. at the Boys and Girls club gymnasium at the Dawson Centre, 666 Woodland Avenue, Montreal QC H4H 1V8

The club will also be expanding its mini rugby programme this year at Ste. Julie on Saturday mornings June-Sep. from 10 a.m. -noon and adding a mini rugby programme in the Verdun area on Sunday mornings from 10 a.m. – noon also June -Sep. The location details will be confirmed at a later date. Mini rugby is for 4-12 year-olds and everyone is welcome. It's a great way for kids to exercise, have fun and mix with other kids whilst developing rugby skills in a non-contact, safe environment.

For more information, please contact; Mark Gallagher [mjdgallagher@hotmail.com](mailto:mjdgallagher@hotmail.com) 514-805-3243



## Everything you ever wanted to know about Tara Golf

In 1961, four members of the Montreal Shamrocks GAA Club, had a vision to form an Irish-Canadian golfing society. Its main objective at that time was the keeping together of Irish immigrants by playing golf, holding socials and thereby helping to preserve their culture and identity. As a result, the Tara Golf Association came into being.

The four men who began the club had the vision of setting up a club for both male and female players without any restrictions as to age, race, creed or colour, a rather revolutionary idea at the time since the Shamrocks comprised mainly male participants.

For over 50 years Tara has steadily maintained for its members an annual circuit of seven golf tournaments, social events and periodic group flights to the Emerald Isle.

In 2014 seven tournaments are planned. Non-members are welcome as guests. Since most fixtures take place at the weekends, costs are about \$40-\$45 per player.

Membership in Tara is \$25 per season for a playing member and \$10 for a social member. To join, or for further information, contact Brian Baldry at (514) 630-5628.



### All-Ireland (cont.)

year. Dublin's Bernard Brogan plundered two opportunistic goals in what was in the end a tight affair. I guess if I were to pick a team that you would like to see winning an All-Ireland after all the years of heartbreak, one would not have begrudged Mayo. Even though Dublin had two players incapacitated for part of the match (one with a torn hamstring and one concussed) and had used up all their substitutes, they hung on through hard work and determination and the poor judgement of Mayo's Cillian O'Connor who inexplicably took a point from a free when the game was up and Mayo needed to conjure up a goal.

I was also fortunate enough to receive a ticket for the post-dinner reception with the Dublin team at the Gibson hotel in the Dublin docklands, where we mingled easily with the players, all of whom displayed remarkable modesty, although in the limelight as Dublin's tabloid fodder in the run up to all the matches - a far cry from NHL or premiership league soccer. I even managed to

talk with the Dublin manager, Jim Gavin, who attributed the success to the players themselves.

Somehow the victory was fitting this year, as the great stalwart of 20<sup>th</sup> century Dublin GAA, Kevin Heffernan was not in Croke Park for the first time in 60 years having passed away in January 2013. It was truly a memorable weekend for the Dublin supporters; extraordinary in another sense as the fathers of three Dublin All-Ireland 2013 medal winners, Bernard Brogan, James McCarthy and Dean Rock also won All-Irelands with Dublin over the years. The silverware haul for 2013 was impressive for Dublin – All-Ireland, National League and Leinster titles. Winter brings the calm before the storm of a new 2014 championship. *Báile átha Cliath.*

*(Special thanks to David for the ticket, Catherine for the evening's entertainment and Denis for the craic.)*



# Ireland's Nine Years' War (1594-1603) and the foundations of Irish Nationalism

By Ruth Canning



*Dr. Ruth A. Canning is a Marie Curie International Research Fellow, a post which she holds jointly between the School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University, Montreal, and the School of History at the National University of Ireland, University College Cork. Awarded by the European Commission, the Marie Curie prize is one of Europe's most competitive and prestigious awards, fostering interdisciplinary research and international collaborations. A historian of early modern Ireland with a special focus on Ireland's Nine Years' War (1594-1603), Dr Canning's research examines the socio-political impact of war on 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 a MA at Memorial University of Newfoundland.*

Ireland's Nine Years' War (1594-1603) marked a watershed in the socio-political development of the Irish people because it largely determined the island's ethnic, religious, and political divisions for centuries to come. Although the Anglo-Normans had invaded and settled Ireland during the twelfth century in the name of English King Henry II, the English conquest of Ireland was not actually completed until the death of England's last Tudor monarch, Elizabeth I, in 1603. Indeed, for more than four centuries, English rule had not extended much beyond a somewhat fluctuating area known as the English Pale, comprising the eastern counties of Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Westmeath, and Louth. Yet, under the Tudors, a determined effort was made to expand English jurisdiction over the rest of the neighbouring island. Early attempts met with staunch resistance from Ireland's quasi-independent regional lords; native opposition, however, tended to be very localised and, over time, many Irish lords capitulated to the superior might of the English establishment.

One region, however, proved to be a serious obstacle for English designs. For centuries, the north of Ireland had remained on the political periphery, which had allowed its inhabitants liberty to maintain the old Gaelic order and Catholic religion in spite of the many political and religious upheavals of the period. But, with the threat of impending English reform in the 1590s, it was from the almost impenetrable Gaelic province of Ulster that a powerful politico-military alliance was forged under the charismatic leadership of Hugh O'Neill – known to the English as the Earl of Tyrone, and to the Irish as “The O'Neill.” This union of northern chiefs would not only resist English encroachment into Ulster, but it would challenge English suzerainty like no other Irish rebellion had before. As the Ulster rebellion gained momentum, Hugh O'Neill and his northern allies called upon Irishmen from every corner of the land to unite and rise in a single purpose: the expulsion of English Protestant authority and the creation of an independent Irish Catholic nation. The resultant coalition was to constitute the first real pan-Irish Catholic Confederacy which uncompromisingly aimed “for the extirpation of heresy, the planting of the Catholic religion, the delivery of our country [from the] infinite murders, wicked and detestable policies by which this kingdom was hitherto governed, nourished in obscurity and ignorance, [and] maintained in barbarity and incivility.”<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately for the Irish, the English eventually emerged victorious; that victory, however, came at a very heavy price. The English had fought countless other wars in Ireland during Queen Elizabeth's 45 year reign, but they had also fought in France, interfered in Scotland, defeated the Spanish Armada, and had spent decades fighting the Spanish in the Netherlands. Yet, as a single event, Ireland's Nine Years' War

*Cont. p.13*

## Irish Nationalism (cont.)

cost Elizabethan England more money and men than any of the rest. Besides draining the queen's coffers of an estimated £2,000,000 sterling, England's physical commitment to this Irish war was unprecedented. Between 1594 and early 1599 the English military presence in Ireland had grown from 1,500 men to an estimated 10,000. This figure nearly doubled in 1599 when the Earl of Essex was sent to Ireland at the head of the largest English army to have yet set foot on Irish soil. The dispatch of such an impressive army, and the appointment of one of the queen's favourite courtiers, is indicative of how seriously the English took the Irish effort for independence as well as how difficult the struggle for Ireland really was.

