

# Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal



## Ebola: A global problem - is it coming your way?

By Ned Eustace  
in Freetown, Sierra Leone

“President Obama is praying for us,” an African colleague commented with more than a hint of sarcasm as we tried to start a meeting of absolutely no importance in the circumstances. “The only interest the rest of the world has in us is to keep Ebola away from their shores,” said another. “If there’s a confirmed case in New York City, we’ll have a cure in a week!” added Alfred Goba, a friend and local senior civil servant of rare talent. I’m inclined to agree, locked in as I am in Freetown, I hasten to add, living safely and very comfortably at the Radisson Blu hotel. My biggest worry is that the last airline serving the country, SN Brussels, may stop flying here as British Airways, Kenya Airways and Air France have done.

In the hotel, each day I listen to cries for more help from over-stretched, exhausted international health workers in town taking some well-deserved R&R. Working with MSF, CDC and others, they are in from the few over-loaded isolation centres up-country. These doctors, nurses, lab technicians, epidemiologists, media types and even IT guys all look like kids to me – incredibly young, carrying the ubiquitous backpacks, iPads, Macs and iPhones as if they’ve just left class at Concordia on their way to my favourite Second Cup on Sherbrooke Street in NDG. There are a few old hands, veterans of Ebola outbreaks in Uganda and the Congo. The oldest, Joel, a Texan, nudging seventy if he’s a day and clearly revered, is one of the world’s leading virologists. “He tears viruses apart,” says



A girl suspected of being infected with the Ebola virus has her temperature checked at the hospital in Kenema, Sierra Leone. (Getty Image)

Michael, an Irish-American with the CDC whose people come from Mayo, grins adding quickly, “but never in the hotel of course!”

On my last trip here, I received an e-mail from a UK government source suggesting I refrain from eating fruit bats and bush meat (monkey and other primates) near the Guinea border. Not a problem I assured everyone! Patient zero in the current outbreak was a young child in Guinea who had ingested fruit previously eaten by a bat. The child was treated by a traditional herbalist who then crossed over into Sierra Leone. Both died. This “batmouth” fruit, often mangoes, is choice among kids who pick it up in the bush.

It’s a Sunday in early September and Freetown is uncharacteristically quiet. Magnificent seaweed-strewn Lumley beach in the Aberdeen district is normally thronged with after-church families and jumping three or even two limbed crutch-grasping soccer players but not today. The state of emergency declared by leading-from-the-front President Ernest Bai Koroma discourages gatherings of people and all pubs and restaurants are now closed from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. It’s not called a

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## NUACHT

## A word from the President

Fall is in the air. Summer has once again come and gone ever so quickly. I hope that members and families enjoyed the summer holidays and rejuvenated spirits for a busy fall and winter season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Dunne, our past president and the board of directors that have relinquished their posts, for an outstanding job over the past two years. The Society is extremely grateful for their time and dedication that you have given to enhance St. Patrick's Society's position during your term.

I am extremely humbled, yet very proud to lead the Society as your president over the next term. I welcome our new board of directors and executive team as acclaimed by you, the membership at the AGM in June. The attendance was outstanding and I personally enjoyed meeting many of you and quickly grasped through our various conversations the need for our membership to meet more often so as to explore and debate where we, as a Society, need to grow over the next years.

The board will be convening later in September to plan and execute our goals and objectives for the next year. Your input is important for our continued growth. I encourage all members to please feel free to give us your feedback and suggestions. Please send any comments your may have to [president@spsmtl.com](mailto:president@spsmtl.com) or by mail to SPS MTL 6767 Cote St.Luc Road #1 Montreal Quebec H4V2Z6.

Our Irish culture in Montreal is strong and must be protected and conserved moving forward. We will be working with our

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sister organizations, the City of Montreal, the Irish Chamber of Commerce and the School of Irish Studies, to ensure that our Irish heritage is protected and conserved for future generations.

Our five-year plan that was put into motion a few years ago, will be dusted off and revitalized over the next year. We will be soliciting new members to join the Society and embark on a plan to entice corporate sponsorships to help us attain our financial goals and continue to fund the many projects that have been put forward to the Society. In order to realize our goals and objectives, we need to market our brand that has such a rich historical background. An example of this was the incorporation of the Society by a special act of the Parliament of the Province of Canada in 1863, four years prior to confederation (a pre-Confederation colonial act). At our AGM, it was noted that due to a change in rules regarding charitable organizations, we would require a major change in our constitution and the way we would need to conduct business. After legal research and due diligence, we are now in a very unique situation in that we do not have to comply with the new act as we had previously thought. We may conduct our business as we have in the past if we so choose to. The executive and the board will be meeting to discuss this issue and will advise the membership of the outcome. However, interestingly enough, our brand "The St.Patrick's Society of Montreal" is truly unique and we must market these historical facts to the Montreal and Quebec population to create a truly interesting and exceptional position that the Society has within Canada.

Our social calendars will now start to fill with many activities over the course of the next few months. I made a commitment to many of the members at our last general meeting that we would meet more often to: 1) have informal discussion and input from you; 2) a less formal update during the get-togethers to keep a pulse on the membership's feelings; and 3) for the membership to meet each other and form a true bonding with other members of the Society. We will plan to do this in the month of November. An invite will be sent accordingly.

Again, thank you for the trust you have placed in me, your executive and the board. Here is to a very successful and prosperous year for the Society.

Jim Killin  
September 2014



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

Brian Baldry	Dana Hearne	Brian O'Sullivan
Pam Cotter	Brant Hinkey	Angie Parker
Paul Doyle	Simon Jolivet	Ken Quinn
Paul Dunne	Fergus Keyes	Rose Quinn
Ned Eustace	Jim Killin	Patrick Short
Stephen Fogarty	Paul Loftus	Michelle Sullivan
Mark Gallagher	Jim McDermott	

# News from the Society

## Volunteers' Appreciation Dinner proved popular

By Ken Quinn

We learned from last year's mistake. Last year the Volunteers' Appreciation Dinner was held at the MAAA on Peel Street as the Grand Prix rolled in to town, Peel Street being one of the streets closed to traffic. Big mistake! This year the appreciation event was held at L'Académie Crescent during a time when the Grand Prix circus was not present.

On Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, volunteers and board members assembled to relax, converse in an informal setting, and enjoy a nice meal with the knowledge that the Society was thanking them for their volunteer efforts throughout the year.

Bramble House (courtesy of Karen Bright) again graciously presented a lovely basket as a door prize. XY Z was the lucky winner this time around.



Brian Marcil with Karen Bright

The membership is the foundation of the Society. Without an active and involved membership, the events organized by the Society would surely not be as successful as they have been.



Jim Kellett, Brigitte Martel and Marilyn Meikle



Carol McCormick with Christie Brown

If there is an event or activity that interests you, please do not hesitate to contact the Society to volunteer your services. We'll definitely put you to work!

Photos:Anne Forrest



## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual SPS Golf Tournament yet another success story

By Paul Doyle

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 dawned bright and sunny, despite all the threatening weather forecasts. It was a great day for golf with each of the players picking up a beautiful golf shirt (compliments of J.K. Marketing) plus tees, water and bars before the shotgun start at 12:45. And at the 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> holes, the usual keg of Guinness and shots of Old Bushmill were provided once again by Hurley's Irish Pub. The roast beef dinner and great raffle prizes topped off a perfect day.

Congratulations to our top golfer, David O'Neill, who shot a very impressive 70!

Next year will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the St. Patrick's Annual Charity Golf Tournament and the golf committee is already planning a little extra something to celebrate this milestone.

Since the tournaments began, the golf committee has raised over a quarter of a million dollars for the charitable works of St. Patrick's Society.



