



Will the real Leo Delaney please stand up

By Ned Eustace

Many will be familiar with the personality of Leo Delaney, his well-manicured thin-fingered hands waving in gestures, accompanying his eye-popping and high-coloured blustering like a symphony conductor as he attempts to convey with as few words as possible something altogether unclear and of less importance to you than to him. Many more will have memories of a verbal whip-lashing delivered with great enthusiasm and no consideration of your sensibilities on having failed to do or deliver something you allegedly committed to do. There may even be some who have had harsh vituperation levelled, indeed heaped, upon them for no discernable reason that you can recollect, yet leaving you with a strong feeling you deserved it and that, indeed, it actually was your entire fault. Relax it's all really in good fun ... well mostly.

Welcome to the world of Leo Delaney! The irascible and, on occasion, eccentric even inspired leader always focused on going the journey even if he has to go it alone. If you want something done – to paraphrase Leonard Cohen – he's your man. If a project is in trouble and you need a fixer, put a call in to Leo. A good example of this was the 1992 Irish community contribution to the festivities surrounding the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of Montreal. After a start-up characterised by the usual chaotic Irish in-fighting, Leo on request stepped in as Chair of the Committee and the result was a memorable ten-day Irish Festival centred at the Old Port.

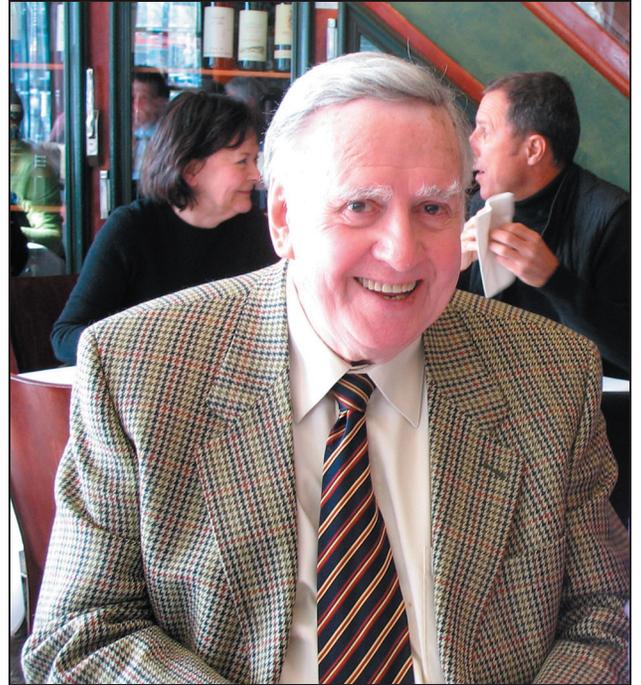


Photo: Anne Forrest

Leo Delaney 2014 recipient of the SPS Community Award

Some projects he led from the get-go – perhaps most notably the visit of the Jeanie Johnston to Montreal, a replica of a Quebec City-built sailing barque that brought famine migrants here in the 1840s. He was joined on that ceremonial occasion by the great and the good from the city including Premier Jean Charest. Uncharacteristically, he had asked another but less prominent member of the Irish community to proof read his speech in advance. Imagine Leo's surprise when the proof-reader – also slated to speak – delivered the words verbatim. Leo, completely un-phased and without missing a beat, pointedly thanked him for delivering his speech and went on to address the crowd totally off the cuff with completely new material. In recent years, as an

Cont. p.6

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May 2014
Vol. 27, Issue 2

I
N
S
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- Society's Annual General meeting information.....p.3
- Remembering the Ball and the Luncheonpp. 4 & 5
- UIS Awards Banquet: a fun evening p.7
- Quebec City's Le Défilé..... p.8
- The Canada Times: the Jeanie Johnston Foundation's latest venture..... p.9
- Jim Flaherty – a remembrance p.10
- Photos of the 2014 Irish Season..... pp.12 & 13
- MIRFC offers mini rugby in two locations p.14
- McCann in Montreal for Easter Rising commemorations..... p.14
- More about the history of the Rock p.15
- Making the history books..... p.16
- Immigration and Citizenship Law News p.18
- Cine Gael wraps up another great seasonp.20

A word from the President

This will be my last word in *NUACHT* as president because the job ends on June 19th when I hand over to the next incumbent.

I leave with mixed feelings. Make no mistake, the presidency is a real job and, for the two years you occupy it, a big chunk of your life is not your own. There are functions to attend, board and committee meetings to chair and a raft of day-to-day decisions to make. So I'll be glad to get that bit of my life back.

Yet I doubt if the number of hours I spend will reduce that much. There are still many exciting projects to pursue. Now I will be free to focus on the more interesting ones.

This year is also significant in that it marks the target date for the strategic plan goals we set in 2010. In that plan we stated that we would:

- Organize more events
- Be younger
- Be more francophone
- Unite the Irish community and
- Be more visible

I'm not sure I'd give us an "A" in every area but we certainly made some good progress. In event organization, the new

autumn "oyster" fundraiser has been a great success and is now established as part of our ongoing calendar. The initiative to integrate new Irish immigrants in Montreal has attracted younger members of the community both as participants and volunteers. We are working more closely than ever before with the United Irish Societies and the Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce and we have several board members of those organizations sitting simultaneously on the St. Patrick's board as a tangible demonstration of community unity.

Our visibility has improved. We now have a Wikipedia page giving us a global profile alongside our website and our very active Facebook page. Those who receive grants from us are giving us public credit for the work we do to support Irish culture and tradition.

And finally, the visibility I enjoyed most this year, was the "greening" of City Hall by Mayor Coderre for St. Patrick's week due solely to the combined pressure put on him by ourselves and UIS.

Yet there are areas where we need to improve our grade. In particular, we need to attract more young people and more francophones to St. Patrick's Society. Legacy organizations like ourself need to be relevant to every generation and to every segment of the Montreal community that shares our heritage and our love for Irish culture and traditions.

There is already considerable interest among the younger generation in their Irish heritage. The candidates at the UIS Parade Queen selection event speak to their pride in being Irish so the awareness is there and it is up to us to make our organizations relevant to them. There are some projects in the pipeline to engage their interest and I will be devoting my time to these over the next few months. I will keep you posted!

We have too few francophones among our membership and board and we need to do some work to fix this. Some 40% of francophone Quebecers are of Irish heritage so there is an enormous potential base of new and enthusiastic supporters of our common Irish heritage. We already have such francophone supporters in the Johnston family, for example, and in our current Mayor who spoke with pride of his Irish heritage in that famous recent telephone call with the Mayor of Boston. However, we will need to make the Society more attractive to francophone brethren by presenting a face to Montreal that is less unilingually English. After all, Ireland's native language is not English and the Irish have always had a very close relationship with the French from Norman times to the Wild Geese.

Don't fail to attend our next major event on June 17th when we will host our annual charity golf tournament which is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. I look forward to seeing you there and at our annual meeting two days later on June 19th.

Slán agus beannacht!
Paul Dunne
 May 2014



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News from the Society

Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19, at 6:00 p.m. at L'Espace Canal, 4020 St. Ambroise – which was the location of last year's highly successful Christmas Reception. Please note that the entrance to the meeting room is via the parking lot. During the meeting, the election of officers and directors will take place.

The Nominating Committee, selected by the Board of Directors, and chaired by the immediate past-president of the Society, Patrick M. Shea, consisted of Maria Cook, Maureen Kiely, John Mulholland and Alistair O'Hara.

Nominated for 2014-2015 are the following, each of whom has consented to his/her nomination:

Officers

President	James Killin
Vice-Presidents	Christie Brown Marilyn Meikle Daniel Zangwill
Treasurer	James Kellett
Secretary	Ken Quinn
Immediate Past-President	Paul Dunne (ex officio)

Non-Officer Directors

Conor Barry	Timothy Dunn	Paul Loftus
Karen Bright	Stephen Fogarty	Richard McConomy
David Crandall	Mark Gallagher	Carol McCormick
Paul Doyle	Louise Guimond	Maureen McKeon
Vivian Doyle-Kelly	Brant Hickey	Lynda Premerl
Julie Dunn	William Hurley	

Please note that any regular member or life member in good standing may nominate himself or herself or any other regular member or life member for any of the elected offices of the Society. Please submit these nominations in writing, signed by five regular members or life members in good standing, including an indication of the consent of each nominee. These should be sent to Marilyn Meikle, Secretary, St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, 6767 Cote St. Luc Rd., Suite 001, Montreal, QC H4V 2Z6 or Fax (514) 481-0350 or e-mail to office@spsmtl.com and should reach the office no later than 5:00 p.m. May 29, 2014.

SPS chills out in the Parade

By John Mulholland

The St. Patrick's Society of Montreal's parade contingent made their 191st consecutive march, on the very chilly morning of Sunday, March 16th. Accompanying the marchers were several antique cars organized by George O'Connell and provided by Kenneth Leblanc. This year, the parade committee was composed of Karen Bright, Lynda Premerl and Frank McMahon.



John Mulholland

Photo: Alan Huszak

It was a good news bad news year. The good news was it was not raining, the bad news was it was -20C with wind chill. The society marchers were led by the Montreal Pipes and Drums band who endured the cold all the way to the end, struggling to keep their instruments working. Their stamina was rewarded with the prize for best pipe band award sponsored by Bishop Leonard Crowley. We won the Best Sister Society award sponsored by the past presidents. All in all, it was another banner year for the society, showing that our resilience and undaunted spirit is still going strong after 178 years. Thanks to all of the brave members who turned out and we look forward to seeing everyone next year.



The Glorious 17th awaits!

Not March 17th, but June 17th, is the date of our 19th St. Patrick Society's Annual Charity Golf Tournament.

Once again, we feature lots of prizes. This is a fun tournament to raise funds for the charitable works of the Society and it has been a sell-out almost every year since we started.