Famine, disease, and the Irish Confederacy's use of guerrilla-style tactics were devastatingly effective against the English military machine, and never before had an Irish rebellion come so close to toppling the English administration of Ireland. In fact, until the Battle of Kinsale (24 December, 1601) turned the tide of war in England's favour, the overthrow of English dominion and the realisation of Irish independence seemed very much within arms' reach. But, after countless embarrassing losses to the Irish, victory at Kinsale gave the English the momentum they needed to subdue the entire island and, two years later, on 30 March 1603, Hugh O'Neill, the Irish Confederacy's inspiring leader, submitted to the English viceroy, Lord Mountjoy. The repentant O'Neill was to discover that the aged Queen Elizabeth had died only six days earlier, leaving many to speculate that had he known this in advance, he might have held out longer in order to secure more agreeable terms for both himself and his country from the new Scottish monarch of England, James I. As it transpired, however, the aftermath of this war witnessed the establishment of a new social and political order in Ireland, and one which was modelled along English Protestant lines. This was characterised by

punitive social, political, and economic legislation against Irish Catholics, as well as the large-scale confiscation of Irish property and wealth which was redistributed amongst a new English and Scottish Protestant settler elite, particularly within the province of Ulster.

Hugh O'Neill and the Nine Years' War set the tone for Ireland's centuries-old struggle with English authority, and they were equally instrumental in shaping the socio-political identity and aspirations of the Irish nation. Although the connection between "Irishness" and Catholicism was not an entirely new concept in the late sixteenth century, this war witnessed the birth of a cultivated patriotic rhetoric which would, for the first time, establish these two features as the foundation of a national agenda. Hugh O'Neill's Irish Catholic Confederacy may have been defeated, but the nationalist ideology these Confederates had sparked would ensure that England's hold on Ireland would never be without trouble. Indeed, the Nine Years' War gave rise to Ireland's first real nationalist party whose wartime cause for "faith and fatherland" gave birth to the idea of an independent Irish and Catholic nation, a vision for which succeeding generations of Irishmen would continue to fight until the Irish Free State was established in 1922.

(Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> TCD MS 578, f. 31, "Copie of a trayterous writing delyvered throughout Ireland by the Archtraytor, hugh late Earl of Tyrone," (1599). As cited in Hiram Morgan, "Hugh O'Neill and the Nine Years War in Tudor Ireland," *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 36, No. 1 (1993), p. 25.




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## The winds of change are blowing through the Highlands

By Jim McDermott

One chilly evening in January, while trudging through the little square on Peel Street on my merry way to Cine Gael's first movie of their new season, passing the magnificent statue of poet and staunch Scottish nationalist Robert Burns, I thought of the Scots, our Celtic cousins. They will go to the polls on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September to decide whether or not the country should leave the United Kingdom. First minister Alex Salmond and his Scottish National Party (SNP) government are leading the "Yes" campaign while the main opposition parties argue Scotland would be better off remaining in the union.

If the Scottish brave hearts vote for independence it will send a colossal psychological blow to Northern Ireland and Unionism. North Irish nationalists strongly believe a move towards Scottish independence would re-ignite demand for a border poll over a united Ireland. There are obvious similarities between the debates

in NI and Scotland but also some obvious differences. The flags and symbols are a lot more important and more contentious in Northern Ireland, as we have seen recently, while the Scottish debate is much more about welfare and the economy. The latest opinion poll suggested that the "No" vote is currently ahead, however both campaigns are expected to intensify in the months leading up to September. If Alex Salmond produces a game-changer then that could be his ticket to victory and blue bells of bonnie Scotland will ring triumphantly all the way from the Highlands to the Lowlands and beyond.

Right in the heart of our Montreal stands the great poet's statue. Who knows, maybe it too might emerge with a warm smile carved in celebration of a new Scotland. Aye, time will tell... September 2014.



# The heroes of the Rock

By Fergus V. Keyes

Most Montrealers of Irish descent are quite familiar with “Black Rock” that sits on the Montreal side of the Victoria Bridge. They know that the rock is a memorial to the 6000, or so, Irish immigrants that died at this spot during the hot “Calcutta Summer” of 1847. These Irish men, women and children, after enduring the terrible conditions in crossing an ocean from Ireland, never had an opportunity to build a new life in Canada, but rather were buried in foreign soil. (Unfortunately many Montrealers using the Victoria Bridge never realize that they are driving over the graves of these individuals on their daily commute). These Irish immigrants died from “ship’s fever” (typhus). The rock was installed by the workmen on the Victoria Bridge, many of whom were Irish, and since the stone was installed in 1859, only a decade or so after the event, many of these workers must have known about the site and the history. Perhaps some of the workers on the Bridge were even survivors of the sheds.



Photo: Fergus Keyes

*The Black Rock: photo taken during the annual Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) walk in 2010*

But I think a less well-known part of the story, are the people that I like to call the “Heroes of the Rock.” These people were native Montrealers, some well-known, and some ordinary citizens, who felt a need to go to the fever sheds and provide whatever assistance and compassion that they could offer. They all knew that this disease was very contagious and that they were literally risking their lives by visiting the victims.



*John Easton Mills*

Perhaps the best known of these heroes was John Easton Mills – at the time, the Mayor of Montreal. He was an American born in Massachusetts in 1796. Mr. Mills was elected in March of 1846 but because of some voting irregularities, he actually assumed office in December. In Montreal, he first became a fur merchant and then a banker, eventually setting up his own bank which financed a number of construction projects including St. Patrick’s Basilica. As Mayor, after seeing a number of Irish dying in the Port of Montreal, and becoming

aware of how contagious the disease was, Mr. Mills ordered the fever sheds to be built in the area, then part of Point St. Charles, in an effort to protect the population and contain the victims. Originally only three sheds were built (each about 150ft. long to 40 or 50ft. wide), but by the end there were 11sheds (some reports say there were as many as 20 or more sheds). He also had to fight against a number of citizens that demanded that ships with the Irish not be allowed to land; and there was even a rumour that a mob had planned to “push the sheds into the river.” But in addition to trying to protect the dying Irish immigrants, he also

volunteered as a nurse in the sheds. He spent many hours with the victims: caught the disease, and died on November 12<sup>th</sup> 1847. (Occasionally, John Easton Mills is referred to as The Martyr Mayor of Montreal.)