Erin Matheson, Paul Doyle, Andrew Fogarty, Jim Killin and Ken O'Donnell

Be sure to book early for next year's tournament. It's going to be a great one!



# Society's AGM: a pleasant and productive meeting

By Ken Quinn

**O**n June 19, a beautiful spring evening, members of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal assembled at L'Espace Canal, a spacious banquet hall in Saint-Henri established in an urban chic decor, where reports on the Society's activities and finances were given by president Paul Dunne and treasurer Jim Kellett at the annual meeting of the members.

Mr. Dunne spoke about such activities as the annual Golf Tournament, the annual Charitable Ball, and the annual Luncheon, thanking the members who volunteered their time toward their success. As this was his final meeting at the head of the Society, Mr. Dunne took the opportunity to thank the members of the board who served at his side during his mandate and wished the members of the incoming board the best of success.

Jim Kellett reported on the Society's finances, answering questions put to him by interested Society members.

In his final official duty, immediate past-president Patrick Shea reported on the activities of the Nominating Committee, which he chaired and consisted of members Maria Cook, Maureen Keily, John Mulholland, and Alistair O'Hara. Following the report, incoming president Jim Killin and his team were introduced to the members present, after which the chain of office was transferred to the new president.

Departed from the Board are Mark Billings, Edward Brennan jr., Ruth Hanna, Amber Lebrun, John Lemieux, Frank

McMahon, and the Honourable Thomas Mulcair. Replacing them are Conor Barry, David Crandall, Stephen Fogarty, Mark Gallagher, Louise Guimond, William Hurley, Paul Loftus, Richard McEconomy, and Maura McKeon. Returning to the board are Jim Killin as president, Christie Brown, Marilyn Meikle, and Dan Zangwill as vice-presidents, Jim Kellett as treasurer, Ken Quinn as secretary, Paul Dunne as immediate past-president and Directors Karen Bright, Paul Doyle, Vivian Doyle Kelly, Timothy Dunn, Julie Dunn, Brant Hinkey, Carol McCormick, and Lynda McAssey-Premierl.

A beautiful gift was presented to Paul Dunne by Jim Killin on behalf of the Society in appreciation of his dedicated service during his term as president.

As a result of discussion at last year's annual meeting, a welcome addition to the meeting this year was a photo montage projected on a screen, showing the members which organizations the Society supported throughout the year.

At the conclusion of the meeting members retired to the bar area of the hall for refreshments, hors d'oeuvres, and great conversation.

We would be remiss if we failed to thank Erin Matheson and her team not only for everything they did in preparation for this meeting, but also for everything they do for the Society throughout the year.



Louise Guimond, David Crandall, Mark Gallagher,  
Vivian Doyle-Kelly and Jim Killett



Society members in attendance at AGM



Pierrette Sevigny and Bev Murphy



New president, Jim Killin

Photos by: Ken Quinn



## NUACHT bids adieu to Alexandre

C'est avec regret que nous annonçons le départ d'Alexandre Boulet, collaborateur habituel de NUACHT qui produisait la série de mythes céltiques. Il se concentre actuellement sur un manuel de guérison thérapeutique et croissance personnelle. Nous lui assurons notre reconnaissance pour ses contributions créatives au cours de plus de cinq ans avec NUACHT et nous souhaitons à Alexandre toute la réussite possible dans ses nouveaux engagements.

Editor

# A book that owes its existence to the Society

By Simon Jolivet

It was with great pride that Isabelle Matte, Linda Cardinal and I launched a collective book entitled *Le Québec et l'Irlande. Culture, histoire, identité* on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in Montréal.

This volume is not only the first one ever dealing with the multifarious relations entertained over two centuries by the Irish and French Canadians of Québec, but also to thoroughly comparing Ireland and Québec in terms of literature, politics, music, history, language policy, etc.

Issued by the chief publisher of history books in Québec, Les Éditions du Septentrion owned by the former Ministre des affaires culturelles, Denis Vaugeois, it could not have been made possible without the support of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal (SPS).

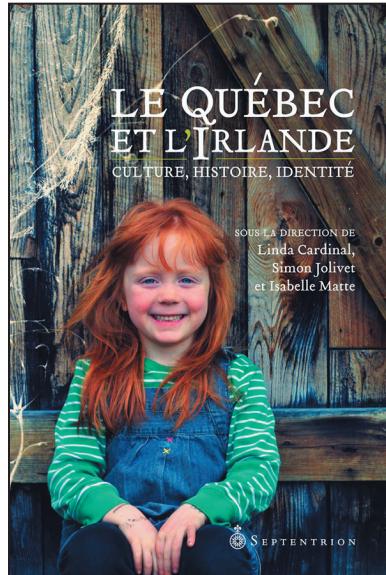
In 2008, anthropologist Isabelle Matte and I contacted the SPS in order to organize a scientific colloquium to study why Québec and Ireland shared so much in common. Mary McDaid, then serving as President of the SPS, immediately consulted the members of the Society and allotted us an astonishing contribution of 1,000\$.

Without this financial aid, no colloquium would have been organized. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, more than 40 people gathered for a day in Québec during the Association francophone pour le savoir (ACFAS), Conference, notably the late but never forgotten Marianna O'Gallagher.

This was the first of a series of four seminars. Year after year, the SPS renewed their financial support. We organized events in Québec, Ottawa, Montréal, and Sherbrooke, during which Isabelle Matte, Linda Cardinal (a Professor at University of Ottawa who decided to join our committee in 2009), and I, chose to pick out the best presentations for future publication. Worldwide presenters from Italy, Ireland, United States of America, Canada and Québec agreed to see their pieces being published.

As I said earlier, no book of this kind was ever published in French or in English. Of course, great books were issued on the Irish in Quebec. I must mention here the both fascinating Patricia Burns' *The Shamrock and the Shield: An Oral History of the Irish in Montreal* (1998) and Sharon Doyle Driedger's *An Irish Heart: How A Small Immigrant Community Shaped Canada* (2010). Nonetheless, none were written with the purpose of illuminating why and how much Ireland and Québec had in common.

Why it is that no academic group ever succeeded in publishing a multidisciplinary book of this kind is still a mystery. But we tried to remedy this.



The Irish (Protestants and Catholics) in Québec were numerically and proportionately the most important ethno cultural group during the whole 19<sup>th</sup> century in Québec, leaving aside the French Canadians. They were more numerous than the English, Welsh, Scots, Russians, and Italians. No doubt, the Great Famine exodus of the 1840's had something to do with this.

As most of the Irish were Catholics, they greatly interacted with the French Canadians. Irish and French Canadians met on personal and social grounds. If they sometimes shared common goals (whether supporting outright independence for Ireland or Home Rule within the British Empire), they also disagreed on other things. In the end, though, they met on a daily basis.

Chapters of this volume reflect these interactions. Peter Bischoff explains how the Irish Catholics created powerful labour unions in mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Québec, and why their francophone coreligionists tried to imitate them. Matteo Sanfilippo, revealing still unknown Vatican archives, writes on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century animosities between Irish and French Canadian Catholic elites. He demonstrates that the Irish hierarchy had more contacts with Rome than their French Canadian counterparts. André Poulin compares Northern Ireland and Québec. Jerry White shows how Jacques Ferron's *Le Salut de l'Irlande*, written at the times of the FLQ crisis, drew many parallels with Ireland. Ferron's book focused on an Irish family of Saint-Lambert which was torn apart during the 1970' October Crisis. Kester Dyer and Isabelle Matte write on celebrated Irish and Québécois films that touched upon common issues relating to language and religion. Marc Chevrier offers a brilliant piece about Victor-Lévy Beaulieu's opus *James Joyce, le Québec, l'Irlande, les mots*. And renowned Québec historian Éric Bédard writes a tremendous postface, wrapping up the main issues included in the volume.