We play on the members' course of the Belle Vue Golf Club in Ville de Lery, featuring a shot-gun start at 12:45 p.m. so that we will all be on time for a great roast-beef supper with two carafes of wine for each table of eight. It is an all-inclusive event with golf cart, green fees, wine supper and prizes all for the one price of \$125.

Sign up early as the numbers are limited.

Paul Doyle
Golf Chairman



St. Patrick's Society Ball another great event

By Marilyn Meikle Rochford

The St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Ball was held at the Marriott Chateau Champlain, Friday, February 28, and when the clock struck midnight, revelers rang in the Irish season. The ambiance was one of the warmest in many years. Newcomers attended with regulars, Ógra members danced with senior directors of the Society, UIS, MIRFC, and members of virtually every Irish organization were represented as we joined together to welcome Guest of Honour Margaret Healy - "a beacon of the Irish community." Escorted by her daughter Sheila and son-in-law Gerald Showers, Margaret was honoured for her years of volunteering and community service work. Well known in all corners of Montreal's Irish community, Margaret is a member of St. Patrick's Society, the United Irish Societies, and Innisfail Social and Sports Association.

Society president Paul Dunne welcomed the guests and thanked all the sponsors and donors for their contribution to the event. Particular thanks go to our Silver Level sponsors: Power Corporation of Canada, Aéroports de Montreal, Borden Ladner Gervais, and National Bank.



Guest of Honour, Margaret Healy and Paul Dunne, Society president

Thousands of dollars were raised for the Society's many charitable endeavours.

The Bernadette Short Celtic Grace Dancers amazed the crowd with a new choreography, sleek black and gold costumes, and their precision lightning-fast footwork. Many of the dancers competed in April at the World Competition of Irish dance in London, England.

The committee engaged a new band this year and by all accounts attendees were thrilled with The Directors Showband playing an encore set as the crowd chanted "one more song!" (The Directors have appeared in the Golden Globe and 7 Genie Award-winning, Oscar-nominated film, *Barney's Version* starring Paul Giamatti and Dustin Hoffman.)



Dancers enjoying the great music!

If you missed the Ball, you missed an incredible menu created by Chef Richard Edwards who is of Irish heritage. Guests dined on slow-cooked pork braised in Guinness, Irish seafood chowder, and pan-seared veal loin, with potato pancake. Of course there was wine and Guinness flowing as well. Have we tempted you for the 2015 Ball yet?

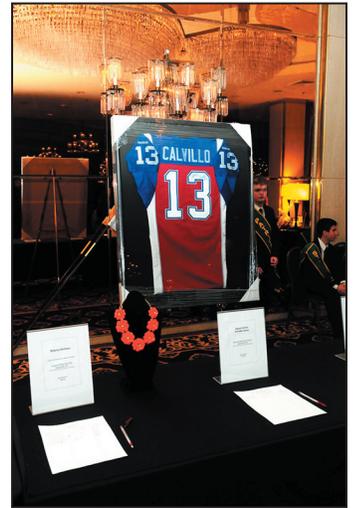
The Silent Auction was moved into the ballroom this year and this allowed bidders the opportunity to keep an eye on their items while being able to still enjoy the band and dance floor.

New attendees to the Ball are always surprised to see how much dancing and camaraderie there is in Hurley's Hotel pub once the ballroom activity dies down, but those in the know wait for this special time of the night. For it is here, with Solstice playing familiar Celtic tunes, mixed with a few modern twists, that shoes are kicked off, bow ties are undone, jackets are placed on the back of chairs, that guests realize, despite the "floor-length gown/tuxedo" requirement, we are here for a good time. Young or old, everyone is part of a reel or jig, or their own interpretation of said!

I have said it before, and I will say it again, the Ball is an event for everyone! You have 10 months to tuck away \$1 a day and you will have more than enough saved for tickets and extras

so that you too can join in the fun. What's stopping you?

Thank you to Committee members Casey Costello, Julie Dunn, Conall Francoeur, Brant Hinkey, Erin Matheson, Patrick Shea, Patrick Short, Kathleen Rochford, and Daniel Zangwill for their continued support in my third year as Ball Chair.



Anthony Calvillo's "13" jersey: a popular item in the Silent Auction

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



SPS Luncheon is a highlight of the “Season”

By Marilyn Meikle Rochford

I had the honour of chairing the St. Patrick’s Society’s 181st Luncheon on Friday, March 14, at the Hilton Montreal Bonaventure. Addressing the room, I welcomed over 430 guests from different walks of life: princesses and parishoners, politicians and parade officials, educators and scholars, vice-presidents, presidents, CEOs, and chairmen, golfers, rugby players and at least one cricket player, ambassadors, mayors, MNAs, and MPs, and members from virtually every Irish society or association that there is in Montreal.

Despite our differences, we had several things in common – the desire to spend a few hours together in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day, the love of good humour, and the joy of sharing laughter with friends. Our Guest Speaker, Terry Mosher (aka “Aislin”), found even more ways to unite with his own observations. His talk, peppered with political observations, and personal anecdotes, included his famous sketches, and those of other political cartoonists. Terry was thrilled that Irishman of the Year, Joe Mell, was at the Head Table as he had a special cartoon to show the audience (a cartoon that appeared in the Montreal Gazette on St. Patrick’s Day!) Terry was introduced by long-time friend and entertainer George Bowser.

The stirring Irish and Canadian anthems sung by Kathleen McAuliffe, a toast to Ireland and Canada offered by Ambassador Ray Bassett, and grace offered by Bishop Thomas Dowd opened the luncheon.

Dr. Susan Cahill, professor of Irish Literature in the School of Canadian Irish Studies, was Master of Ceremonies and endeared herself to guests with newly acquired French language skills, along with fluent Irish.

Society president Paul Dunne introduced the Head Table, comprised of many local politicians, business leaders and Irish organization dignitaries, and welcomed Minister for Finance for Ireland, Michael Noonan. Mr. Noonan briefly addressed the audience and thanked the Society and the Montreal Irish



Dr. Ray Bassett, Irish Ambassador to Canada



Lucinda Chodan (Editor: Montreal Gazette), Tom Mulcair (Leader of Federal Opposition) and Marilyn Meikle enjoying a joke at the head table

community for its efforts in working closely with the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa, supporting Irish immigrants in Montreal, and encouraging Irish-Canada trade.

Leo Delaney was presented with the 2014 St. Patrick’s Society Community Award. The SPS award is not the first time that Leo’s contributions have been recognized. He is a recipient of the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, in recognition of significant contribution to compatriots, community and to Canada. He is a Companion in the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem and in 1997 he was Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

In lieu of an honorarium, Terry Mosher asked that the Society make a donation to Extended Hands, a non-profit organization based in Montreal focused on meeting the needs of low-income households while giving them the social skills needed to properly reintegrate in our society. Extended Hands also provides both free hot meals and grocery distribution through their food bank located in Lachine. The Society was honoured to support this request and fulfill one of its missions in helping those less fortunate.

When the luncheon ended, guests headed off in different directions to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day in their own way, with their own family traditions. As it was a Friday afternoon, the weekend lay ahead, the Parade was approaching, and there was Irish energy in the air.

I could not have chaired this event without the fabulous support of a small, but dynamic committee. I would like to thank Carole McCormack, for her outreach to the parishes, Katie Rochford, for her floor management and protocol skills (and her ability to find a virtual bagpiper!) and Erin Matheson, the Society’s Office Manager, without whom none of our events would happen.



Photos by: Luigi D’Astolfo and Andrew Moniatowicz of International Photo Imaging

Leo (cont.)

extension of the Jeanie Johnstone experience, and ably assisted by Sam Allison, a retired history teacher – who has his own collection of Delaney anecdotes – he has worked hard to bring about a presence for the Irish contribution to Quebec in the high-school history curriculum – see www.irishfamine.ca. He will long be remembered too for sheer doggedness in his multi-year lonely pursuit of an athletic field in Montreal for the Irish community. For years he tried to bring about the construction of an Irish Sports Centre on the island of Montreal near the Champlain Bridge just below the Bonaventure Expressway. He even got a lease from the Federal Government and had the Quebec government on side as well, but bureaucrats, unreasonably concerned about noxious gases rising from the site, eventually got in the way.

To recount all Leo Delaney’s projects would be to repeat what is already largely well known in the community. A few examples in summary will suffice: many years ago he obtained city funding for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade; he was heavily involved in building a residence in Ville Emard for the poor; and more recently with a re-enactment of the War of the 1812 Battle of Chateauguay.

That he ever got involved in the Irish community is perhaps itself a surprise. Leo was born in Dublin in the 1930s – the exact date is a well-guarded secret – and was educated at St. Mary’s College there. This was an institution for well-born Catholic lads from the professional and business classes – in the latter case for those slightly above mere ‘trade’ – and whose families might have really preferred more Anglican roots, had they been admitted to those institutions. His social class and the area in Dublin from where he hailed had more in common with our then recently departed foreign masters than the earlier revolutionary movements that founded the modern Irish State. Leo was a cricket and rugby playing lad who to this day laments the passing of the cravat and blazer. He immigrated to Canada

in 1953, marrying the great joy and love of his life Evelyn Fraser, who left us in September 2001, and who famously jested that she met him at the boat. They had three daughters Deirdre, Aileen and Maureen who have given him a small tribe of grandchildren who adore him and he them.

He dates his taking an interest in the Irish Community to the 1980s. It may have been a little earlier than that when I met him and heard a decidedly upper class Dublin accent outside my office in the Royal Trust building where I worked from about 1976. Then in the construction business, he was quoting on a renovation contract which he won and led to our getting together for many lunches in places in which he wouldn’t admit to being seen dead! A long-time patron of the St. Andrew’s Ball – Evelyn was of Scottish heritage – he decided we would attend the St. Patrick’s Ball – which he saw then as decidedly down market and a bit of “a hop” in comparison to the more formal St. Andrew’s event. The St. Patrick’s Ball was held in the Circle Room of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel and we counted 112 people attending. It was a cold, boring and miserable affair. Shortly after, Leo announced we could do better than that and so his long and positive history with the Montreal Irish community began as did his more mixed relationship with St. Patrick’s Society, then a near moribund extension of the local Roman Catholic bishop’s charities and a far cry from the vibrant cultural and communal organisation it is today.