Another group was the Grey Nuns. The Superior of the Order, Mother McMullen, after visiting the sheds asked if some of her nuns would volunteer to go to the sheds and provide what comfort they could. She said, “In sending you there, I am signing your death warrant, but you are free to accept or refuse.” All of her nuns agreed to go, many caught the fever and seven died. Other orders like the Sisters of Providence also came to help with a total of 17 nuns from various orders (including the Grey Nuns) giving their lives. William Weir, a visitor to Montreal reported that to him “the saddest sight was to see the nuns, at the risk of their own lives, carrying the sick women and children in their arms from the ships to the ambulances to be taken to the sheds.”

The Roman Catholic priests, in particular, faced a grave risk as they bent over close to the victims’ mouths in order to hear confession. So many of them came down with the illness that a call went out for additional support. (Hotel Dieu recorded the death of eight of their priests alone.) Some Jesuits arrived from as far away as Fordham, New York. There does not seem to be an exact record but many priests, particularly the ones that spoke English and/or Irish and had an easier time understanding the Irish victims, also perished.

Although most of the immigrants were Catholic, Reverend Mark Willoughby, an Anglican, also organized a group to do what they could. For example, in the group was a Lt. Lloyd of the British

## Ciné Gael update

By Dana Hearne

We had a terrific turn-out for our opening film *Life's a Breeze* by director Lance Daly. On a personal note, I loved this film and the great cast, especially the stand-out performances of Fionnuala Flanagan, Pat Shortt and Kelly Thornton. Cine Gael was delighted to welcome Elizabeth Keogh from the Irish Embassy in Ottawa, and to hear the good news of the Embassy's continued support. We also welcomed T'Cha Dunlevy who was our guest speaker for the evening.

In the up-coming weeks we will have enjoyed *Good Vibrations* (February 7<sup>th</sup>) directed by Lisa Barros D'Sa and Glen Leyburn. This is the heart-warming story of Terri Hooley, a radical, rebel, and music-lover in 1970s' Belfast, who opens a record shop and through it "discovers a compelling voice of resistance in the city's nascent underground punk scene."

On Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, we are screening *Stay* by local filmmaker Wiebke Carolsfeld (Director of *Marion Bridge* which won best Canadian first feature in 2002). Irish actor Aidan Quinn, and American actor Taylor Schilling (*Orange Is the New Black*) star in this drama about a Canadian woman who falls in love with an older Irish man and has to deal with the ensuing conflict attached to such a relationship. The film is set in the west of Ireland and Montreal. The director will be in attendance to introduce her film and will be available to do a Q & A after the screening.

On Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> we have our evening of Award-Winning Short Films – always an audience favourite. Once again we can expect Heather Macdougall and Kester Dyer to put together a stellar show.

Our plans for Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> are not yet finalized but as soon as they are you will be able to find the details on our website.

NOTE: All screenings take place at J.A. deSève Cinema, Concordia University, 1400 de Maisonneuve West, at 7:15 p.m.



(l. to r.) Ciarán McMenamin, Paul Kennedy, John MacKay and Mark Dixon in New York during the IFNY Film Festival

On Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> we will be screening *Made in Belfast* (Director: Paul Kennedy) which tells the compelling story of Belfast-born Jack Kelly (played by Ciarán McMenamin) a novelist now living in Paris, who returns home to a Belfast he no longer recognizes, and to a brother and friends who feel betrayed by him. Some critics have described Paul Kennedy's first feature as "a minor miracle."

The film for our Gala closing on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> has not yet been confirmed, but as soon as it is it will be up on our website.

Check our website ([www.cinegaelmontreal.com](http://www.cinegaelmontreal.com)) where our webmaster Antoine Maloney has almost completed a summary of all our programmes since we started Cine Gael in 1993. This is where you will find all the details you need to know about our up-coming season – including up-dates on our screenings for Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.



### Heroes (cont.)

Rifle Brigade. It was said that Lt. Lloyd never stopped in his efforts at the sheds until, he too, caught the fever and died. And, as well, Rev. Willoughby became ill with the fever and died at 51 years old.

Unfortunately the disease moved so quickly that it appears there were no proper records kept of either the victims, or the many people who came to their aid. Individuals arriving with the fever in the evening were often dead and "trenched" (buried) by the following morning. For example, the Montreal Executive Council record notes that 3759 individuals died of the fever in 1847 (not noting if they were all direct victims or including others that came to help). The Black Rock puts the number at 6000. My opinion is that the exact number does not really matter – it was

a tragedy of epic proportions, and although we note the victims in Montreal, there were many, many more victims and heroes, from St. John's to Toronto, not to mention Grosse Île.

My feeling is that, of course, the actual victims had no choice in becoming victims – but the heroes who paid with their lives, including the well-known John Mills, the Grey Nuns, the Catholic Priests, the Anglican Clergy, as well as the many individuals that were not recorded, did have a choice. They knew that there was a strong possibility of death when visiting and helping in the sheds – but they went anyway. They seemed to feel that they had a duty regardless of the grave risks to help their fellow human beings – and that is why I call them the "Heroes of the Rock."



## Anecdotal memoirs and stories from Quebec City

*Shamrocks in the Maples*

By Joe Lonergan

160 pages, \$15

Reviewed by Anne Forrest

In his excellent introduction to *Shamrocks in the Maples*, Joe Lonergan wrote, “What I have written to date is written as much to amuse the reader and the author as it is to record my memories and perceptions.”

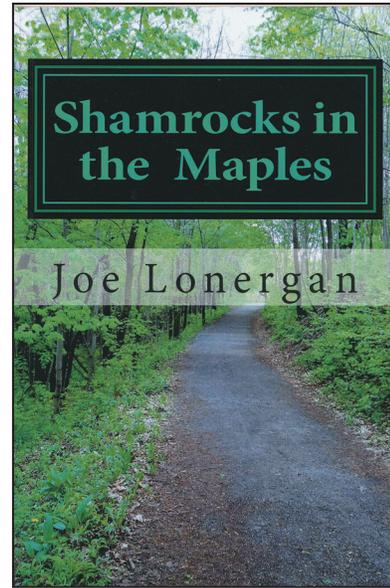
Self-published books are becoming increasingly more popular. Easy to produce and relatively inexpensive, they are proving invaluable to would-be authors. Lonergan, a Quebec City retired teacher, has taken advantage of this DIY technology with this recent publication.

The book comprises two parts: My Ancestors and Autobiography. Genealogy buffs will be very impressed by the incredible amount of research done by the author as he traces his ancestors, paternal and maternal, from the time of their arrival in Quebec in the 1800s together with details of their Irish forebears.