In sum, we aimed to appeal to a large public with this book. Reading it should be seen as an occasion to pause and to reflect on how Irish and Québécois interacted with each other and why it is that Ireland still proves relevant to explain Québec past and present.

I am not only proud of the work done with my colleagues Isabelle and Linda, but I am honoured that the greatest Irish Society in Québec supported us year after year. There would simply be no book today without the SPS.

Let's also hope that it will soon be translated into English in order to appeal to an even larger public.

## Ebola (cont.)

curfew or martial law,, but the increased presence of police and military is remarkable. Men and women calmly try to get on with their normal lives but with little or no social interaction as minimising physical contact is common-sense protection. Schools are closed and confined kids, not allowed out to play or meet friends, are driving parents crazy. Ebola is always front and centre. Hand washing in a diluted chlorine solution is a standard ritual going into any building or public place. As Abdul, my Muslim driver says, “The only good thing about Ebola is the Christians are now doing their ablutions too,” referring to the Islamic five times daily prayer ritual, which I might add, I’ve never seen him practise.

To September 18 over 500 people have died in Sierra Leone and around 1,600 are infected in 13 out of 14 administrative regions in the country. Over 140 medical workers have died. Freetown, the capital with slightly less than one million souls is now a hotspot with 136 confirmed cases so far and rising fast. The CDC and WHO predict 20,000 cases throughout West Africa before it ends, call this outbreak by far the biggest ever. In comparison, during the 2003 SARS outbreak in Canada, when the whole country was on edge and Toronto close to panic, 44 people died, approximately 400 became ill and 25,000 were placed in quarantine. The size of the Ebola outbreak is a large part of the problem. Isolation is the key to getting it under control. My new best friend Joel says epidemics of infectious disease in Africa go back for millennia. In the old days, he says, someone sick with smallpox would be put in a hut in the village and food placed outside each day. When the food went ignored for a day or two the hut was burned down ... isolation works. How do you isolate 20,000 people?

It's difficult to grasp the poor quality of the health sector here and the impact the outbreak is having on what little there is. At the best of times, the health infrastructure is a shambles. Depending on whom you ask, the country has either four or ten ambulances serving almost seven million people with 20 used ones on order. There are two doctors for every 100,000 people. Canada has 227 per 100,000. There are 40 hospital beds per 100,000. Canada has 340, Ireland 290 and Afghanistan has 50. Quality drugs and medical supplies are always in short supply and procuring them is a major source of corruption. Right now, the hospitals are overwhelmed and, private hospitals, the best of a poor lot, have closed down because they are ill-equipped for the epidemic. Recently public health workers (doctors, nurses and laboratory technicians) very afraid and tired of risking their lives went on a one-day strike to protest the lack of PPE (personal protection equipment – suits, gloves, masks and goggles) because the Ministry of Health and Sanitation had failed to distribute the 80,000 suits it had in storage. The President fired the Minister and replaced her and the deputy minister with medical doctors. Before this is over it's likely that more people will die from untreated malaria, typhoid and cholera, the ‘normal’ diseases here, than Ebola because people are afraid to go to clinics – malaria presents in much the same way.

The CDC, WHO, MSF and GOAL, an Irish NGO, are all doing mammoth work but so far are unable to keep up with, never mind get ahead of, the infection rate. The international reaction is just inadequate with estimates to bring the outbreak under control running higher than \$600 million. The initial government and public response to the outbreak was ill-informed, slow and fraught by petty political squabbling. One day in late July there was pandemonium in the early hours as people were woken by calls and text messages telling them to take a saltwater bath; it would prevent Ebola. Millions did and, frankly, so would I but nobody phoned. Before the arrival of help from overseas treatment, protocols were inadequate. Suspected cases were placed together in a locked ward. Testing, which could be hours or days later, resulted in ‘positives’ being isolated for treatment and ‘negatives,’ many now infected, being released subject to an even now largely non-existent public health contact tracking system.

There are only two Ebola treatment centres in Sierra Leone with two more under construction by MSF. It takes about eight weeks to select, prepare and commission a treatment centre. I've read it takes more than 200 people, including health workers and support staff, to treat 80 patients, although Joel says it's not quite that high. The current number of confirmed and probable cases is over 4,000 across West Africa and rising. The two MSF centres each have 80 beds and they don't come any bigger. As of last week there were 500 contact trackers with 2,500 required. There's also a need to train ‘sprayers’ who disinfect people, equipment and places including freshly dug eight-foot deep graves. Because bodies remain infectious after death, traditional rituals spread disease when families gather to wash, oil and dress the body correctly for its important journey from life to becoming an ancestor in death.

So, is it really coming your way? Well you decide. My experts, Joel and Michael, are definitely worried about the inadequacy of the international response. The UN has now apparently taken charge, which they say should make a difference, but for them it's all taking too much time. Every day lost matters. Dr David Nabarro, United Nations' systems coordinator for the epidemic, said in the past few days, “... it is doable with the institutions and resources we have but to scale-up to actually achieve it in the time that is available ... is in the order of three to four times what is currently in place.” In other words, ahead is a truly monumental task. Thinking of the old cliché that all politics is local, I asked about the government response here in Sierra Leone and was told, “I'll tell you when I see one.” The latest news from Liberia says they have given up on Monrovia. I guess the food is being left outside Joel's hut and everyone is waiting. Maybe my friend Alfred is right; perhaps we need a case in New York before things get turned around.



*All of us at NUACHT hope that Ned returns safely to Montreal in a couple of weeks from now.*

# Sharing a memory of Gerry Conlon

By Jim McDermott

Gerry Conlon, who was wrongly convicted of the 1974 Guildford IRA pub bombing, has died at the age of 60. On June 28, 2014, four members of the Birmingham Six carried his coffin into St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast.

Gerry Conlon's memoirs, (*Proved Innocent*), were used as a basis for the sensational Hollywood movie, *In the Name of the Father*; his role was played by Daniel Day-Lewis.

Ireland's deputy prime minister, Eamon Gilmore, was among a number of politicians who attended the huge funeral, as did high-profile lawyer Gareth Peirce, who represented both the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six.

In a statement issued through Ms. Peirce, the lawyer's wife, the Conlon family said "Gerry brought life, love, intelligence, wit and strength to our family through its darkest hours."

He was an outstanding tireless fighter, despite his own haunting demons. This endearing human being made an enormous mark helping others and preventing miscarriages of justice. Throughout the years, his indomitable spirit took him around the world. He travelled to Australia to challenge injustices there – particularly those of the indigenous people. He spoke at many prestigious universities in the United States and offered himself as the best evidence that the death penalty should be abolished. He also met survivors of Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp. He found that their 21<sup>st</sup> century experience mirrored his own in the 1970s. He too had been hooded, shackled and subjected to a living hell.

Back in the early '90s, I had the privilege and indeed the honour to meet Gerry Conlon. During a Montreal whistle stop, he spoke at Concordia. Shortly after his well-attended address, the Montreal Coalition for Peace in Ireland formed a small entourage of friends, which included Ellen Gabriel, president of Quebec native women and Mohawk Elder, Walter David, who both greeted Gerry, with warm welcoming embraces. Later that evening, during a private



Jim McDermott, Gerry Conlon and Stephanie Shine, outside Greek restaurant Prince Arthur/St. Laurent

reception at the Old Dublin Pub, a young woman sang an impromptu version of "Amazing Grace"; it was a gesture that brought a smile to Gerry's face. On that rare evening, the atmosphere quickly turned festive and Gerry seemed to enjoy all the rollicking *craic* that was rolling his way. Yes, it was an unforgettable night of laughter and great music thanks to singer-guitarist Brendan Nolan and his entertaining skills.