Recently Leo added the St. Patrick’s Society Annual Community Award to his list of earlier recognitions. In 1967 he was awarded the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, in recognition of significant contribution to compatriots, community and to Canada. He is also a Companion Knight Hospitaller of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. During his investiture to the venerable Order held at Montreal’s Anglican cathedral, he carried the bishop’s crozier borrowed from St. Patrick’s Basilica in the true spirit of ecumenism.



Irishman of the Year breakfast ... almost sold out!

By Anne Forrest

On Saturday, March 7, over 800 members and friends of Montreal’s Irish community gathered in the Sheraton Centre for the 15th time in the 37-year history of the Erin Sports Irishman of the Year breakfast. This year’s honoree was Joe Mell, a most deserving individual as those present soon realised.

As usual, the prestigious head table was led in by the ever-impressive Black Watch Pipes and Drums. Acting as MC, Joey Elias was in fine form as he introduced the luminaries on either side of him. Bill O’Donnell, the 2014 Grand Marshal, and Brian MacKenzie, the 2014 Chief Reviewing Officer served as bookends. In between them were Terry Mosher (Aislin), Julie Healy (manager, team services Canadian Olympic Committee), Dr. Ray Bassett (Irish Ambassador to Canada), the two amateur athletes of the year – Kamaal Phillips and Aaliyah Corbin – and Alexandre Despatie among others.

This year, speeches were brief and entertaining. Probably the most inspiring delivery was that of Kyries Hebert (Montreal Alouettes) who spoke extemporaneously about his life experiences. We were also given a preview by Aislin of some of the slides he planned to use at the SPS luncheon the following week and Danny Mell, Joe’s son, made a moving presentation to his father.

Kudos to Erin Sports, and to Richard McConomy (Chairman) in particular who managed to find seats for everyone – except himself! The breakfast was as enjoyable as ever, washed down by Irish coffee and everyone took home a Rickard’s Red beer glass courtesy of Molson Breweries.

I have attended most of the breakfasts over the past ten years and this was certainly one of the best. If you have yet to experience this event, be sure to buy your ticket early. Seats are at a premium.



UIS Awards Banquet: a fun evening

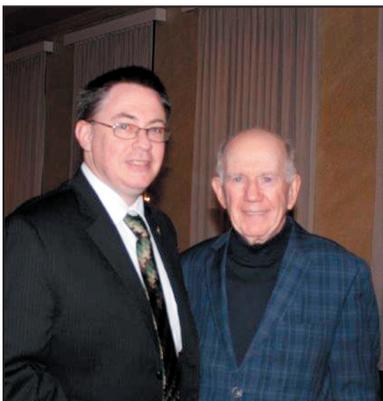
By Ken Quinn

On Saturday, March 29, The United Irish Societies of Montreal closed off the Irish “Holy Month” with a fantastic awards banquet and dinner-dance at Buffet Sorrento in LaSalle.

The evening began with the awarding of the parade trophies. Among the winners present was Saint Patrick’s Society, represented by president Paul Dunne, who received the Past Presidents’ Trophy for Best Sister Society.

Following the trophy presentation, guests settled in to an hour of cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, where conversation turned to the frigidly cold weather on Parade Day, to the fantastic time had by those who travelled to Quebec City to participate in that Parade and to the interesting items on display for the evening’s silent auction.

The formal part of the evening was relatively brief. The head table, as well as the Queen and Court, were piped in by the Pipes and Drums of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada under the leadership of Pipe Major Cameron Stevens, followed by the singing of the national anthems by Francis Baddeley and the traditional toasts to Ireland and to Canada invoked by Dr. Michael Kenneally and Brian MacKenzie respectively. Father Joseph Sullivan led us in prayer prior to the meal. Master of Ceremonies, Shawn Doyle, kept the evening’s events flowing at a reasonable pace. Remarks by United Irish Societies president Beverly Murphy and vice-president (Organization) Patty McCann were well researched and brief. Chief Reviewing Officer Brian MacKenzie and Grand Marshal Bill O’Donnell followed with equally brief remarks, speaking from the heart about their experiences throughout the St. Patrick’s season.



Ken Quinn and Warren Allmand

The Simon McDonough Humanitarian Award was presented to Francis Baddeley for his work in the community, primarily with the Erin Sports Association, the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Saint Gabriel’s Choir.

The Liam Daly Heritage Award was then presented to John Gilroy, a most worthy recipient, for everything he has done in the community to promote our Irish heritage and culture.

Entertainment for the evening included performances by the Black Watch and the Bernadette Short Celtic Grace Dancers, followed



The Queen and her princesses enjoying the moment

by a fun performance by the Queen and Court, which made its return to the evening’s schedule.

With the formalities concluded, the attendees flooded the dance floor to move their feet to the wonderful sounds of The Clahanes, with Ryan Kennedy from DJ Soundchek spinning the tunes in between sets.

During the evening, a very important presentation was made to parade queen Sarah Murphy. Alison Short from Air Canada, a former parade princess, presented Queen Sarah with a trip for two to Ireland courtesy of Air Canada Rouge. We are already looking forward to hearing Sarah’s report of her experiences at next year’s Queen’s Selection Evening.



Pat Short with Lynn and Paul Doyle

All during the evening, a silent auction full of interesting items affordable to a wide spectrum of people was taking place. At the end of the evening, through the sustained support of those present, the United Irish Societies of Montreal collected a sufficient sum of money to allow it to continue supporting its favourite charities.

With the conclusion of the annual Awards Banquet and Dinner Dance, the United Irish Societies has begun preparations for the 192nd consecutive St. Patrick’s Parade, which will take place on Sunday March 22nd, 2015. Here’s to hoping for warmer weather!



Photos by Ken Quinn

Québec City's Le Défilé



By Joe Lonergan
President, Irish Heritage Quebec

The fourth edition of the resuscitated St. Patrick's Parade in Québec City challenged a reluctantly receding winter this past March 22. The temperature hovered from three to four above zero so that green ribbons, sashes and banners wended the route through what was often a dreamy ambiance of mist and falling snow. Likewise the music from the pipe bands and other bands came on differently through the naturally muffled air. Together with the comparatively narrow streets of Québec and still considerable snow banks, it all gave the parade an authenticity that only luck and nostalgia could command.

The Parade's Grand Marshal was Barbara Miller-Roy, long a well-known personality in Québec City. In her teens she swam on a Canadian swimming team and later was chosen queen of the Québec Winter Carnival in its early years. She enjoyed a successful career in Québec



Photo: Frank Cannon

Barbara Miller-Roy

City as a realtor. Montrealers perhaps will be surprised to know that she is the mother of hockey personality Patrick Roy. Still very attractive, she ably carried out her function as Grand Marshal and the Parade organizers made no mistake in naming her.

There were three police pipe bands from the United States: New York, Boston and Chicago. These Emerald Society men were great in stature, the kind that would have served as gallowglasses in old Ireland. Costumed magnificently in Irish kilts, their music was more magnificent still. They played any number of great Irish pieces and the few that I can still hear skirling are "Roddy McCorley," "Wrap the Green Flag Round Me Boys," and "The Sally Gardens."

Ray Bassett, the Irish Ambassador, was back with his charm and approachability. And, to be sure, and well appreciated, were representatives of Montreal's St. Patrick's Society and United Irish Societies very much in evidence with their distinctive emblems, sashes and black coats.

The local Irish cultural organization, Irish Heritage Quebec, marched behind its own banner and the Irish tri-color. Many of our members and friends carried family coats of arms. This is the organization whose founder, Marianna O'Gallagher, was the first Grand Marshal of the restored Parade in 2010.

Other shades of Québec City's Irish past were in evidence as representatives walked with banners of St. Brigid's Home, St. Lawrence (O'Toole) College and the Corporation pour la mise en valeur de Grosse-Île. There was reference to the Industrial Life Insurance Company whose founder was a local Irish lad Bernard Leonard. The Shannon Irish dancers were doing the nearby municipality of Shannon proud.

There were many other contingents out to honour St. Patrick including the Canadian Naval Reserve band and a mounted contingent of the RCMP. Getting the horses back into their dark cabs at the end of the Parade brought on the only hint of Irish rebellion from the beasts whose eyes had attuned to the brightness of a snowy day.

There were numerous Viking warriors on hand, all impressively costumed. Their significance at the time was lost on me although I've wondered since did it have to do with Brian Boru's defeat of that crowd one thousand years ago in 1014 at Clontarf?

There were local French marching bands and French Irish dancing troupes whose faithful annual participation always reminds me of an extract from one of my Uncle Desmond's poems.

*St. Patrick's Day will ever live
In Old Quebec; I'll tell you why
If all the Irish were to leave
The French would never let it die.*

The secret is that so many Irish have married into the French as much as that many Irish have left. Indeed the official name of the Parade is Le Défilé de le Saint-Patrick and there are as many or more French speaking volunteers among its organizers, as there are Anglophones. One terrific participant was the contingent from CEGEP Ste-Foy, a group of Francophone students, whose teacher, Mary Penkarski, has turned her English class into a survey course on all things Irish. The local Gaelic Football team is as Gallic as it is Gaelic. The Mayor, Régis Lebaume was marching and threw a reception for the organizers and guests at City Hall.