While reading the first part, I confess that keeping track of everyone was difficult for me. Many of Lonergan’s ancestors bore the same name; there was a plethora of Josephs, Patricks, Marys and Kathleens. A few traditional family trees would be useful additions. However, the conversational style used by the writer piqued my interest and I was fascinated by his stories of the struggles and successes experienced by these intrepid immigrants. I especially liked his inclusion of the bequests that were outlined in many of the wills.

I found the opening section of Autobiography more entertaining as Lonergan took us on his journey as a youngster. Despite the hardships his family endured, he enjoyed a loving and fun-filled childhood. Unfortunately, his father, Joseph Miles Benedict Lonergan, was chronically unemployed. A talented poet and keen musician, “He was stigmatized for being unemployed, for drinking beer, smoking, not dressing well and not supporting his family ... .” Together with his older sister, Moira, young Joe lived with his parents on Moncton Avenue in the home built by his maternal grandfather in 1910. Situated in a pleasant middle-to-upper-class neighbourhood close to the Plains of Abraham, this former single-family dwelling was now subdivided into five apartments and housed a vast assortment of tenants of different nationalities over the years including Brits, Hungarians, Micmacs and Koreans. Joe developed many varied relationships with the occupants and with his neighbours.

The autobiography consists of short anecdotes related mostly in a chronological order. We learn that Joe was a newspaper delivery boy for eight years which provided him with much-needed pocket money. He also was a military cadet. Most of his life centred around St. Patrick’s School which he attended from Grade Three. This was to be where he ended up as a teacher.



As a young adult, Lonergan became involved with various organizations that supported the IRA. Raised as an Irish Republican, in 1980 he tried to get the Quebec National Assembly to pass a resolution in support of the Irish Republican prisoners’ demands. The first day that this was to be presented coincided with Jean Leasage’s death, and the next time was the day that John Lennon was shot. Both of these events resulted in the Assembly being broken up. When the resolution was eventually presented, it died on the floor. And, clearly an anti-royalist, Lonergan was mortified in 1989 when his daughter, Catherine, was chosen to present flowers to Fergie, the Duchess of York (Joe, her husband’s name is Andrew not Albert as you stated!). Today Lonergan is president of Irish Heritage Quebec, which he joined in 2002.

*Shamrocks in the Maples* is an enthralling and informative work. The text is interspersed with numerous illustrations – maps, photos and registry records. Throughout the book, Lonergan injects humour: (e.g., The story of Phil Stock’s goat that wandered into the Anglican church and the joke: “Why is an Irishman like a banana?” “An Irishman is like a banana because he starts out green, goes yellow and ends up rotten.”). As a devoted son, brother, husband, father and now a grandfather, Lonergan deserves praise for this labour of love. Apart from the misuse of apostrophes, occasional structural errors, and some unnecessary repetition of vocabulary, this book is well written.

At this time, *Shamrocks in the Maples* is not available commercially although this may change. If anyone would like to obtain a copy – and I recommend that you do – please contact Joe by e-mail at [jhlonergan@hotmail.com](mailto:jhlonergan@hotmail.com) or send a cheque for \$15 to:

Joe Lonergan  
123-1175 Avenue Turnbull  
Quebec QC  
G1R 5L5

# Four men in a boat for our Future – Part 3

By Martina Branagan

“**W**e shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.” Kevin Vallely was reminded of these words from T.S. Eliot when we spoke recently about how he found life since returning from last summer’s expedition by the intrepid Irish-Canadian team attempting to be the first human explorers to traverse the Northwest Passage solely under human power in a single season.

Kevin recognizes that coming down after the likes of that risky expedition is far from being an easy undertaking – “*it’s an adventure in and of itself.*” “*I feel like a different person,*” he admitted. On a personal level, Kevin feels that he has learned a lot about himself and feels good about how he deals with challenging circumstances, how he was under duress, the general resilience when things go wrong. Kevin has had time to consider the risks involved in such long expeditions and to question what level of risk he is prepared to take and avoid in the future.

“*I started out as an adventurer and I always will be. All trips have meaning for me but this trip was the most meaningful in spite of the failure as perceived by some people,*” Kevin told me. “*Success is about giving it a try, having the nerve to try!*” Boy, did they do that, risking life, limb and rowboat. But it’s more than that. Where before he would have been environmentally-savvy, he used to feel that the individual was powerless to create change for mother earth. “*Now, I see things differently and feel strong environmentally. I can make a difference; I can make my voice heard.*”

During their voyage, they lived their motto “*pulling together against climate change.*” Promoting alternative energy sources with three solar panels built into their custom-built row boat, “*Arctic Joule,*” they had power for their GPS and their desalinator converted seawater so that they almost always had potable water. Part of the mission was data collection for the Canadian Department of Oceans and Fisheries for whom they took measurements of the ice and water. People took notice.

“*Our voices were being heard and continue to be heard.*” he mused with great confidence. He cited the September 2013 CBS news article [www.cbsnews.com/news/canadian-expedition-spotlights-thinning-arctic-sea-ice/](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/canadian-expedition-spotlights-thinning-arctic-sea-ice/) as one prime example among many which also highlighted the latest report from the [www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5](http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5). In truth, they were aware that they were creating waves at the half-way point of the expedition, especially in the realm of Social Media where they were creating a stir. “*This had never happened previously,*” he told me. “*We knew we were on to something especially when we read the negative reactions to our eye-witness accounts of the effects of climate change.*” He felt that “*the grand wizards of deception*” were hard at work trying to pull the wool over the public’s eyes. With the anonymity-capabilities of Social Media, “*it’s far too easy to bully,*” he noted. When they got home, he and his wife investigated further and with his new-found voice, he continues to raise awareness by speaking his mind for the environment in what can be a very fiery debate which “*cannot and should not be taken personally.*”

On the work front, being an entrepreneur-architect, the hiatus needed to prepare for such a long expedition requires a huge effort to ramp up the business again. Thankfully, Kevin is back on-track. There is interest from a publisher for a book. So, Kevin is making a proposal. He has also had many speaking engagements since returning, some fund-raisers included. Now, seeking more balance, he is working towards increasing his role as speaker in an effort to further raise awareness on climate change and other topics he feels passionate about as well as to inspire leadership among young people, including his own children.

Kevin has discussed with his daughters the small time-capsule he left for them and has also mentioned it at the presentations he’s given since coming home. He feels the girls are “*jaded*” by that and yet both vow to try to get them, one by helicopter and the other by row boat.