I was deeply struck by Gerry Conlon's humanity.... as well as by his wit and wisdom. I know it sounds quite unbelievable, but he bore no grudges towards anyone. I remember vividly during our conversation, he spoke warmly of all the decent British people that took the time to correspond. Letter writers' heartfelt words of support were immensely encouraging and meant a lot to him.

Gerry Conlon was an extraordinary ambassador for social justice. After 15 years languishing in a living hell, he deserves a seat in Heaven. His legacy is the gift, the eternal shining imprint he's left us.

I'll end this piece with a few words in Irish. May your soul be at the right side of God. *Ar dheis De go rabh a anam*. Rest peacefully, Gerry.



## Innisfail plans busy season

By Rose Quinn

Summer is slowly coming to an end. Wherever you went or whatever you did over the summer, we hope you had a safe one without too many unpleasant moments. But, if you did, we hope you laughed it off and made a note to share it with us at our next get-together.

As I take over the role of President, it is indeed an honour for me to introduce you to the 2014-15 Innisfail Executive:

President	Rose Quinn
Vice-President	John Faherty
Past-President	Ann Broden
Treasurer	Sandy McDonaugh
Secretary	Helen Brodrick



Sandy McDonaugh, Helen Brodrick, Rose Quinn, John Faherty and Ann Broden

Check p. 20 for a list of our events. Please note that we have planned a new one, OKTOBERFEST for October 17. Contact me for further information. Hope to see you there!



# Canada Day in Dublin 2014

By Paul Loftus

I was fortunate to be in Dublin for Canada Day this year. July 1<sup>st</sup>. is also my birthday so I had a double celebration as I have every year. While there are Canadians in many parts of Ireland, the vast majority reside in the Dublin area. The Canada Day party in Trafalgar Square in London didn't take place this year. A lot of Canadians living in the British capital were disappointed. They should have come to Dublin.

The Canadian Ambassador, His Excellency Loyola Hearn, hosted a Canada Day party in the back garden of his residence in Dublin. It was a beautiful warm sunny day that the 350 guests really enjoyed. The party was very well organized. We even got a programme as you can see below.

## Programme

- Welcome remarks by Ambassador Loyola Hearn
- Canadian and Irish National Anthems sung by Catherine Redding
- Performance by St. Pat's Dancers from St. John's, Newfoundland
- Performance by Fiddlers from Atlantic Canada,
- Live musical entertainment by Finbar Furey, Pete St. John, Foster and Allan, Louise Morrissey, Trudi Lalor, Liz Doherty, Dominic Kirwan, Matt Cranitch and Jackie Daly, Paul Harrington, Mike Hickey, Tom Sweeney, Tommy Fegan, Alfie Mulligan and family, Antoin and Bernadette McGabbin, Eleanor Shanly, Sean Callaghan and more including other entertainers from Newfoundland.

It was probably one of the largest gatherings of top professional Irish traditional musicians assembled in a long time. Ambassador Hearn is a big fan of traditional Irish music. Some of you will recognize many of the names. I identified Finbar Fuery of the Fuerys, Foster and Allan, and Pete St. John. Pete is Ireland's premier songwriter having written such songs as "Dublin in the Rare Auld Times," "The Fields of Athenry" and "A Song for Mayo." Some of you may have met Tommy Fegan who plays the uilleann pipes.

He was in Montreal in the fall to promote the D'Arcy McGee Summer School that took place in Carlingford just outside Dundalk in County Louth from August 18<sup>th</sup>. to 20<sup>th</sup>. this

summer. The entertainment took place in a large tent. As Irish weather can be unpredictable at times, the organizers weren't taking any chances. As it turned out, the tent protected the entertainers from the sun.

Among the attendees were the Lord Mayor of Dublin, several ambassadors, officials from the department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Irish Defense Forces, the Garda (Irish Police), officials from the Canadian Embassy in Dublin and security from the Canadian High Commission in London. Others present were: Eamon Flanagan, Sales Manager, Air Canada; David Quirke, President of the Ireland Canada Business Association together with a number of his board members; Cormac O'Connell, Head of Aviation Business Development for Dublin Airport Authority; Dr. Helen O'Neill, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University College Dublin. Dr. O'Neill obtained her PhD at McGill University and will be here to speak at the university in September. The Montreal Chapter of the UCD Alumni Association has arranged a get together for Helen at the Irish Embassy Pub and Grill at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24. All are invited to attend.

While the invitation indicated 15.00hrs. – 17.00hrs., when I arrived at 3:00 p.m. there was already a substantial crowd. Some people started drifting away at 5:00, but the majority stayed a while longer. The entertainment continued. It was amazing to see the dancers from New Brunswick and the singers from Newfoundland. They were part of the large number of tourists who travelled to Ireland this summer. The numbers were up by 11% on last

year and that was the year of the Gathering. Kudos to Tourism Ireland and thanks to the four airlines that now fly directly to Ireland from Canada.

The following organizations were kind enough to help sponsor the event:

**Maple Leaf Sponsors:** East Coast Catering, RBC Investor & Treasury Services, Vermillion.

**Red Level Sponsors:** Air Canada, Arthur Cox, Boyne Valley Group, Cross Vetpharm Group, Dublin Airport Authority, Eugene F. Collins, Hodgson Sugar, Irish Life, KPMG, Open Hydro, Scotiabank (Ireland) Limited, Shackleton Exhibition, Shell E & P Ireland Limited, Sure Skills

Ireland, TD Global Finance (Ireland). I'm sure you'll recognize many of the names.

It was a birthday I'll remember for a long time.



# The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation is looking for your support

By Fergus V. Keyes

**A**t this year's "Walk to the Rock," Victor Boyle, current president of the local AOH, took the opportunity to formally announce a new non-profit group within our Irish Community called the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation.

In recent issues of *Nuacht*, I have been writing articles about the Black Rock that sits on the Montreal side of the Victoria Bridge, and this new group has the main objective of building a cultural green space in the area around the Rock.

Most *Nuacht* readers are no doubt very familiar with the Black Rock, which was pulled from the St. Lawrence River by workers building the Victoria Bridge in 1859. It honours the approximate 6,000 Irish immigrants who died and were buried around the Rock as the direct result of a typhus epidemic related to the potato famine that spread through Ireland and to our Canadian shore in 1847.

When the Rock was originally installed, it was likely the colour of normal river stone; however, having remained in the same location, more or less, for more than 150 years, with train and vehicle traffic and normal air pollution, it has turned a dark black colour and is now referred to as The Black Rock, although in some publications, it is called The Irish Rock and/or Irish memorial Rock.

Regardless of the name, it is the very first memorial ever installed anywhere in the world in honour of the victims of the horrific epidemic and events of 1847. Although there are now a number of other Irish memorials to this event in cities like New York and recently Toronto, this was the first. It should also be noted that with approximately 6000 Irish men, women, and children buried in the area, it is the single largest graveyard of victims of this event, certainly more than in New York, or Toronto, and perhaps even more individuals than were buried at Grosse Île.

Although the Rock in many ways is quite a simple but beautiful tribute to the victims in Montreal, our Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation believes that creating a large cultural green space around the Rock would enhance this tribute and provide a much better memorial to the largest single tragedy that ever happened in our city.

On a practical level, we feel that this "park like" green space would also offer a green space in the rapidly developing old Irish district of Griffintown; could become a tourist destination for the millions of Irish descendants in North America; and provide a beautiful entry into Montreal from the Victoria Bridge.

We also hesitate to use the word "Park" since we would like to see it as a much more interesting attraction than simply that. We would hope that it would include such things as a Museum/Welcome Centre; a properly designed earth berm (small mountain) with a special water feature; full sports facilities with a concentration on an Irish Rugby and Hurling field; and a section for quiet contemplation etc.