Photo: Frank Cannon

Boston Police Gaelic Column of Pipes and Drums

Kudos to the Défilé's president, James Donovan, and the other organizers who successfully put it together and pulled it off this year. Thanks still have to echo to Peter Farrell who resurrected the Parade in 2010. Thanks as well to the Irish of Montreal that year and after who afforded help in getting the Québec City Parade back up and running. Let's hope we'll all march again next year. And let us hope we'll have an easier time putting the winter to rout and bringing on the green.



The Canada Times: the Jeanie Johnston Foundation's latest venture

By Anne Forrest

The Jeanie Johnston Foundation is launching yet another project. Over the past decade, since the Foundation was created, it has embarked on numerous valuable missions that have helped us to understand our history more fully. Since its inception in 2004 when it commemorated the Irish immigrant ship, *The Jeanie Johnston*, built in Quebec in 1847, the Foundation has effectively promoted studies of Canada with particular emphasis on literacy, immigration, history and citizenship.

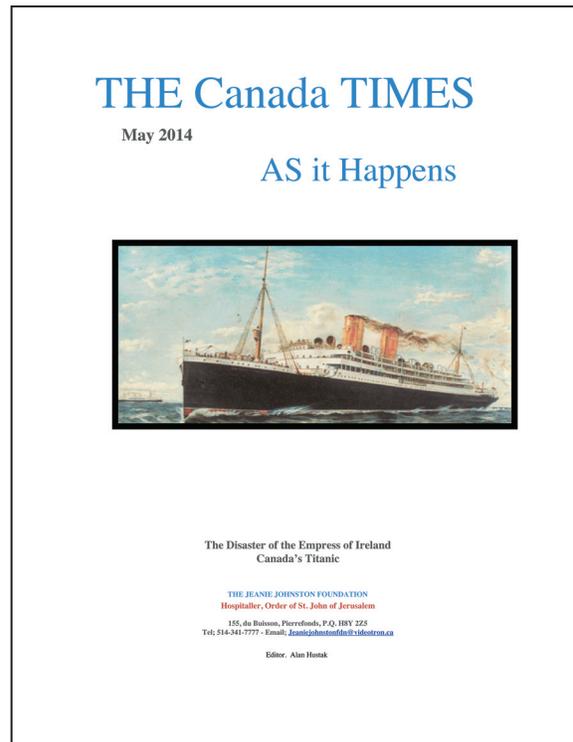
In 2013, the focus was on the 1812 War, the Battle of the Chateauguay. This successful project, for which the resources of Parks Canada and the Department of Defence were combined, resulted in the Federal Government naming a ship in honour of the event – *The HMCS Chateauguay*. Now, in 2014, the Foundation will be publishing a monthly newsletter, *The Canada Times*. Once again it will be working in conjunction with The Hospitaller, Order of St. John of Jerusalem with whom it collaborated last year.

Leo Delaney, Chairman of the foundation, together with Alan Hustak, the editor of the newsletter, will select articles of interest to be included in the publication. They welcome contributions from anyone who wants to share stories of interest. These could be related to history, science, culture or citizenship.

The first issue of *The Canada Times* will feature “An Empress Remembered,” the story of the tragic sinking of the *Empress of Ireland* one hundred years ago. Here is an excerpt from Alan Hustak’s article.

May 29 marks the centennial of Canada’s worst maritime disaster, the sinking of the Canadian Pacific Steamship, Empress of Ireland in 1914. The ship with 1,477 people on board, was bound from Quebec City to Liverpool when it collided in heavy fog with another vessel and went down in 14 minutes. At least 1012 people drowned, 840 passengers and 172 crew. The Empress was a relatively new steamer, barely eight years old, yet it had acquired a reputation with seasoned passengers for safety and comfort. “She was a cheerful and popular ship, a working class vessel,” writes Derek Grout in Empress of Ireland, The story of an Edwardian Liner. “The Empress and her sister ship, the Empress of Britain, were not the fastest or the most luxurious on the Canada-Britain run, but they offered value for money, a solid comfort rather than sybaritic excess and that seemed to be precisely what those who travelled the route were looking for.”

*On the passenger list for the final voyage were the British actors Laurence Irving and his wife, Mabel Hackney. Laurence’s company had just completed a successful tour of Canada, performing *The Typhoon* and *The Unwritten Law*. Sportsman, author and former British MP Sir Henry Seaton Karr and another First Class passenger was a millionaire amateur butterfly collector from Montreal, Major Henry Lyman. The largest contingent however, were 167 members of the Salvation Army on their way to a*



convention in England. They were being led by the Army’s Canadian Commissioner, David Rees, his wife and their three children.

With almost everyone on board fast asleep the liner dropped its pilot at Rimouski and as it continued downstream, under the command of Capt. H Kendall, it ran into heavy fog. Disaster struck when it was hit broadside at 1:55 a.m. by a little Norwegian freighter, Storstad under the command of Capt. Thomas Andersen, on its way from Sydney, N.S. to Montreal, with a load of coal. The Empress wobbled, tipped on its beam ends and went to the bottom in 14 minutes, more quickly than any other ship on record. Gracie Hannagan, then a 7 year old, lost both her parents in the wreck. “I heard a bang like a large firecracker outside. It woke me up. I asked my father (The salvation army bandmaster) what it was, and he said it was probably the pilot boat leaving. Then a man came down the ship’s corridor yelling that we should all get out. The liner rolled and people kept falling down and bumping into each other.” Hannagan recalled in an interview. She was carried aloft on her father’s back and reached out to her mother as they fell into the water.

It was the last time she saw either of them. The last of the ship’s survivors she died in 1995. She was only one of four of the 138 children aboard the ship to be saved.

To read more and to check out the newsletter on line, go to www.canadarailwaytimes.com/about-us/latest-newsletter/



Jim Flaherty – a remembrance

By Patrick M. Shea

My wife, Sara Pedersen, and I had the very good fortune to have spent about six hours in the company of Jim Flaherty and his wife Christine Elliott at the Annual Charity Ball of St. Patrick's Society at the Marriott Château Champlain on March 9, 2012.

I was president of the Society at the time and also a member of the Ball Committee. I had suggested that we invite Jim to be the Ball Guest of Honour because he was from Montreal and was a prominent Irish Canadian. Jim and I had attended the same high school in Montreal and the same university in New Jersey and we were both lawyers. I was hopeful that these commonalities would be enough to distinguish our invitation from the hundreds of invitations and requests he must have received each year to attend events across Canada and beyond.

Luckily for the Society, my letter did indeed catch his attention (thanks to a little whisper in Jim's ear by Tom Mulcair on the floor of the House of Commons), and Jim and Christine accepted our invitation.

It was well known to all Ball attendees that Canada's 37th Minister of Finance was highly respected in government finance circles around the world. What was likely less known by many Ball attendees was that the honourable member for Whitby-Oshawa was not only an Irish-Canadian (his name, and his charm, gave that away), but an Irish-Montrealer who had grown up in Lachine and NDG with his four brothers and three sisters and had attended Loyola High School, where he excelled in the classroom, on the hockey rink and on the football field, before heading off to Princeton.

Jim had also been a great friend to Ireland in recent years and had been a frequent visitor to that country. He had spoken on many occasions in support of the Irish government's approach to handling its recent financial crisis, describing the effective and decisive actions taken by Ireland as "an inspiration to other countries." Jim's support was very valuable to Ireland, particularly as he was also the spokesperson for the International Monetary Fund and World Bank constituency of which both Canada and Ireland are members. Jim had also worked to strengthen the trade relationship between Canada and Ireland, actively participating in a number of events aimed at fostering business linkages between the two countries. In addition to these economic activities, Jim had shown great pride in his Irish heritage by taking part in and lending his support to a large number of Irish community cultural and fundraising activities across Canada.

Jim's wife, Christine Elliott, was also a prominent public figure. She was (and still is) a Member of the Ontario Provincial Parliament where she is the Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition. She was first elected in 2006 in the riding that Jim represented while he was at Queen's Park. In addition, Christine is known for her strong commitment to supporting the rights of people with special needs.

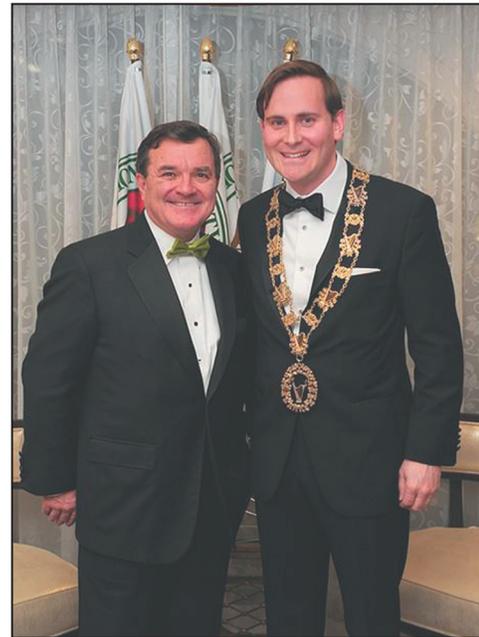


Photo: International Photo Imaging

Minister Jim Flaherty and Patrick Shea

So I knew that we would have the pleasure of having as our guests at the Ball that evening in 2012 a veritable political power couple. What I did not know was how very kind and personable Jim and Christine would be. They had tons of fun that evening and made everyone in their presence feel comfortable and special. For Jim, it was a sort of homecoming. Prior to the Ball, we had asked Jim's assistant whether Jim wished to say a few words at the Ball (knowing that very few politicians would pass up such an opportunity), but Jim preferred not to – he was looking forward to simply celebrating his Irishness, seeing old friends, dancing with Christine and presumably having a bit of fun out of the Ottawa spotlight for an evening.