Adventure is looming on the horizon again – this time it will be a family affair, destination Bhutan or Nepal. The focus this year will be on the girls. “*Our children have everything handed to them on a silver platter. We hope that they can learn to see the world differently.*” While away, they can connect with their friends and blog to their classmates, taking them on a life-changing virtual tour with them.

As for the other members of the team, Paul Gleeson has returned to Ireland, Denis Barnett is in Vancouver with his girlfriend, Niamh Cunningham and Frank Wolf, adventurer and experienced environmental filmmaker, whose eco-adventure documentary [www.onthelinemovie.com](http://www.onthelinemovie.com) discusses the controversial Keystone XL Pipeline project, is working on the documentary of the Mainstream Last First expedition before he heads off on his canoe adventure through Northern Canada this summer.

Many thanks again to Kevin for sharing his personal insights so articulately. I am keen to see Frank Wolf’s documentary about “*The Last First*” expedition which should become available in the Fall of 2014.

You can follow Kevin [www.kevinvallely.com](http://www.kevinvallely.com) and [http://kevinvallely.com/Kevin\\_Vallely/Design.html](http://kevinvallely.com/Kevin_Vallely/Design.html) on his Twitter handle @VallelyKevin.



*Joule waiting for sale*

Photo: Kevin Vallely



# What you may have missed from the Irish papers!

By Paul Dunne

## Neknomination

You are forgiven if this word is a new addition to your vocabulary. You might be happy to forget it after reading what was reported this month in the Irish Independent. Neknomination is a recent social media activity that apparently began in Australia and now has global reach. In its essence, there is nothing new about the activity. It's a drinking game involving mostly young males who challenge or "neknominate" each other to perform absurd drinking stunts. In the pre-social-media past, this would have been limited to isolated small groups of young men twinned with large volumes of beer (sometimes known as rugby clubs). In today's version, the drinking act is videoed and may be accompanied by an unwise physical stunt following the alcohol consumption and ends with a dare for some named "neknominee" to better the stunt. All a bit of a laugh until two young Irish men, Ross Cummins, 22, and Jonny Byrne, 19, died within the same week. Ross was found unconscious in his Dublin flat the morning after completing a dare and died later in hospital. Jonny jumped from a bridge into the Barrow River in Carlow as part of a stunt and drowned. The good news is that, following these tragedies, there is a growing trend to turn the dare into a good deed and there are now YouTube videos of young men filming themselves performing a kind act like feeding a homeless person instead of matching the drinking dare. Let's hope that's the last we all hear of neknomination.

## Let the games commence

Few people in Ireland have forgotten that the Irish economic crash was caused primarily by the actions of greedy and corrupt bankers. Fewer still believed that any of them would ever face justice. So the news this month that Sean Fitzpatrick, the notorious ex-CEO of Anglo Irish Bank which holds the dubious distinction of being the bank that reported the highest ever losses in global banking history, is beginning a trial alongside two of his executives on the isolated charge of having used bank loans for the purchase of its own shares on the open market. The amounts involved were in the billions of euro and the subsequent collapse of Anglo shares from a peak of €17 each to 17 cents, contributed to the bankruptcy of the onetime billionaire Sean Quinn who figures heavily in the plot. More importantly for thousands of

less wealthy Irish was the damage the collapse of bank share prices did to their life savings. Those investments are lost forever and no economic recovery can help the retirees and near-retirees who were relying on those funds to help them in their twilight years. However, although he proclaims himself penniless, Mr. Fitzpatrick still manages to scrape the pennies together for a crack legal defence team. Interestingly, his team has agreed most of the facts presented so it appears the trial will centre on whether the acts were actually illegal. This trial also sees the introduction of the new "super jury" of 15. Finding 15 people in Ireland without a strong opinion on what should be done to bankers must have disqualified anyone who has been inside a pub for the last six years.

## Oh – and those other games too!

For the curious among you, the answer is yes. Ireland is sending a team to the Sochi Olympics. At only five strong, it isn't likely they will top the medal table. In fact, most will be happy to finish in the top 20 in any of their events. Of particular interest to Canadians is the fact that two of the five are Canadians born of Irish parents. Sean Greenwood (pictured) is a skeleton competitor from BC and Jan Rossitor from Ontario will compete in cross country skiing events. We wish them all the best of luck and in particular the two Canadian Irish - *go n-eirigh an sneachta libh!* ("may the snow rise to meet you" – not sure that works but it's the right sentiment).



Sean Greenwood, one of Ireland's five Olympians 

## In Memoriam: Anne McGinley

The Society was saddened to learn of the passing of Anne McGinley in Blackrock, Dublin on January 2, 2014. Members may remember that Anne was the first female Guest of Honour at the St. Patrick's Ball. This was in 2003 when she was the Representative of Ireland to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

From the time that she arrived in Montreal in 2001, Anne, a personable, charming and very matter-of-fact woman made many friends in the Montreal Irish community. In 2008, she was recruited by Kevin Tierney as a member of his "walla" group (see p.14, *NUACHT*, February 2009) to contribute Irish-sounding background chatter for his movie *Love and Savagery*.

Born and raised in Co. Donegal in the north-west of Ireland, Anne had a career that has included several management posts in the Irish public service. She has represented Ireland's interests in a number of European Union bodies including as diplomatic attaché at the transport, energy and communications desk of the Irish Representation to the EU. An accomplished speaker, Anne has presented papers and participated in conferences across a range of issues including aviation, transport and energy policy areas, and has addressed the International Women's Forum in Montreal.

Our sincere sympathies go to her family in Ireland. She will surely be missed on both sides of the Atlantic.

# News from the School of Canadian Irish Studies

## Michael Kenneally, Principal

*By Matina Skalkogiannis, Assistant to the Principal*

### Upcoming public lectures and events

Micheál Martin, Leader of the Opposition in Ireland, will deliver the 2014 St. Patrick's Society Lecture. Thursday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.

Emma Radley, Senior Teaching and Research Fellow at University College Dublin's School of English Drama and Film: "Somebody's got a problem." Shame, Affect, and Accountability in Lenny Abrahamson's *What Richard Did*. Wednesday, March 12, 6:00 p.m.

Robert McLaughlin, Professor of 20<sup>th</sup> century history at the University of Hartford: *Irish Nationalism in Canada, 1912-22*. Monday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.