Our hope would be to also make it as inclusive as possible. Of course, because of the history, it would emphasize the Irish tragedy, but it should also include, and be embraced by, the French-speaking Quebec community which played such an important role in adopting more than 1,000 young Irish boys and girls who became orphans as a direct result of the epidemic. (This process resulted in more than 40% of all Quebec residents being able to claim some level of Irish heritage). It would also appear that the area was an important meeting and hunting grounds for the Aboriginal community before the Europeans arrived, and this should also be noted in the plans. In effect, the Foundation would like to make this space as inclusive as our St. Patrick's Day Parade, which although it is a definite Irish event, opens the possibility to any, and all, cultural groups to participate in our celebrations.

Currently the area around the Black Rock is basically an empty and desolate space. It would seem that the majority of the property is public lands owned by the City of Montreal and/or the various Federal Government departments, or crown corporations. The difficulty with the project will be, of course, getting all these various Government "players" on side, which is the concentration of effort currently by the Foundation. We are concerned that there are rumours that the city would like to designate the whole area for light industry and once there are buildings in the area, the idea of this green space would likely not be possible.

Our effort includes asking supporters on both our Web Page (<http://www.montrealirishmonument.com/>) and our FaceBook page ([https://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn\\_tnmn#!/groups/Blackrockmemorial/](https://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/groups/Blackrockmemorial/)) to use the official City of Montreal web site to contact our Mayor Denis Coderre requesting that he provide his clear support of the project. We are also hoping that various formal Irish organizations, and others, will pass a Board Resolution within their group in support of the project and also forward a copy of the resolution to Mr. Coderre.

We believe that we will need a champion within the political structure to help support and push this project to a reality and feel that the Mayor, with his Irish heritage, will understand the overall benefit of this Green Space for all Montrealers. Please do take a moment to contact him and let him know that you are in favour of considering this effort.

Also, If you have any comments, suggestions, etc., please do not hesitate to contact us. Contact details are also on our various internet pages where you can also join and participate in the development of this project.

# Show & Tell ... for grownups! Irish-Montreal community storytelling event October 22<sup>nd</sup>

By Michelle Sullivan

**R**emember Show & Tell from your primary school days? Well, here's your chance to revisit this popular childhood activity, only this time without the gerbils. Show & Tell will transform into an event for grownups at the Irish Embassy Pub the evening of October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Join Paul Dunne in sharing your memories as an Irish Montrealer. All you need to participate is an object, and the story that goes with it. The object should be related in some way to your own personal history as an Irish Montrealer, or to the history of Irish-Montreal in general.



Were you a parade Princess? Bring your sash and tell us how you won your crown.

Did you grow up on Ottawa Street? Dig out that photo of your 5-year old self on a horse and come tell us a story about the Griffintown Horse Palace and the day you met Clawhammer Jack.

Did you do your first communion at the Church of St. Michael and St. Anthony in Mile End? Bring your

communion rosette and tell the story of how you made the priest's temperature rise that day.

New to Montreal? Come tell us what Irish treats your Mammy sends over in her monthly care package!

Bring a photo, letter, family heirloom or artifact and share your story or listen to others.

Paul Dunne, immediate past president of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, will break the ice as the evening's first storyteller. Join him in helping to tell the history of Irish-Montreal through objects.

Irish Montrealeers are great storytellers, with a rich history to share. Come enjoy an event that's sure to stir up laughter, tears and memories.

#### Event details:

Date – October 22, 2014 – Time – 6 p.m. (arrive earlier to grab a Guinness and mingle!) Location – Irish Embassy Pub, 1234 Bishop Street, Montreal

Event organiser – Michelle Sullivan 514.995.4015

[ms@michellesullivan.ca](mailto:ms@michellesullivan.ca) Special Guest – Paul Dunne

Registration – None, but if you're on Facebook, be sure to follow our event listing at "Irish Montreal's Show & Tell ... for grownups!"

Cost – Free

There is no obligation to participate as a storyteller. 

## Another good summer of golfing for Tara

By Brian Baldry

Tara's 2014 season of golf tournaments will come to an end on September 27<sup>th</sup> with a tournament and closing dinner at Hemmingford Golf Club.

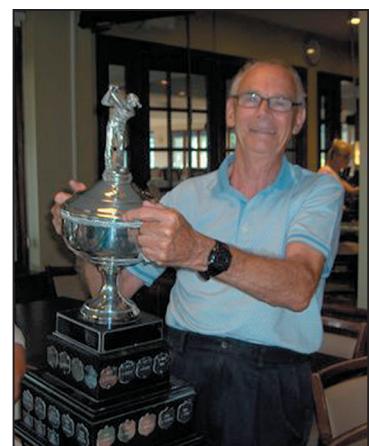
After our first tournament at Valleyfield was washed out, we benefitted from great weather and played on an interesting and challenging mix of courses, including Lake Placid, NY, for our traditional two-day competition – a course that our club has visited for over 50 years.

Attendance, while still satisfactory, has been declining slightly as our membership ages and with some members moving away from the area. Several guests have joined us at tournaments, and we hope their experience will attract them, and others, as new members in 2015.

Already we have planned a year of tournaments for 2015, including some courses played previously and some new ones

added, to be ratified at Tara's AGM to be held in December 2014.

While Tara exists as a golf group, it is the camaraderie among its members that is just as important, with members meeting at a convenient restaurant post game. Also, as the season approaches its end, our social chairperson will be planning events such as theatre visits, concerts and bowling.



Tara's president, Brian Baldry, holding the Perpetual Trophy for lowest net score, Hemmingford, August 16, 2014



# Irish Dancing Championships showcase local talent

By Pat Short

The World Championships of Irish Dancing hit the Metropole Hilton Hotel in London, England, with a bang of dismay and incredulity the week coming up to Easter. The writer for the Telegraph was less than kind to the quality of competition and sportsmanship and crude in her description of wigs, tiaras and sock-glue. Obviously coming from the Unionist community of East Belfast, the writer shared her convictions held from early childhood.

All that being said the 11 Greater Montreal and Quebec dancers did us proud in their performance and as representatives of our region. Eileen Moran and Bernadette Short led the group as teacher coaches for the event.

This particular championship being behind them, Montreal dancers then began working to compete with 4,260 other Irish dancers from Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Mexico and the U.S. at the North American Championships in Palais des Congres Montreal from July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup>.



Aselin Bates and Kelsey Crone

in her school) swung into action and had the stages up in a day. The special dance mat was in place by the end of Canada Day and we were ready for competition at 8 a.m. July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

About 150 dancers from the Montreal area schools competed and their performance at this level was truly inspiring. Many of our dancers qualified here for the World Championships of Irish Dancing, to be held at the Palais in the week leading up to Easter 2015. We have something to really look forward to.

Each of the qualifiers received a "Certificate of Eligibility" courtesy of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal. Julie Dunn was in attendance on one of the evenings and President Jim Killen on another to make the presentations. Yours truly handled the three nights. Julie would have been used to the overwhelming atmosphere having been to so many such events while competing. I think Jim got a totally new perspective on the enormity of Irish dancing competition and expressed his delight that Montreal dancers represented the city so well.