And that is exactly what he did that evening. Jim greatly enjoyed talking to the many people who introduced themselves to him, many who had common friends with and other ties to Jim and his large Montreal-originated family. He and Christine were wonderfully warm cocktail and dinner conversationalists. They danced until past midnight, a rarely seen time of the night for our typical Guests of Honour. And Jim seemed genuinely happy to be honoured by, and to spend an entire evening among, his fellow Irish Montrealers. I was therefore not surprised that almost all of the numerous remembrances about Jim that flowed in from around the world (and from across all political aisles) after his untimely death on April 10, 2014, included glowing praise for Jim's genuine kindness, personal warmth, caring for others and ability to make and keep close friendships.

On the evening of the Ball, I told Jim and announced to those in attendance that the board of directors of the Society was bestowing an honorary membership in the Society on Jim (something we have done only a handful of times over the

Cont. p.11

Remembrance (cont.)

past few decades) because of how proud we were of his many lifetime accomplishments and of his devotion to Irish-Canadian and Irish affairs.

As a result, when the Society sent a floral wreath to Jim's state funeral, we were not simply paying tribute to a well-known Irish Canadian but to one of our own. The card that accompanied the wreath read as follows:

From the Board of Directors and membership of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal and of the entire Montreal Irish community, with great sadness on the passing of Jim Flaherty, our beloved fellow member, may his soul rest on the right hand of God. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.*



Photo: International Photo Imaging

Jim Flaherty and Pamela McGovern surrounded by head table members

I only got to know Jim over the course of one evening, but I am grateful for that special opportunity. I can only imagine the pain now felt by his family and close friends. It is to them – and particularly

to Christine and her and Jim's sons John, Galen and Quinn – to whom Sara and I extend our deepest sympathies.



Don McNaughton: 1926-2013

By Anne Forrest

It would be remiss of *NUACHT* to ignore the death of Donald McNaughton, who served as president of the Society from 1989 to 1991. Don passed away suddenly at the age of 87 on November 27, 2013.

A passionate Canadian, Don led a very full life as a community leader, a corporate executive and a devoted family man. After working at McKim Advertising, Trans Canada Airlines (Air Canada) and Carling Breweries, he joined Schenley Canada Distillery (Diageo Canada) where he enjoyed a distinguished career. In 1953, Don was responsible for helping to establish the Schenley Awards, the pre-eminent awards for the Canadian Football League, by recruiting prominent business people to the Board of Directors, including future Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who supported his endeavours. Under his tenure as president of the subsidiary Park and Tilford Distillery, he established the Park and Tilford Gardens which were later gifted to the City of North Vancouver. As CEO and later Chairman, it was his responsibility to present the annual CFL Schenley Most Outstanding Player football award. And in 1994, in acknowledgement of his role in supporting Canadian professional football, the Canadian Football Hall of Fame inducted Don McNaughton as a Builder.



Don McNaughton 1989-1991

Don's community service included leadership roles at Loyola College/Concordia University, Boy Scouts (Quebec), St. Mary's Hospital, our own St. Patrick Society, and St. Patrick Square where he sat on the board for almost 12 years from 1989 until he retired in 2001. In 2002, he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal for his significant contribution to his fellow citizens, his community, and Canada. In recognition of his 50 years of service with Concordia, he received the Loyola Medal in 1991 and an honorary PhD in 2007. As a graduate of Loyola High School, Don strongly believed that in order to succeed, individuals require a sense of community and respect for their fellow man. He strongly adhered to the Loyola motto 'A Man for Others' which exemplified his belief throughout his life.

Don was predeceased by his first wife Barbara Ann Louise Little and is survived by his loving wife Erin Shannon McNaughton, by his sister Barbara McNaughton, his four children Tim, John, Susan and Anne, and his eight grandchildren Roger, Lesley, Veronica, Tyler, William, Shannon, Carolyn, and Bryan. We extend our belated condolences to the family. Don and his outstanding contributions to our community will long be remembered.



Memories of a great



2014 "Irish Season"



Photos courtesy of the following:
Luigi D'Astolfo and Andrew Moniatowicz of
International Photo Imaging
Anne Forrest
John Gilroy
Ken Quinn
United Irish Societies



MIRFC offers mini rugby in two locations

By Mark Gallagher

The Montreal Irish are eager to launch their mini rugby programme in Verdun this year. With the kind support of St. Patrick's Society, this is open to boys and girls between the ages of four and 12 and will run on Sunday mornings at Parc Beurling from 10 a.m. until noon. The programme launches May 25th and anyone with kids is encouraged to come out and give it a try. The first session is free.

Mini rugby is non-contact and fun and kids are encouraged to develop their skills, learn about team work and, of course, stay healthy while getting outside in the fresh air. The programme is being led by members of the Montreal Irish who also have kids and want to develop the sport.



Thanks to St. Patrick's Society the programme's costs have been kept minimal and it's only \$85 for the entire session which includes a practice ball and t-shirt for every kid.

The Irish will also continue with the mini rugby programme in St. Julie which was a great success last year with over 30 kids registered. This will run on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Irish home grounds at St. Julie. Kids who register can attend either location or both throughout the summer.

More details can be found at www.montrealirish.com



McCann in Montreal for Easter Rising commemorations

By Jim McDermott

On April 16th, Sinn Fein's legislative assembly man, Fra McCann Member for West Belfast, received a hero's welcome at this year's Easter Rising commemorations held in Hurley's upstairs lounge.

The music was provided by singer-and guitarist Ciaran Winter, the front man for the fabulous eclectic Irish-folk band 'Swerve' whose members are resident performers at the Old Orchard Pub.

Master of ceremonies, Kevin Callahan, presented an interesting array of speakers, beginning with the CSN union executive Manon Perron. Speaking in French, Ms. Perron paid a tribute to the people of Ireland.

Next, New Democratic party member Jamie Nicholls MP gave a heartfelt and beautifully expressed speech in which he paid homage to the brave men who died for Ireland's liberty.

This was followed by the Honourable Warren Allmand, former Canadian Liberal party MP cabinet member and president of the Rights and Democracy agency, who introduced Mr. McCann. Throughout the years, Mr. Allmand has been immensely supportive of the peace process. He has travelled to Ireland on numerous compelling fact-finding delegations. During his visits there, he met and engaged with politicians from both sides of the proverbial divide. Needless to say, he related many interesting anecdotes of his experiences.

Before his keynote address, Mr. McCann spoke poignantly of his long friendship with our own George Beriault, who recently lost his courageous battle with cancer.



Kevin Callahan (Coalition for Peace in Ireland) with Fra McCann and Mark Billings

The charismatic Belfast politician brought the audience up to date as to what was happening in Ireland and he particularly touched on the efforts led by one of President Obama's diplomats, senator Dr. Richard Haass, and his assistant Dr. Meghan O'Sullivan, (US foreign affairs expert) who had recently laboured for hours of intensive talks involving Northern Ireland's five executive parties. Sadly, all their proposals on how to deal with unresolved peace process issues failed to pass Stormont, simply because of the same old Ulster Unionist intransigence.

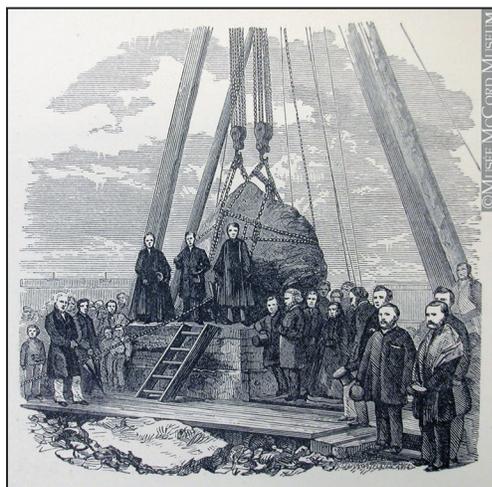
After the presentations, the time had come to do the honours with the proclamation recital. Mark Billings stepped up to the mike after which traditional Irish musician Kevin Dooley performed a beautiful rendition of "The dawning of the Day" on his penny whistle. It was a magic moment.



More about the history of the Rock

By Fergus V. Keyes

In the last issue of *NUACHT*, we spoke about the “Heroes of the Rock.” Individuals like John Mills, Mayor of Montreal at the time; the Grey Nuns; the Sisters of Providence; Catholic priests and Anglican clergy and others – who gave their lives providing comfort and support for the Irish immigrants that, arrived in Montreal in 1847. Many of these Irish victims, estimated at more than 6000, escaping the Famine in Ireland, died of the “Ship’s Fever” (Typhus) and were buried around the Montreal side of the Victoria Bridge. In 1859, workers building the Victoria Bridge, pulled a large rock out of the St. Lawrence River, and placed it at the entrance to the Bridge to commemorate the tragic deaths and burial place for these many victims.



Workers erected the Black Rock monument in 1859.
Image from the McCord Museum.

This monument is generally called “The Black Rock,” or is sometimes referred to as “The Irish Rock,” and in this issue of *NUACHT*, we would like to mention the two major attempts that were made to remove the rock from its proper location to somewhere else in the city.

The first attempt was made by the Grand Trunk Railway in 1900. On December 21st 1900, likely thinking that no one would notice since it was so close to Christmas, the railway company had the Stone moved to St. Patrick Street. Grand Trunk consulted no one at all in making this decision. Their plan was to install new rail tracks in the area where the rock had been placed some 40 years before – when the Victoria Bridge workmen decided that it should be installed forever “while grass grows and water flows” over these Irish graves. The Montreal Irish community demanded that the rock be returned to its original location immediately. At a meeting of delegates from the Irish societies (including St. Patrick’s Society of Montreal, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and others) held at Hibernia Hall, the following resolution was adopted:

“That we, the delegates from the Irish societies of Montreal, do most solemnly protest against the proposed desecration of the remains of 6000 Irish immigrants, victims of the ship fever of 1847, interred in the cemetery at Point St Charles, and pledge the organizations we represent to

prevent by every means in their power the carrying out of such a project, and that we denounce as unauthorized and unworthy any actions by individuals presuming to act on behalf of Irish Catholics who may favour the proposed desecration.”