Hiram Morgan, Senior Lecturer of history at University College Cork: "Crying out of the earth for revenge." Extending the Spenser and Irish Studies Canon. He has written *Tyrone's Rebellion* (Woodbridge, 1993) and has edited *Political Ideology in Ireland, 1541-1641* (Dublin, 1999), *Information, Media and Power through the Ages* (Dublin, 2001) and *The Battle of Kinsale* (Bray, 2004) and is currently working on a biography of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, for publication by the Royal Irish Academy. Thursday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

All lectures take place in the Fr. McEntee Reading room, 1455 de Masionneuve West, rm.H 1001.01 (10th floor). For further information, contact Matina Skalkogiannis at 514-848-2424, ext. 8711 [cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca](mailto:cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca) or visit <http://cdnirish.concordia.ca>

### Course offerings 2014-15

#### Fall 2014

Introduction to Canadian Irish Studies (Prof. J. McGaughey)  
 The Irish in Canada (Prof. Jane McGaughey)  
 History of Ireland (Prof. Gavin Foster)  
 Irish Traditional Music: A Global Soundscape (Prof. Gearóid ÓhAllmhuráin)  
 Irish Plays (Prof. Emer O'Toole)  
 Highlights of Irish Literature (Prof. Susan Cahill)  
 Contemporary Politics in Ireland (Prof. Theresa Reidy)  
 Narrating Irish Childhoods (Prof. Susan Cahill)  
 Performing Irishness (Prof. Emer O'Toole)  
 Referendums in Canada, Ireland and Scotland (Prof. T. Reidy)  
 Tudor Ireland (Prof. Ruth Canning)  
 Celtic Christianity (eCourse -TBA)

#### Fall 2014/Winter 2015

Irish Language and Culture I (ICUF Visiting Scholar)  
 Irish Language and Culture II (ICUF Visiting Scholar)

#### Winter 2015

The Irish in Montreal (Prof. Jane McGaughey)  
 Research Methods in Irish Studies (Prof. Gavin Foster)  
 James Joyce (Prof. Susan Cahill)  
 Irish Literary Revival (Prof. Susan Cahill)  
 Irish Film Studies (Prof. Emer O'Toole)  
 Celtic Ireland: Myth and Folklore (Prof. Gearóid ÓhAllmhuráin)  
 Irish Sexualities Abroad (Jane McGaughey)  
 Contemporary Irish Theatre (Prof. Emer O'Toole)

### 2013/14 Undergraduate Scholarships awarded

Student	Schoarship	Amount
Anna Campbell	<i>Patrick Murray</i>	\$1,900.00
Carine Brunet	<i>Fr. Shaun Gerard McCarthy Govenlock</i>	\$1,500.00
Carla Plowright	<i>Irish Protestant Benevolent Society</i>	\$1,250.00
James Leduc	<i>Matthew Hamilton Gault</i>	\$1,250.00
Darius Alexei Pardiak	<i>Geraldine O'Loghlin Stanford</i>	\$1,000.00
Jordana Starkman	<i>J. Armand Bombardier</i>	\$1,000.00
Shaney Herrmann	<i>McGee/Hincks/Travers</i>	\$1,000.00
Patrick Reed	<i>McKenty</i>	\$1,000.00
Helene Jane Groarke	<i>Stephen Dowd</i>	\$1,000.00
Gavin Bennett	<i>Moira Ann Snow</i>	\$700.00
Jessica Poulin	<i>Arthur Meighen</i>	\$600.00
Catherine McGuire	<i>Gerard Keyes</i>	\$500.00
Antoine Malette	<i>Sean Treacy</i>	\$500.00
Isabel Plowright	<i>Patrick Vallely</i>	\$500.00
Hélène Pilbeam	<i>Timothy Edward McIninch</i>	\$500.00

The Innisfail Bursary (\$650) was also awarded. The Graduate scholarships and the Beriault/Carson Essay Prize will be awarded later in the semester.

## La chevauchée fantastique de Cú Chulainn – V Marcaíocht iontach Cú Chulainn – V

Par Alexandre Boulet



*The Celtic myth continues ...*

*(The story continues)*

Mi-endormi mi-contrarié, Fergus scruta la plaine pour découvrir l'origine de ce bruit. Il aperçut Cú Chulainn qui se précipitait vers lui.

- Fergus ! Mon espoir réside en ta rencontre à travers cette aventure fortuite où ma fatalité me poursuit et s'efforce de me rattraper.

- Pour quelle raison troubles-tu mon sommeil en cet après-midi ensoleillé ?

- Ensorcellé, oui, je t'apparais. Le fruit de la connaissance du monde sans fin je dois consommer pour retrouver ma capacité à me camoufler de la réalité.

Le géant se pencha pour ramasser une branche morte au pied du pommier. Il sortit de la poche de son veston une minuscule fiole avec de la poudre rose et violette à l'intérieur. Il en vida le contenu sur son index avec lequel il traça sur la branche le mot Nuin et le mot Huathe. De nouvelles racines poussèrent et redevinrent moites.

Fergus frappa le terte. L'impact dessina une fissure d'où une lumière multicolore s'en échappa.

- La nuit qui sépare les deux mondes permet à cette lumière de briller. Croque le fruit de l'arbre qui les unit et assurée deviendra ta libération. Mais garde cette branche sur toi, elle t'octroiera la force de rester immuable envers l'influence... de cet autre monde...

### Fr. Dowd (cont.)

fever sheds. He and the Grey Nuns founded St. Patrick's Orphanage in 1851, and he established the Montreal St. Bridget's Refuge for the destitute in 1865 and three years later opened a school for girls. For the rest of his life he cared for the poor and died in December 1891.

Meanwhile, on November 24<sup>th</sup>, Monsignor Coyle, the Pastor of St. Patrick's Basilica organised a bicentennial Mass honour of Fr. Dowd. It was well attended and Alan Hustak spoke about Fr. Dowd's life and works in Montreal.

The Fr. Dowd bicentenary Gathering Committee thanks everyone and hopes more events can be organised in 2014 and beyond to further promote and recognise the life, works and achievements of Fr. Dowd both in Canada and in Ireland.



Paroles dites, la faille s'ouvrit et un torrent d'eau se déversa sur la plaine. Cú Chulainn y plongea pour rejoindre le Sídh. Medb, qui espionnait la scène, se rua à sa poursuite sous les cris effrayés des sorcières et sous l'œil approbateur de la Morrigan qui virevoltait au-dessus du terte.

Parvenu à l'intérieur, Medb aperçu, loin devant elle, comme dans un rêve éveillé, Cú Chulainn qui déambulait en vacillant telle une flamme. Il était trop éloigné pour le rattraper. Autour d'elle, de vastes collines s'étendaient à l'horizon dans un ciel multicolore. Émerveillée devant l'immensité du paysage, Medb se sentit toute petite et la rage en son cœur s'évanouit. Lasse, exténuée de cette lutte incessante, elle se blottit au pied d'un chêne pour s'y reposer. Tandis qu'elle fermait l'œil, des fées et des elfes l'entourèrent pour lui prodiguer des soins à son corps meurtri et à son âme obscurcie.