Senior mixed ceili (5th place); James Houghton, Meaghan Kilmartin, Guillaume Choiniere-Shields, Kelsey Crone, Orla Mahon, Lucas Lawton, Lily Chafetz, Kevin Paquette

Apart from Solos and Figure Dancing this event has competitions in Dance Drama. This takes the form of a ten-minute representation by a dancing school of some aspect of Irish folklore



U9 Ceili Team (Top): Grace Hughes, Rowynn Applebee, Michaela Isaacson, Keira Murphy-Canuel (Bottom): Aselin Bates, Angelina Principe, Katherine Rossiter, Victoria Wilson



James Houghton  
(U17) 6<sup>th</sup> place

or historical event. The biggest surprise came from a school in Orlando. Their dance story was that of Griffintown and Mary Gallagher and was performed by 18 Irish dancers from Florida.

Following the event, the social media present were full of compliments for the superbly run event, the ambiance and space at the Palais des Congres, and the hospitality they received in Montreal hotels, restaurants and bars.

Photos selected by Editor



# The story behind the story of Fionn mac Cumhal

By Brian O'Sullivan

*Brian O'Sullivan was born in county Cork, Ireland. On completing a degree at University College Cork, he went on to travel extensively. He is now based in New Zealand with his family but returns to Ireland on a regular basis. His Irish Folklore and writing website can be found at: <http://irishimbasbooks.com>*

*Brian writes fiction that incorporates strong elements of Irish culture, language, history and mythology. These include literary short stories (*The Irish Muse collection*), mystery thrillers (*The Beara Trilogy*) and a contemporary version of the Fionn mac Cumhal/Fenian legends (*The Fionn mac Cumhal Series*).*

*Although he writes predominantly for an Irish audience, Brian's unique style and humour has meant that his books have become firm favourites of readers all around the world.*

As I pored through the various narratives and analysis I repeatedly found myself thinking ‘Why don’t I know this? Why did no-one ever tell me this? In a sense, it seemed almost unfair that the material had never been made available in a form that could be accessed by the Irish public (or people of Irish heritage), those individuals who had a direct interest in the knowledge and whose cultural birth right it actually was.

I continued to mull over this for a year or two while I carried on with the day job. At the same time, intrigued by what I’d learned, I did some further investigation to assess how Fionn mac Cumhal and the Fianna were perceived in modern Ireland. What awareness, for example, did contemporary Irish people have of Fionn mac Cumhal compared to our ancestors of fifty, a hundred, or even five hundred years ago?

From my research, it quickly became clear that most contemporary Irish people first encounter Fionn mac Cumhal at a school

level, through the Fenian stories that make up part of the school curriculum. Unfortunately, (but, understandably, given the audience) most of these tales are generic and sanitized versions of the originals, where all reference to anything “inappropriate” is removed.

This unintentional sanitisation is also reproduced in the commercial literature market where the main Fianna literature resources consist of limited academic press runs and very dated “Tales of the Fianna” type stories reprinted from the early 1900s. Looking back at it now, it’s hard to believe that there have been almost no culturally authentic fiction narratives on the Fianna published in Ireland in recent times. In a bizarre way, it’s as though Ireland underwent some strange kind of ‘national amnesia’ with respect to Fenian culture since the early 1900s.

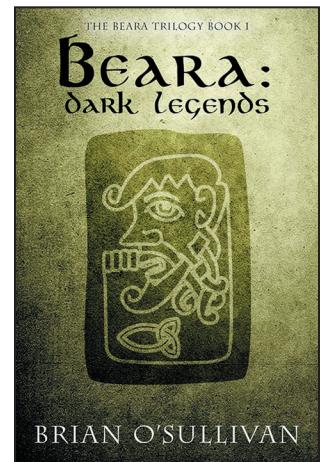
It was at that point that I was first prompted to write my own book (*Beara: Dark Legends*). For years, keen to impart what I’d discovered about Fionn mac Cumhal through my own research, I was also keen to dispel the huge amount of superfluous fabrication associated with the character. The truth is, there’s an amazing amount of crap available out there on the topic of Fionn mac Cumhal, most of it ‘Oirish’ books produced by non-Irish people with very little basis in fact and little cultural authenticity of any kind.

At the time, I was convinced the only way of getting this information out to people was to present it in a form that was informative without being boring or officious. For years, I’d been playing with the idea of developing a culturally authentic series about an Irish historical detective who examines how key elements of Irish history relate to more contemporary national issues. It struck me that by wrapping the cultural information up as a mystery/thriller, this was as good a mechanism as any for getting the results of my research out. As a result, *Beara: Dark Legends*, the first in a trilogy of Irish mysteries, was released in February 2014.

Since its publication, some people have described *Beara: Dark Legends* as a kind of ‘Irish De Vinci Code’ (the O’Vinci Code!). In my mind, it’s actually much deeper, scarier and, in some ways, more real than the Dan Brown novel – for people of Irish heritage at least.

Most Irish people have a strong emotional connection to their cultural heritage and a healthy respect for its source material. If this book has inspired even one person to access the available information and extend the knowledge of his/her own culture, then I’m happy to consider it a success.

<http://irishimbasbooks.com/>



BRIAN O'SULLIVAN



# Slán a fhágáil ag duine to Pam Cotter

By Pam Cotter

It is hard to believe an entire year has passed since my last contribution. This time last year I was starting my new lecturing position at the University of Limerick and little did I know what was in store for me. It was certainly the most exciting and fulfilling nine months of my career to date, however, it was also all time consuming, which accounts for my disappearing act in the last few issues of *NUACHT*. In addition to lecturing on both undergraduate degrees (BA Irish Music and Dance, and BA Voice and Dance), I also taught practical dance classes, supervised a few final year students with their minor theses, corrected my weight in exam papers, and even helped prepare for academy gigs like The Chieftains. So while I may have only had four hours of teaching in a day, I could potentially be in the building up to ten hours. Funnily enough, when I was in the thick of it, I never noticed the vast amount of work since I was too busy loving every minute of it. I just may have found my perfect career.

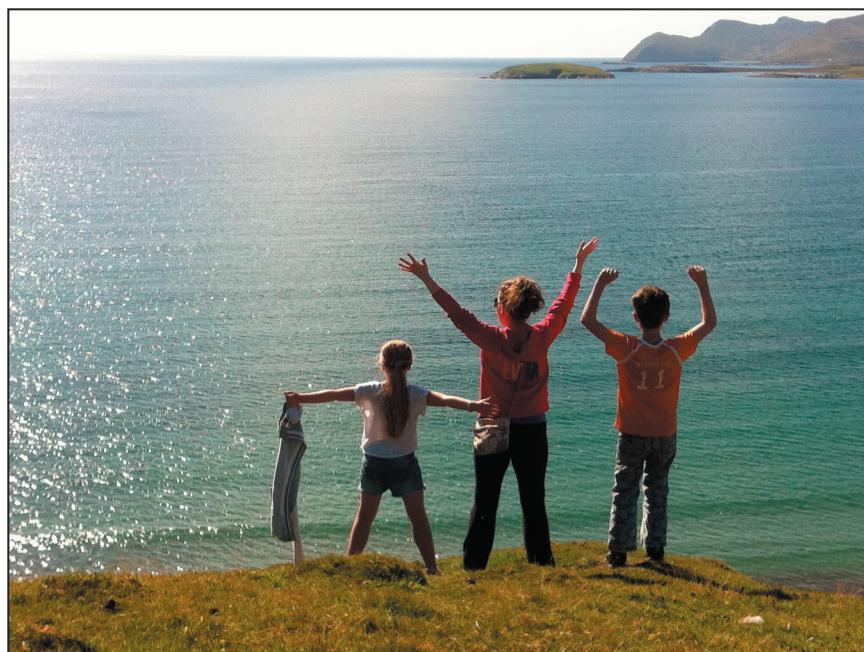
When it rains, it really does pour. During this busy time, I was also published. You may recall that I was chosen to present a paper at the European Seminar in Ethnomusicology in Aberdeen, Scotland in 2011. They have since decided to publish a selection of papers from the conference and I was honoured to be included. This required me to expand and edit my paper before going to print, which translated into many more nights in the office. It was definitely worth it, however, to hold a book with my name inside. If there is anyone with an interest in Ethnomusicology out there, you can find my article in *Taking Part in Music: Case Studies in Ethnomusicology*, Elphinstone Institute Occasional Publications 9, edited by Ian Russell and Catherine Ingram.