And so started an 11-year legal battle. The Grand Trunk, to be on the safe side, did not make an actual formal application to install the new tracks until 1910. All the parties then appeared before the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada. On January 23rd 1911, the Board issued their order (RDM 580284-v1-15159-23_01_11-13761) that basically demanded that the rock was to be returned to its original location. It was also discovered that the land, where the rock stood, had actually been given to the Anglican Bishop of Montreal, by the original Victoria Bridge builders, and that indeed the Grand Trunk Railway was trespassing on the property. The railway was also ordered to maintain the property. In return, some small concessions were made by the Irish societies to allow the railway to continue with their plans. And for the next 50 years or so, the Black Rock sat generally in its original location and traffic using the Victoria Bridge drove by it.

The next attempt was when the 1967 Expo was coming to Montreal and in September 1965, city council was asked to vote funds for the changes to Bridge Street and considered moving the rock. Two Montreal city councillors – Kenneth McKenna and John Lynch-Staunton – spoke up in defence of the stone. “It was sacred in the eyes of the Irish community, they insisted; it must not be disturbed!” Although this was about the same time that the city decided to successfully demolish the whole community of Victoriatown (Goose Village), they seemed to quickly realize that the strong Montreal Irish lobby would simply not accept any interference with the Black Rock. Perhaps the City remembered when the Irish Community took on the powerful Grand Trunk Railway a half a century before – and won. So finally on June 21st 1966, it was decided that the Stone would remain where it was – and that the road would be constructed to work around it.

To this day, the Black Rock has stood in its same general location on the Montreal side of the Victoria Bridge for about 155 years and should be considered one of the most important indications of the great contribution made by so many Montrealers of Irish descent to our city, province and country.

Each year, the AOH does the “Walk to the Stone” from St. Gabriel’s Parish Church on Centre St. in Point St. Charles. This year, the Walk takes place on May 25th immediately after a 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Gabriel’s.

This year’s Walk will be particularly important since details about the new Montreal Irish Memorial Park Foundation (<http://www.montrealirishmonument.com/>) will be unveiled. Special guests will include the Irish Ambassador to Canada – Dr. Ray Bassett.



Making the history books

By Martina Branagan

A landmark visit will undoubtedly make the history books and there will be many who will be able to say “Where were you when...?” After more than ninety years of Irish independence, President Michael D. Higgins, the ninth President of Ireland, became the first Irish president to make a state visit to England, guest of Queen Elizabeth, marking what many including himself, believe to be a transformation in the Irish-English relationship from intimate strangers to close and warm neighbours with mutual respect and shared commitments to their citizens at home and abroad.

From the 8th to the 11th April 2014, The President and his wife, Sabina Higgins were accompanied by the Tánaiste, Mr. Eamon Gilmore TD and an official delegation. From the four-row deep welcome lining the streets of Windsor all the way to Coventry, the visit appears to have attracted a lot of attention and good will. The police and the local authorities in Windsor described the Irish State visit as “one of the best attended,” with the Police Commander estimating that between 6,000-7,000 people turned out in the streets leading to Windsor Castle.

As for the President, he was larger than life as he proudly gave eloquent and articulate keynote speeches throughout his four-day visit including to the joint Houses of Parliament at Westminster, at the state banquet at Windsor Castle, at the City of London banquet and to the Irish community in Coventry’s Guildhall.

In the opening of his address at the state banquet with “*Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid*,” he honed in on the word “*scáth*,” powerfully stressing “The word embodies the simple truth that physical proximity brings with it an inevitability of both mutual influence and interaction. But more importantly, I believe, it implies reciprocal hospitality and generosity; the kind of generosity reflected in your words this evening that encourages us to embrace the best version of each other.”

For the president, this state visit “completes a circle” begun by the Queen’s historic visit to Ireland three years earlier, 2011, marking “the welcome transformation in relations between our countries over recent years – a transformation that has been considerably progressed by the advancement of peace in Northern Ireland.” He recognizes that “There is of course still a road to be travelled – the road of a lasting and creative reconciliation – and our two governments have a shared responsibility to encourage and support those who need to complete the journey of making peace permanent and constructive.”



President Higgins and Queen Elizabeth II Windsor Castle, viewing a display of Irish Items from the Royal Collection in the Green Drawing Room.

For the Queen, the state visit made history too: “My visit to Ireland, and your visit this week, Mr. President, show that we are walking together towards a brighter, more settled future. We will remember our past, but we shall no longer allow our past to ensnare our future. This is the greatest gift we can give to succeeding generations.” The Queen recognizes that the transformed relationship “is helping us economically: our trade is growing, supporting many thousands of jobs in both countries, and we are working together to win new business overseas.” Just



State Banquet, St. George’s Hall, Windsor Castle: 160 guests at a sumptuous table bedecked with tricolour bouquets.

as she laid wreaths during her state visit to Ireland three years ago, she promised that “My family and my government will stand alongside you, Mr. President, and your ministers, throughout the anniversaries of the war and of the events that led to the creation of the Irish Free State.”

Remembering the Irish immigrants she stated, “Britain has been hugely enriched by the migration of Irishmen and women to these shores. The contribution of Irish people to Britain has reached into every walk of British life.” Conscious of the discrimination and lack of appreciation experienced by Irish immigrants, the Queen continued, “Happily, those days are now behind us, and it is widely recognised that Britain is a better place because of the Irish people who live here. We can celebrate not just the Irish men and women who helped to build Britain but also the Irish architects who helped to design it, including that great architect of parliamentary reform, Daniel O’Connell, whose life and work you will have remembered this afternoon on your visit to Parliament.” And she renewed her commitment to the two governments continuing “to work together in Northern Ireland to support the First and Deputy First Minister and the Executive to advance the peace process and to establish a shared society based on mutual respect and equality of opportunity.”

Cont. p.17

History books (cont.)

The President's Itinerary

Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travelled by horse-drawn carriage with the Queen and her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, to Windsor Castle. President Higgins addressed both Houses of Parliament Queen Elizabeth and the President both made speeches during a state banquet that night
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting and lunch at Downing treet with British Prime Minister David Cameron Guest of honour at a banquet in London's Guildhall
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended a Northern Ireland themed reception hosted by Queen Elizabeth at Windsor Castle The Ceiliúradh event Other events to acknowledge the contribution of Irish people in the UK Visited the University College London Hospital to mark the contribution of Irish workers to the NHS
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visited the Shakespeare Company headquarters at Stratford-upon-Avon Addressed a reception for representatives of the Irish Community at Coventry's Guildhall

The Many Firsts ...

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First state visit by an Irish president First time the Irish National Anthem was played at Windsor Castle Major Andrew Seddon, captain of the Queen's Company Grenadier Guards, invited President Higgins to inspect the guard of honour (speaking to him in Irish Gaelic) Irish flags flying on the streets of Windsor The President addresses both Houses of Parliament The President attended a concert held in his honour at London's Royal Albert Hall Elizabeth I's Irish language <i>primer</i> featured in the Royal Collection Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin was among the 160 guests at the State Dinner President Higgins saw the original Act of Union 1800 and Third Home Rule Act 1914 The Queen uses "<i>Derry-Londonderry</i>" during her speech at Windsor Castle The Great "White" Tower of London became "Green" to honour the Irish State Visit.
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The protests appear to have been minimal and were more related to who was invited to the state banquet or who shook whose hand rather than directed at the Irish president himself.

Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Féin said that Martin McGuinness' attendance at the State banquet ensured the occasion had an all-Ireland dimension. Even though the event presented "political and symbolic challenges for Irish republicans," Sinn Féin had decided through a process of consultation that it was right that Mr. McGuinness would attend – his contribution in the "process of change and transition" had to be seen very positively.

Whatever anyone may say to the contrary, President Michael D. Higgins and Queen Elizabeth, together have made history as a result of this first state visit by an Irish president. For the most part, both nations are proud of this event, these two people and



(l. to r.) Sabina Higgins, President Michael D. Higgins, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip: St. George's Hall, Windsor Castle

of our individual cultures and identities. For former president of Ireland Mary Robinson, who was once invited to afternoon tea with the Queen, "The full status is the return visit. I hope it will generate a sense of pride, a sense of strong relationship, and that this will put the full stop in the right place to the two relationships."

Let us leave the last words to Speaker of the Commons John Bercow "Division has often been the order of the hour and mutual suspicion the currency of our dealings... . In the end it should be not our history, but our humanity that determines our future."

Thank you to the Ireland Department of Foreign Affairs for permission to use their photos. For further interesting coverage of this historic event, visit RTE and BBC and Áras an Uachtaráin: <http://www.president.ie/news/in-pictures-state-visit-to-the-uk/> where you can listen to the speeches being delivered and see even more photos.



Immigration and Citizenship Law News

By Stephen Fogarty

SPS and Youth Employment Services Montreal

St. Patrick's Society will be announcing details of an Agreement with YES Montreal (Youth Employment Services) in the coming weeks. This important project has grown out of a series of discussions held over the winter between the present author and Paul Dunne representing SPS as well as executives of YES Montreal. YES was approached considering their long-standing expertise in assisting young persons under age 36 to forge job-seeking skills such as writing a curriculum vitae, interview techniques, approaching employers, making business contacts, and career planning. These talks began considering the role of the Irish Immigrant Integration Initiative (IIII) of SPS to assist newcomers to Montreal from Ireland, but we are also looking to create ties with YES which can benefit the youth of the existing Montreal Irish community, whether born in Ireland or Canada.

Watch the website of the IIII www.irishinitiative.org as well as Facebook pages of the IIII and SPS for further news.

Temporary Foreign Workers “Controversy” and the International Experience Canada Programme

Much has been made in the Canadian media recently regarding the so-called temporary foreign worker “controversy.” Opposition parliamentarians have been critical of the government. The federal minister responsible for administering the Labor Market Opinion (LMO) procedure required for hiring most foreign workers has imposed new restrictions in certain sectors. He has also promised a full review of the entire programme.