Englober dans cet univers fabuleux, Cú Chulainn erra sur cette plaine éternelle jusqu'au moment où il vit, à quelques mètres de lui, une grotte aménagée en une maisonnette. À proximité, des êtres féériques dévouaient leur attention à un jardin qui s'étendait sur plusieurs kilomètres à la ronde. De par leurs soins, de gigantesques légumes surgissaient de la terre et paraissaient dans les arbustes chaque fois qu'ils partaient vers le prochain lot du jardin. En son centre, un chemin menait à un chaudron chauffé par un feu de bois. Cú Chulainn avait faim. Il décida d'emprunter le chemin pour se rendre au chaudron. Alors qu'il arrivait à proximité, une magnifique femme à la chevelure dorée et à la peau d'une blancheur égale à la première neige de Yule sortit de l'entrebâillement de la porte. Vêtue d'un simple voile, elle marchait avec allégresse, un volumineux panier rempli de légumes sur sa tête. Avide de ses courbes et de sa nourriture, Cú Chulainn tenta de l'aborder.



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### SAVE THE DATE!!

#### SPS 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

The Annual St. Patrick's Charity Golf Tournament will take place on Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Club de Golf Belle Vue.

The cost is \$ 125 per person – which includes green fee, golf cart, roast beef dinner and wine – shot-gun start at 12:45 p.m. As usual, our Super Raffle will take place during dinner.

For more information or to register, please call the office at (514) 481-1346

## People in the news ...

With perfect timing (as far as *NUACHT* is concerned) a special Valentine's Day gift arrived – five weeks early – for **Catherine Eustace** and **Brian Gillespie**. Conor was born at the Jewish General Hospital on the afternoon of February 14<sup>th</sup>. Catherine was obviously making sure that Grandpa Ned would get to know his grandson before he heads off to Sierra Leone next month. Proud grandparents are **Ned and Afric Eustace** and **Wayne and Denise Gillespie**.



*Conor sleeping peacefully after delivery*

Last October, the Commission held exams for new teachers and adjudicators of Irish dancing in Atlanta, Georgia and **Marie Short** from Montreal and **Jennifer Healy** from Ottawa travelled to take the adjudicator part as they are both certified teachers already. The great news that both qualified arrived in mid-January and now Marie joins her mother as the second adjudicator in Quebec.

We're happy to announce that Marie's mother, **Bernadette Short**, was sashed last Saturday as Grand Marshal of the Chateaugay St. Patrick's Day parade to be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Former Montrealer **Bernie Woffenden** will be the Chief Reviewing Officer for their parade.

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, The Bernadette Short Schools held a class competition at John Abbott College for their dancers. This was to give some stage experience to the young dancers in preparation for Feis Ville Marie in May. Dancers from Kirkland, NDG, Chateaugay, Shannon and St. Gabriel's Elementary School in Point St. Charles participated.

The Bernadette Short School will have six competitors at the All-Scotland Championships over the weekend of February 21 to 23 and we wish them all luck. These are dancers who have qualified for the World's in London, England over Easter Week and it should be great experience and exposure for them to world-class competition.



*Joe and Meredith at pre-sashing*

It's a big year for the Mell family. Not only is **Joe** the 2014 Irishman of the Year, but his granddaughter, **Carly Meredith** is one of the four princesses chosen on February 1<sup>st</sup> at the UIS Queen's Selection Night.

The Society welcomes the following new members: **Susan Cahill, David Crandall, Ronan Devaney, Celeste Dion, Jim Donovan, Fionnuala Doyle, Stephanie Ghio, Patricia Hanney, Jim Kearney, Eva Kennedy, Paul Lafleur, Don Lafontaine, Kathleen McCormick, Cormac McGrath, Stephen McLaughlin, Jean Moutran and Donal Ryan**. It looks forward to meeting them at upcoming events.



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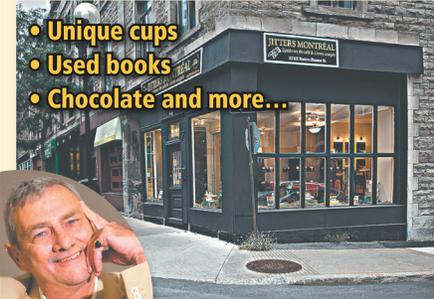
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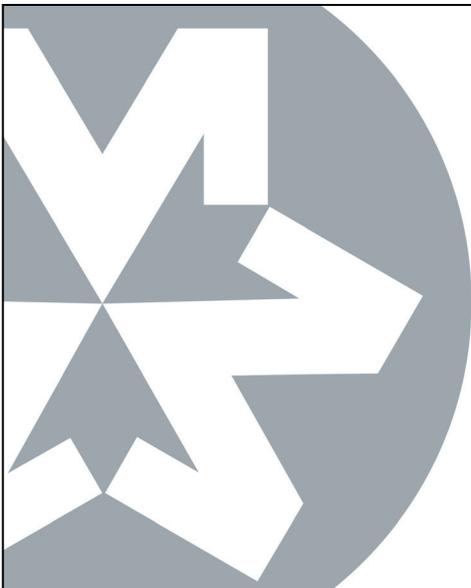
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## In and Around town

### St. Patrick's Society lecture

This year's SPS lecture is taking place much earlier than usual. Micheál Martin, the Leader of the Opposition in Ireland, will be delivering the lecture on Thursday, February 17 at 7 p.m. The topic which he will address is "Globalised Ireland." As usual, Concordia's Canadian Irish Studies Department will be hosting the event which will be held in the Fr. McEntee Reading Room, 1455 de Maisonneuve West, Room H 1001.01 (10<sup>th</sup> floor). Admission is free, but space is limited. For further information, contact either Matina Skalkogiannis: 514-848-2424, ext. 8711 or [cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca](mailto:cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca) or Erin Matheson at (514) 481-1346.

### The quiet side of Ireland

On Tuesday, March 4 at 7 p.m., Maria Korab-Lakowska will be sharing her recent trip to Ireland in a slide-show presentation at the Beaconsfield Library, 3030 Beaconsfield Blvd. Her talk will feature slides of unspoiled villages, rugged ancient abbeys, broad peat lowlands and the dramatic western coastline. Local musicians will accompany the slide show. Admission is free.