Of course, it was not all work and no play this year. On my evenings off, I returned to my position as Dance Captain for the Limerick Musical Society as we prepared for the production *Evita*. With a lot of hard work, the show was another success and sold out all three nights before it even opened. It was said on the radio that tickets were harder to get for *Evita* than for Garth Brooks! I also had a few excursions once the spring semester ended, starting with a trip to Wales where I not only fell in love with Cardiff and Barry Island, but also the divine Welsh accent. Most recently I ventured out to the West Coast of Ireland to Achill Island and had my first swim in the freezing cold ocean. The rumours are true; it is indeed very salty!

Now with September rapidly approaching, to my utmost delight, I have been given a new contract at UL and will get to relive all the thrills that the BA has to offer. Knowing now how time consuming the work is, along with continuing my role as Dance Captain for LMS, and starting a PhD in the fall of 2015, sadly, this will be

my final contribution to *NUACHT*. Even just writing these words is making my eyes swell. For any new readers, I have been contributing articles since November 2008 when I was only a student of the BA Irish Music and Dance. I have been lucky enough to share my experiences with the Montreal Irish community in twenty issues and it certainly feels like the end of an era. Looking back at my first issue, writing as a student, I never imagined that one day I would be so fortunate as to lecture at that very university.

What most readers probably do not realise is how much *NUACHT* has affected my life here in Ireland. With everything I did, I always had in the back of my mind, ‘this is something I could write about in *NUACHT*’! Without really noticing it, I have been motivated by the SPS newsletter to lead a far more exciting life and truly experience everything possible while



Achill Island: Fodhla Corrigan, Pam Cotter, and Domhnaill Corrigan at Keel Beach

Photo: Conor Devaney

living abroad. With that in mind, I want to thank everyone on the *NUACHT* team and all the readers out there who pushed me to seize every opportunity and made my life worth reading about. For anyone who is considering making a journey to Ireland or anywhere else, I strongly recommend taking the plunge. As scary as travelling or moving abroad may be, there will always be kind people waiting to meet you and, if you are lucky, a few Canadians as well. Finally, if anyone is passing through Limerick, I do hope you will pop in to the university for a cup of tea. As the Irish say, go on!

*Everyone at NUACHT thanks Pam for these kind words and wishes her well with her future endeavours.*



# 2014: a fantastic year for the Montreal Irish RFC

By Mark Gallagher

**W**ith four senior teams in action this year, the women and men's 3<sup>rd</sup> teams struggled somewhat, after being promoted to much higher calibre divisions. Both teams improved greatly as the season went on and became fantastic platforms for nurturing new talent for next year.

Men's Premier and Premier reserves finished the season on a very high note. For the fifth straight year in a row, they both made the provincial finals – (which now include teams from Eastern Ontario).

The Irish men 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XV sides played extremely well all season and in late August were confirmed as having taken top spots in their respective leagues. This pole position meant that both teams would go straight to semi-finals where they defeated Quebec City and Montreal Wanderers in tight games at home.

September 8<sup>th</sup> and the stage was set for another glorious day of Finals at the Irish grounds in St Julie. The Premier reserves faced off against cup holders and local rugby stalwarts Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, whilst the Prems met a newly invigorated Ottawa Indians – incidentally the only side to have beaten the Irish well this year.

The Irish 2<sup>nd</sup> XV started the day with a very tough challenge against Ste-Anne's. Although the team got off to a good start with dominant scrums allowing veteran scrum half, Huw Roberts to control the game, the Irish line out was misfiring at times. It's fair to say the Irish dominated the first half, but Ste-Anne's mounted a strong come-back and with five minutes to go and a score-line of 17-11, the green support was no doubt holding its collective breath. Fortunately, the Irish had done enough and they dug in and held on for a glorious victory.



2<sup>nd</sup> XV triumphantly lift trophy

Never having won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division titles in the same year, the pressure was now on the 1<sup>st</sup> XV players to deliver. They had played well all season long, but had lost twice to the Indians and there was talk of them being the Irish bogey team. This being the Irish' 5<sup>th</sup> final in a row, they appeared decidedly less nervous as a group than the Indians, but for many individual players it was still their first final.

The first half was a slow affair, with both sides probing the other's defences. The Indians settled down into their pattern and were throwing their much larger frames into the Irish line, but apart from a few cracks at times; the green wall held firm and the half time score stayed low. 5-3 to the Indians. With the wind at their backs, there was a feeling that the Irish would start to attack out wide in the second half and attack they did. The team started to link outside attack plays off the back of very solid scrum platforms and had the edge in the scrum all day, despite giving up what seemed like 10lbs a man. Returning fly-half Jamie



Premier team after beating the Indians

Lorenzo (also fly-half for McGill) had a fantastic second half, attacking the line at pace and getting the outside backs like James Acker into space. Not only did he create space for his teammates, but he also ended up scoring two tries himself in a great final's performance. Veteran Paul Van Wyck also had a stand out game at the back of the scrum carrying the ball and leading the Irish forwards in his twelfth final. Rookie Marc Antoine Bourget, who elicited cheers from the crowd with his emphatic and bone-crunching tackles, has also made a place for himself in Irish lore. The Irish dominated the last 40 minutes of the game and despite a try from the Indians, always seemed to be in command. The final score was 25-15 to the Irish and a first Prem and Prem reserve double for the Club.



Premier Reserves celebrating their victory



Coach Huw Roberts and 1<sup>st</sup> team captain Rob Law

This is a huge testament to the coaching staff of Ian Bailie and Huw Roberts and to all the Irish players, Executive, Old Boys and Volunteers. The club continues to go from strength to strength because of the commitment from all its members.



# Immigration and Citizenship Law roundup: June to early September 2014

By Stephen Fogarty

**H**ere are highlights to changes during the summer of 2014.

**Temporary Foreign Workers:** In June, the Harper government announced another major overhaul of the rules. Promoted as “Putting Canadians First,” employers will be required to advertise jobs more extensively and fully demonstrate why they could not find a suitable Canadian worker. The federal government processing fee employers pay to request approval to hire a temporary foreign worker rose to \$1,000.00 per application. There will be stricter government monitoring of employers after permission to hire a foreign worker has been approved, as well as many other changes, too numerous to describe here.

**International Experience Canada:** In June, the Harper government flagged what it termed “the most serious concern” for this program, namely, “the imbalance between the number of young people from partner countries participating in IEC and the number of young Canadians participating.” The plan is to “review each mobility agreement on a country-by-country basis to ensure the rate of reciprocity is improved.” This review may possibly affect the number of places made available for young Irish nationals to come to Canada in 2015 and beyond.

**Change to definition of “dependent”:** As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, the cut-off age for dependent children to be considered part of a family unit was changed. Henceforth, 19-year-old and older children will be obliged to apply for temporary or permanent immigration individually, and this regardless of whether they are single, or living at home, or are full-time students, or are unemployed.

**Quebec immigration:** The provincial government announced that the cap for 2014 had been reached under its skilled worker category for permanent immigration. However, persons who have been in Quebec for at least one year working legally will still have the right to apply as skilled workers, or under the Quebec experience category. Of course, to succeed they will have to meet the requirements, including sufficient knowledge of French.