It is important to note that this controversy has no relation to the thousands of young Irish nationals, whether holding Irish or UK passports, who are in Canada under the International Experience Canada program (IEC). These “open” Work Permit holders are not tied to any one employer or type of employment and it is not necessary to obtain a Labour Market Opinion or other clearance to use their services, with the exception of requiring a medical exam in certain, limited situations. Of course, IEC program Work Permit holders are not permitted to work in positions requiring certification by a professional order in Quebec.

Employers who are seeking foreign workers to help in their particular enterprise are strongly encouraged to consider our Irish in Canada under the IEC program. You are welcome to contact the present author and the IIII through its website to obtain more information.

Reliable sources indicate that the Harper Government is likely to push ahead with adoption of its proposed changes to the Citizenship Act of Canada by July 1st of this year. This legislation would mark the first comprehensive reform of citizenship rules in Canada since the administration of Prime Minister P-E Trudeau in the 1970s.

We will highlight three important proposed changes. First of all, permanent residents of Canada (PRs) will have to provide evidence of physical residency in Canada for at least 1460 days (four years) during the six years preceding the date of their application for Citizenship, rather than the current rule which required 1095 days (three years) of Canadian residency based on a period of four years. Secondly, it will no longer be possible to request that days spent outside of Canada be counted for the residency requirement, except in some very limited exceptions. Third, the government is proposing that if a PR does not spend at least six months inside Canada during any 12-month period out of the six-year window then none of the days inside Canada during that 12-month period would count for residency at all.

These changes combined will have the effect of eliminating thousands of PRs from applying for citizenship who might have qualified under the old rules. Many will be obliged to wait for a year or more until they have reached their 1460 days of physical presence in Canada. In addition, it is likely many businesspersons who frequently have to travel outside of Canada for extended periods will never be able to accumulate enough days here to apply for citizenship.

According to the proposed legislation, applications submitted to the Canadian Citizenship processing centre prior to the adoption of the new legislation will be considered according to the rules now in force. Therefore, if you are a PR who is eligible to make a citizenship application at this time you might consider doing so right away.

Stephen Fogarty is a member of the Quebec Bar and of the Law Society of Upper Canada. He is Honorary Legal Advisor to the Embassy of Ireland, and has acted as chair of the IIII committee of SPS for the past year. Stephen practises immigration and citizenship law at his office Fogarty Law Firm in Montreal. Website www.fogartylaw.ca, and Twitter [@Stephen_Fogarty](https://twitter.com/Stephen_Fogarty). The views in this article are his alone and not those of any other person or organization. This article is for information purposes only and is not intended to give or to replace legal advice.



A note from the Editor

NUACHT would like to thank all of its contributors – old and new. Without their input, this newsletter would not exist.

However, please note that in order for submissions to be included, deadlines must be respected. Our next issue, September 2014, will be published by the middle of that month and any contributions should be sent to us **no later than September 1**.

Have a great summer and we look forward to hearing from you in the next few months.

News from the School of Canadian Irish Studies

Michael Kenneally, Principal

By Matina Skalkogiannis, Assistant to the Principal

GREAT NEWS

We have great news to share at the close of another successful academic year filled with fantastic courses and stimulating public lectures and events.

We are very proud to announce that our own Dr. Jane McGaughey has just been awarded a three-year research grant from Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture (FQRSC) to fund her project “Masculinity, Migration and Violence: Conflict and Rebellion in Ireland and the Canadas, 1798-1838.”

Congratulations to Professor Rhona Richman Kenneally, co-founder and Fellow of the School of Canadian Irish Studies, for winning the Distinguished Teaching Award of Concordia’s Faculty of Fine Arts. This prize honours excellence in classroom pedagogy, curriculum development, as well as the implementation of innovative practices in teaching and advising. It was granted on the basis of nomination by Rhona’s colleagues in her Department of Design and Computation Arts, plus letters of support from some fifty students. Rhona will be teaching a course for the School of Canadian Irish Studies, on the architecture and culture of the Irish home, during the fall of 2015.

Graduate Student Gabrielle Machnik-Kékesi was awarded \$17,500 from SSHRC to do a Masters degree on Modern Irish History.

Graduate Student Camille Harrigan was awarded \$17,500 from SSHRC to do a Masters study on St. Patrick’s Basilica.

Graduate Student Jessica Poulin has been awarded a \$10,000 Entrance Fellowship from the Individualized Programme at Concordia University to work on performing memory in Viking Dublin.

Undergraduate student Helene Jane Groarke, currently on exchange at University College Cork, has been awarded a \$5625 Concordia Undergraduate Research Grant from the Office of the Vice-President, Graduate Studies and Research.

The following three students have been awarded scholarships from the Ireland Canada University Foundation, with additional support from Canadian Irish Studies, to study the Irish language at the National University of Ireland Galway for a month this summer: Patrick Mairs, Vicky Ouimet and Kristin Rose.

*For information or registration assistance, contact
Matina Skalkogiannis:
514-848-2424, ext. 8711
cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca*

FEATURED COURSES STARTING SEPTEMBER 2014

Parades, Pageants, Performances: Examining Contemporary Irish Identity (IRST 398X)
— Professor Emer O’Toole

When you think of Irish culture, what comes to mind? Green beer, leprechaun hats and marching bands? Riverdance, Gaelic games and traditional music sessions? Or does Irishness conjure up images of sectarian violence, troubled histories and religious conservatism? Ireland is a nation in which the traditional and the cosmopolitan sometimes sit uncomfortably alongside one another. Add to this the multiple forms of Irishness that exist in migrant communities and it can be difficult to articulate what might constitute contemporary Irish identity at all. This course examines performances of Irishness — from the St. Patrick’s Day parade in Montreal to alternative queer beauty pageants in Dublin, from history-making Irish political speeches to modern-day feminist and anti-capitalist street protests — to address questions of cultural identity, cultural authenticity and cultural evolution. Using insights from the exciting field of performance studies, it encourages students to come to an embodied and emotional, as well as intellectual and rational, understanding of what it means to perform politics, to perform ethics, to perform gender, to perform change and, of course, to perform Irishness.

This course will be given on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 13:15 to 14:30 starting on Tuesday, September 2nd.

Irish Plays (IRST 344 / ENGL 398I)
— Professor Emer O’Toole

Theatre has long been understood as a mirror up to the Irish nation, consistently reflecting the nation’s politics and identity. This course traces a colourful history from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, exploring, amongst other works, the melodramas of Dionysius Boucicault; the pithy plays of Oscar Wilde; the arguably propagandistic work of WB Yeats and Augusta Gregory; the existentialism of Samuel Beckett; the commercial phenomenon of Riverdance; and the Tarantino inspired comedies of Martin McDonagh. Illuminating the politics – national, postcolonial, gendered and global – present in Irish theatre, this course shows that when theatre holds a mirror up to the Irish nation, a wider world is reflected back.

This course will be given on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:15 to 11:30 starting on Wednesday, September 3rd.



Cine Gael wraps up another great season

By Dana Hearne

Our 2014 Cine Gael season got off to a great start with *Life's a Breeze* (Dir. Lance Daly); followed by *Good Vibrations* (Drs. Lisa Barros D'Sa and Glen Leyburn); and local film-maker Wiebke Von Carolsfeld's *Stay* – our audience was delighted to engage in a Q&A with the director following this film.

Our evening of award-winning short films was a hit. Heather Macdougall and Kester Dyer did their usual stellar job putting this evening together. Our Audience Favourite was Hannah Cohen's *Holy Communion* directed by Shimmy Marcus (the second year running that a film by Marcus was the top favourite). The evening got a delightful start with a short film called *Breakfast Wine*, which our guest speaker, and screenwriter of this film, Irish writer Kevin Barry, introduced.

As we moved into April, we were still in serious negotiations for two of our last three films for our season – *Run and Jump* and *The Sea*. Both of these films were big award-winners in Ireland and we were very happy to finally get the go-ahead to screen them. *Run and Jump* is the feature film debut of Academy Award-nominated director Steph Green (see our website for more details). In essence the story is about the healing power of love and family in all of its idiosyncratic forms. Our guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Tom Hutchinson who did a wonderful job sharing his insights into the complex nature of the healing process.

Our second-last screening of the season was *Made in Belfast* (Director: Paul Kennedy) which tells the compelling story of Belfast-born Jack Kelly (played by Ciaran 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. This was Paul Kennedy's first feature film and has been described by some critics as "a minor miracle."

For our Gala closing on Friday, April 25th we were delighted to be able to screen *The Sea* (Dir: Stephen Brown) based on the novel of the same name by John Banville who also wrote the screenplay. This is a story of memory, love, loss, regret... and the persistent possibility of rebirth. Among the stellar cast were Ciarán Hinds, Charlotte Rampling, and Sinéad Cusack. Our guest speaker for the screening was Dr. Michael Kenneally who spoke passionately about the transcendent literary style of John Banville and the complex nature of translating that style onto film.

And so another season of Irish film comes to an end, and soon our committee will be hard at work again planning our next season. It's a labour of love for all of us and a pleasure to see how much our faithful audience enjoys the films we screen.

We'd like to thank the 2014 Cine Gael Committee (Heather and Kester as well as Marie Valley, Tim Hine, Antoine Maloney, David Hanley Lynn Doyle and myself) and to our sponsors – The Embassy of Ireland, Canadian Irish Studies, Hurley's, McKibbins, The Irish Embassy Pub, BGL, Jameson Irish Whiskey and St. Patrick's Society.

For more information on the past year's activities and upcoming plans, please check our website (www.cinegaelmontreal.com)

See you all next Season!



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People in the news ...