### Irishman of the Year breakfast

If you haven't already bought your ticket for Erin Sports' Annual Irishman of the Year breakfast, don't delay. This entertaining event will take place on Saturday, March 8 from 9 a.m. at Le Centre Sheraton Downtown, 1201 René-Lévesque West. Tickets are \$65 each with a maximum of 10 guests per table. At the head table, in addition to Joe Mell, this year's guest of honour, the following sporting luminaries will be in attendance: Alexandre Despaties (ex-Olympian); Kyries Hebert (Montreal Alouettes); Gaston Gingras (Montreal Canadians alumnus); Julie Healey (Olympic coach); Aalyah Corbin (female athlete of the year – basketball at Dawson); and Kamaal Phillips (male athlete of the year – soccer at Dawson). Returning as MC is Joey Elias who will be joined by two other comedians. For further information or to purchase tickets, please contact Tim Furlong at (514) 713-3207.

### Ottawa céilí and dinner

Every year, the Ottawa branch of *Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann* (a worldwide cultural Irish association, as you may already know) hosts a céilí and catered dinner for St. Patrick's Day. This will take place on Saturday, March 15 at Blessed Sacrament Church, 194 Fourth Avenue, Ottawa. Tickets are \$35 and include the catered dinner (with a vegetarian option). Dinner begins at 6 p.m with dancing following at 8 p.m.

To make it more inclusive, CCE Ottawa wishes to form links with other Irish cultural associations in Ontario and Québec; this is a great opportunity to network and make friends, young and old, who share similar interests in preserving and identifying with Irish culture. Tickets are available online at: [www.stpats2014.eventbrite.ca](http://www.stpats2014.eventbrite.ca)

### Quebec City parade

On March 22, the annual défile de la Saint-Patrick de Québec, will take place in Quebec City. Beginning at noon, this year's parade will be led by Barbara Miller – the first female Grand Marshal. Ms. Miller, who was the Winter Carnival Queen in 1961, has led a very active life, particularly in sports. She is probably best known as the mother of Patrick Roy, a North American hockey great. Despite a tremendous set-back experienced in 2006 when she contracted flesh-eating disease and lost her arm as a Result, Barbara is a positive and resourceful individual.

Last year's Grand Marshal, James Donovan, is currently the president of the parade which will also feature participants from Boston, New York and Chicago. For further information about this event, please contact Laura-Lee Bolger at 1-(418) 956-1468.

### Celtic harp workshops and concert

Gráinne Hambly and William Jackson, both acclaimed Harpists, will be in Montreal on Wednesday, May 14 to present two workshops at 4 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. followed by a concert at 8 p.m. The admission fee for a workshop is \$40 (or both for \$70) and \$20 (adult) or \$15 (student) for the concert. These events will take place at Cote-des-Neiges Presbyterian Church, Rue Côte-Ste-Catherine. Contact Susan Toman to register or for further information [www.susantoman.com/related-events.html](http://www.susantoman.com/related-events.html)

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

## 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2014

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION	
Feb. 19	ICCC's Irish Community Pub Quiz, Hurley's Irish Pub, 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Feb. 27	SPS Annual Lecture, 1455 de Maisonneuve W, Room H 1001.01, 7 p.m.	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Feb. 27	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Feb. 28	Ciné Gael, <i>Stay</i> , DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Feb. 28	SPS Annual Charity Ball, Marriott Chateau Champlain	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 7	Ciné Gael's Award Winning Short Films, DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 8	Erin Sports Irishman of the Year Breakfast, Sheraton Centre	Tim Furlong	713-3207
Mar. 9	Mass of Anticipation, St. Gabriel's Church, 2157 Centre St., Point St. Charles followed by meeting	Kevin Murphy	436-1512
Mar. 14	St. Patrick's Society Luncheon, Bonaventure Hilton Hotel, reception 11 a.m., lunch noon, \$80.00	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 15	Annual Hudson St. Patrick's Parade, 2 p.m.	Jim Beauchamp	691-2721
Mar. 16	Green Mass, St. Patrick's Basilica, 10 a.m.	Mary McGovern	866-7379
Mar. 16	Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, corner of Fort and St. Catherine, noon	<a href="mailto:director@montrealirishparade.com">director@montrealirishparade.com</a>	
Mar. 16	GGA Post-Parade Irish get-together, Black Watch Armoury, \$10.00	<a href="mailto:ronancorbett@gmail.com">ronancorbett@gmail.com</a>	
Mar. 22	Défile de la Saint-Patrick de Québec, noon.	Laura-Lee Bolger	(418) 956-1468
Mar. 22	Montreal Shamrocks Gaelic Football Superleague, Concordia-Loyola Campus, 2 p.m. \$10	<a href="mailto:ronancorbett@gmail.com">ronancorbett@gmail.com</a>	
Mar. 23	Chateauguay St. Patrick's Parade, 1 p.m.	<a href="mailto:parademan2002@hotmail.com">parademan2002@hotmail.com</a>	
Mar. 27	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Mar. 29	UIS Awards Dinner, Buffet Sorrento, 1275 Dollard Ave., LaSalle	Danny Doyle	<a href="mailto:Dad.jr@hotmail.com">Dad.jr@hotmail.com</a>
Apr. 11	Ciné Gael <i>Made in Belfast</i> , DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 13	UIS Mass for Deceased Members, St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St. LaSalle	Danny Doyle	<a href="mailto:Dad.jr@hotmail.com">Dad.jr@hotmail.com</a>
Apr. 13	UIS AGM, St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St. LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	Kevin Murphy	436-1512
Apr. 24	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Apr. 25	Ciné Gael Closing Night, DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 25	Innisfail Spaghetti Supper, NDG Legion (Addington/de Maisonneuve), 7 p.m., \$12	John Faherty	365-0449
May 14	Celtic Harp workshop & concert, Cote-des-Neiges Presbyterian Church	Susan Toman	564-8007
May 15	ICCC Visit Ireland Evening with Tourism Ireland (location TBC)	ICCC	845-0973
May 17	Tara Golf Tournament, Valleyfield	Brian Baldry	630-5628
June 14	Tara Golf Tournament, La Cité, Hawkesbury	Brian Baldry	630-5628
June 17	SPS Annual Golf Tournament, Club de Golf Bellevue	Erin Matheson	481-1346
July 12-13	Tara Golf Tournament, Lake Placid, NY	Brian Baldry	630-5628
Aug. 7	Tara Golf Tournament, St. Jérôme	Brian Baldry	630-5628
Sep. 6	Tara Golf Tournament, Le Sélect Mirabel	Brian Baldry	630-5628
Sep. 27	Tara Golf Tournament and closing dinner, Hemmingford	Brian Baldry	630-5628

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