On June 1st, 2014, **Patricia O'Connor**, RN, MScN, FCCHL, will be receiving the National Nursing Leadership Award from the Canadian College of Health Leaders in Banff, Alberta. This award is given annually to a nursing executive who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to excellence in patient centred care and leadership, and inspired measurable improvements within and outside their organization. Patricia is the Director of Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer of the six hospitals that make up the McGill University Health Centre, in Montreal. Congratulations on this great achievement!



*SPS member,
Patty O'Connor*



*Stephanie Coull
and Keira Kilmartin*

Congratulations to SPS Ógra member **Stephanie Coull** who was selected to be the 2014 Ottawa Rose. Stephanie will represent Ottawa at the Rose of Tralee International Festival alongside other young women of Irish descent from around the world this summer. A Montreal native, 27 year-old Stephanie has been an active member of the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing for 18 years and has performed for audiences all over the world in addition to being the Eastern Canadian Senior Lady Champion two years in a row. Stephanie is

currently working with young girls as a Math and Science Teacher at the Sacred Heart School of Montreal. The title of Ottawa Rose was handed off to Stephanie by 2013 Ottawa Rose, fellow Montrealer and Irish Dancer **Keira Kilmartin**, who is now studying Medicine at University College Cork.

And, talking of dancing, you are never too old to cavort around the dance floor. Many of us wish we could emulate **Andrew Fogarty** seen here at the UIS Awards Banquet held at Buffet Sorrento in LaSalle on March 29th. And, in case you are too shy to ask the key question, Andrew turned 95 on May 1st. A belated happy birthday, Andrew, and save a few waltzes for the rest of us.



*A lucky lady in the arms
of a very happy Andrew*



*Ambassador
Ray Bassett*

We are happy to announce that Dr. Ray Bassett's term as Irish Ambassador to Canada has been extended until September 2016. Dr. Bassett has been a great supporter of SPS and our community, secured major increases in the quota for young Irish coming to Canada under the IEC programme, as well as visits by key Irish ministers to Montreal.



An update on UIS

The United Irish Societies of Montreal held its Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 13 at St. John Brebeuf Church in LaSalle.

The slate of officers for the 2015 season is as follows:

- Beverly Murphy, President
- Danny Doyle, Senior Vice President
- Jane Skelton, Treasurer
- Patty McCann, Vice President - Organization
- Patricia Mulqueen, Recording Secretary
- Mildred Griffin-Gagnon, Corresponding Secretary

The Vice President – Advertising & Public Relations position is vacant. However, Kevin Murphy remains in the position on an interim basis. The UIS hopes to fill the position at their General Meeting in September.

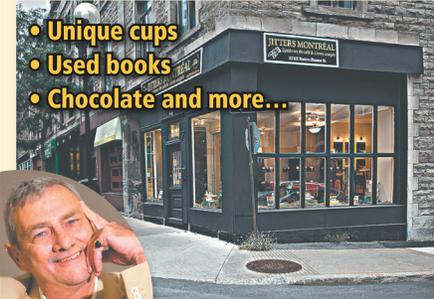
Two stalwarts of the community have chosen to decline their nomination to the Executive Committee as committee chairpeople. John Gilroy steps away after spending a combined 37 years leading the Banquet Programme and Entertainment Committees while 2014 Ball Guest of Honour Margaret Healy steps back from leading the Sponsorship Committee.

The UIS is already planning for next year's activities. Reserve February 7th and March 22nd on your calendars for the 2015 Queen's Selection Evening and the 192nd Consecutive St. Patrick's Parade.

Follow the United Irish Societies of Montreal on Facebook and on Twitter (@uismtl)

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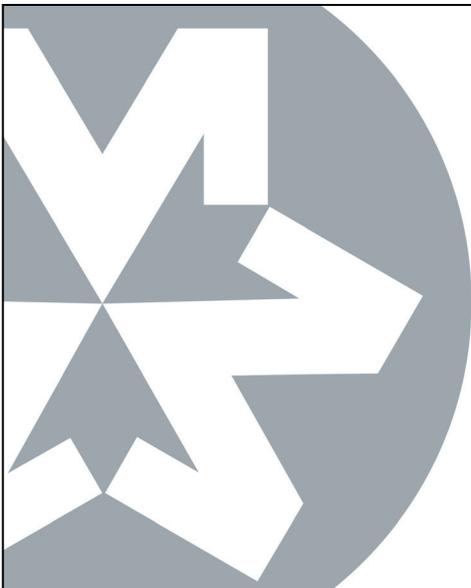
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In and Around town

Bloomsday celebrations span five days and feature something for everyone

McGill University, in conjunction with a host of other community sponsors, is proud to present Bloomsday Montreal 2014! An annual tradition begun in Dublin to celebrate the works of James Joyce on the day on which his masterwork *Ulysses* takes place, the festivities have since grown in popularity to become a global multi-day literary and cultural Irish celebration.

Bloomsday Montreal 2014 marks Montreal's third annual official partnership with the international Bloomsday community and provides something for any literature, music, film aficionado or lover of Irish culture. The five-day programme includes:

- A special storytelling event at our partner Paragraphe Bookstore with Joyce descendant and recent transplant to Montreal Christopher Joyce who will discuss his family's foundations in the original Bloomsday and the James Joyce Centre in Dublin. The event will also feature other Montreal Irish *seanchaí* (storytellers in the Irish tradition).
- Four spectacular musical performances, including cabarets of circa-1900 Irish traditional songs at Atwater and Beaconsfield Libraries, a performance of Ross Lee Finney's 1952 song cycle set to Joyce's poetry book Chamber Music at the McCord Museum, and the culminating extravaganza event- a Victoria Hall musical gala evening of opera, Irish dancing and featuring local Montreal artistes.
- A prestigious film programme including award-winning films from around the world: *The Joycean Society* in its North American debut and three Irish films *Votes for Women (Vótaí do Mhná)*.
- Interdisciplinary lectures and dialogues at McGill and Concordia Universities on Joyce, the Irish in Canada, Joyce en français, Joyce and music, and more.

ICCC's activities

The Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 11th in Hurley's Pub, 1225 Crescent at 17h45. This will be followed by the Annual Summer Get-Together which, weather permitting, will be held as usual in the Courtyard at the rear of the Pub. Members in good standing will have the right to vote at the AGM and all members and Friends of the Chamber are invited to the Get-Together which is always a great networking opportunity.

- A slew of fun-filled (and delicious!) cultural events including a walking tour of old Irish Montreal in Pointe Saint-Charles with local historian Ruth Rigby, an Irish breakfast at EVOO in Saint-Henri with Dublin-born chef Peter Saunders, and a downtown Irish Embassy pub quiz with noted Montreal author Larissa Andrusyshyn.
- The international traditional Bloomsday readings from the iconic and classic Joyce masterpiece, *Ulysses* on the afternoon of June 16th- the actual Bloomsday.

All of these exciting events are open to the public- some are free and some have small admission fees to help build our programme for next year. This year we even offer a "super pass," which will allow attendance at every event of the five-day festival at one low cost! We invite the entire Montreal area community from every heritage to take part in the celebration. *Fáilte!* (Welcome!)

To register or to view the full programme: visit mcgill.ca/bloomsday; Facebook: Bloomsday Montreal 2014; Twitter: BloomsdayMTL; or Blog: www.bloomsdaymontreal.com

For interviews or further information, contact: Kerry McElroy, Event Manager. bloomsdaymontreal@gmail.com

New Hope's 35th Anniversary fundraising lunch on June 14

New Hope Senior Citizens' Centre (<https://www.facebook.com/nhsc>) in NDG is a non-profit community centre whose mandate is to alleviate senior isolation. New Hope has the largest Meals on Wheels programme in western Montreal. Last year the centre provided over 23,000 meals to the senior community.

Please reserve Saturday, June 14th, 2014 (noon-3:00 p.m.) in your agenda for New Hope's 35th Anniversary Fundraising Lunch. The meal will be prepared by well-known Montreal Chef Oliver DeVolpi. The Member of Parliament for Westmount Ville Marie, Mr. Marc Garneau, will be the guest speaker and there will be a live auction. Tickets are \$75 (with a \$50 tax receipt), or \$60 for students (with a \$35 tax receipt). Everyone is welcome!

For more information or to buy tickets please Gerry Lafferty at (514) 484-0425, glafferty@videotron.ca

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	<u>Per Issue</u>	<u>Yearly (4 Issues)</u>
Business Card	\$75.00	\$250.00
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Full Page	\$400.00	\$1,300.00

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

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2014

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION	
May 25	AOH, Commemorative Mass/Walk to the Stone, St. Gabriel's Church, 10:30 a.m.	Victor_Boyle@cpr.ca	
May 29	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-097
May 31	Innisfail: Mass for Deceased Members, St. Patrick's Basilica, 11:00 a.m.	John Faherty	365-0449
June 11	ICCC's AGM and summer get together, Hurley's Irish Pub, 5:45 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
June 12-16	Bloomsday Montreal 2014 (multiple celebrations throughout the city)	bloomsdaymontreal@gmail.com	
June 13	Innisfail Annual General Meeting, Royal Canadian Legion, Addington/de Maisonneuve, 7:30 p.m.	John Faherty	365-0449
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
June 19	SPS Annual General Meeting, L'Espace Canal, 4020 St. Ambroise 6:00 p.m.	Erin Matheson	481-1346
June 26	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
July 12-13	Tara Golf Tournament, Lake Placid, NY	Brian Baldry	630-5628
July 24	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Aug. 7	Tara Golf Tournament, St. Jérôme	Brian Baldry	630-5628
Aug. 28	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Sep. 6	Tara Golf Tournament, Le Sélect Mirabel	Brian Baldry	630-5628
Sep. 21	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brébeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	president@montrealirishparade.com	
Sep. 25	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Sep. 27	Tara Golf Tournament and closing dinner, Hemmingford	Brian Baldry	630-5628

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