**Canadian Citizenship:** In June, the Harper government’s new Citizenship Act was adopted. Among the many changes, permanent residents will have to demonstrate a minimum four years of physical presence in Canada out of the previous six years on the date of their application for citizenship. Contrary to the old rules, it will no longer be possible to count any days spent legally in Canada prior to becoming a permanent resident. Also, no days outside of Canada, even for short business trips, will count toward fulfilling the minimum requirement of four years, with very limited exceptions.

The Minister has said the new residency rules will come into force only in June 2015, but wise persons should apply now in case the government decides to change its plans.

*Stephen Fogarty practises immigration and citizenship law in Montreal, is a Board member of SPS, and is Honorary Legal Advisor to the Embassy of Ireland. His firm's website is [www.fogartylaw.ca](http://www.fogartylaw.ca). 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.*



## An Irish-Canadian memoir not to be missed

*A Migrant Heart*

By Denis Sampson

Linda Leith Publishing • 281 pages,

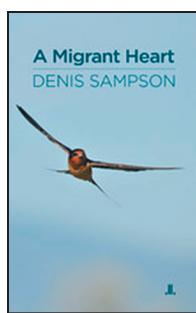
\$21.95

Reviewed by Anne Forrest

Early this summer, when Denis Sampson invited me to review *A Migrant Heart*, he commented “It’s not beach reading . . . .” He was wrong; it far surpasses any other book I’ve pored over recently. Sampson’s writing is of a very high calibre. Each sentence is carefully crafted and results in a compelling yet sensitive memoir.

Since moving to Montreal over 30 years ago to study at McGill, Sampson has taught at Vanier and in addition to contributing to the National Post, has managed to write several books, many published in Canada and the UK, notably *Brian Moore: The Chameleon Novelist* and two about John McGahern, the Irish novelist. *A Migrant Heart* is possibly the first Irish-Canadian memoir to explore the emigrant/immigrant condition. It fascinated me as I gained insight into the community in which Sampson was raised – a rural backwater near Limerick. Reading about his family, learning that the notorious Edna O’Brien (*The Country Girls*, 1960) was his father’s cousin, seeing

his adolescent rebellion against the Catholic Church, showed me his life before he ventured across the Atlantic.



Although he has made Montreal his home, he now spends part of each year in Kilkenny but emphasizes that the concept of “attachment” with which he has been obsessed is no longer of great significance. He states: “And so I regret the loss of that temporal nuance in the word attachment, the sense that in the end it is not the location of my life that is vital, it is the way in which I have learned to accommodate change in Montreal and in Ireland, for as we change constantly in ourselves over a lifetime so does the nature of our attachments.”

Lack of space constrains me. However, I highly recommend Ian McGillis’s interview with Sampson (Gazette, August 22, 2014) which provides a more comprehensive picture of this fine writer.

p.s. I only found one typo (p.120) – ‘though’ instead of ‘thought.’



# What you may have missed from the Irish papers!

By Paul Dunne

## ALBERT REYNOLDS 1932 – 2014

**A**lbert Reynolds, Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland died on August 21<sup>st</sup>. To Canadians, he would probably be one of the less well known of Irish Taoisigh having been in power only two years with his term sandwiched between two higher-profile and more controversial incumbents, Charlie Haughey and Bertie Ahern. A businessman and a pragmatist, he played an important role in the peace process by securing a ceasefire from the IRA in August 1994 which eventually led to the Good Friday agreement after his term as Taoiseach had ended.

One of the more amusing episodes of his career was when Boris Yeltsin, then Russian president was to stop off at Shannon airport on his way back to Moscow from a meeting in the US. Yeltsin's plane circled the airport for some time without landing and then continued on its journey to Moscow. Reynolds had made the trip to Shannon to welcome Yeltsin to Ireland and was left with a face the colour of the welcoming carpet that had been laid out. Yeltsin claimed he had overslept but the phrase "circling Shannon airport" soon became code in Ireland for someone who might have had more of a clear Russian beverage in his system than would permit him to safely ride home on a bicycle.

Albert Reynolds was not the oldest of the living Irish Prime Ministers. That distinction is still held by Liam Cosgrave, Taoiseach from 1973 to 1977 who this year turned 94 years of age.

## BETTER ECONOMIC NEWS

**W**hile the euro zone as a whole remains in the doldrums, Ireland's economy is forging ahead. In 2013, it exited the bailout scheme and in the last five years has gone from recession to an expected 3.2% rate of economic growth this year which, if achieved, will be higher than that predicted for Canada. Most importantly, the rate of unemployment is declining rapidly from a high of 14% in 2009 to 11.3% today. While the Irish Independent reports that 70% of University of Limerick graduates are now finding employment in their fields, the rate of emigration among young people remains stubbornly high as 416,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 44 left Ireland since 2009 – 71,000 last year. There may be more benign reasons for the continuing departures than the usual economic ones. Canada's work experience programme for example offers 10,000 visas to young Irish permitting them to work here for up to two years and Ireland, as an island nation, has always been too small for some of its more ambitious young all of whom have the right to live and work in most of the 28 member countries of the European Union.

## RYANAIR WOOS BUSINESS TRAVELLERS

**Y**ou can fly Ryanair from Dublin to London for €20 (about \$30). For comparison, I checked Porter's cheapest Montreal-Toronto fare (about the same distance) and it comes in at \$114. Mind you, Ryanair comes without frills of any description. No food, drink, checked-in bags, or use of a debit or credit card without paying extra. Seats don't recline and there are no window shades. You'll be more comfortable on

the bus to the airport. One quarter of Ryanair passengers travel on business so they have decided to offer a new "business class" to encourage those passengers to pay a €50 premium on top of the regular fare. We're not talking lie-flat beds or complimentary champagne here. This would be more like the premium section of a Soviet-era supermarket. As a VIP Ryanair traveller, you will be able to choose a seat with some legroom (right now seating is on an every-man-for-himself basis with no legroom for anyone more than 4ft tall), check in a 20kg bag and get premium security clearance where available (practically nowhere). Is this a softening of the Ryanair strictly no-frills philosophy? Hardly. But Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary, has raised the topic in the past of a Ryanair-style business class for transatlantic passengers which might be even better than that offered by competing airlines. I won't describe it here in case this issue of NUACHT finds its way into the hands of minors but those of you with a less sensitive disposition will get a giggle as you watch Mr. O'Leary describe some extra services that may be available. Check it out on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfIY24BErBE>



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# News from the School of Canadian Irish Studies

## Michael Kenneally, Principal

By Angie Parker

### Fall 2014 Public Talks and Events

All events are free and open to the public

Deirdre Madden — Writers Read at Concordia

Friday, October 10, 7:00 pm

1455 de Maisonneuve West, Hall Building, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 767

**F**rom Co. Antrim, Deirdre Madden studied at Trinity College Dublin and the University of East Anglia. She has published eight novels, including *The Birds of The Innocent Wood*, *One by One in the Darkness*, *Authenticity* and *Molly Fox's Birthday*. Her awards include the Hennessy Award, the Somerset Maugham Prize, the Rooney Prize, and the Kerry Book of the Year Award. She has also been shortlisted twice for the Orange Prize. Her most recent novel, *Time Present and Time Past* was published in 2013. She teaches Creative Writing at Trinity College Dublin.

Máirtín Mac Con Iomaire — 9th Annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture. Exploring the 'Food Motif' in songs from the Irish tradition.

Friday, October 17, 7:00 pm

1455 de Maisonneuve West, Hall Building, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 763

**D**r. Mac Con Iomaire is a professor in Culinary Arts at the Dublin Institute of Technology. He is well known as an award winning chef, culinary historian, food writer, broadcaster and ballad singer. He has presented two six-part series of cooking programs 'Aingeal sa Chistin' for TG4, and has featured on numerous other food related radio and television programmes for RTE, TV3, Radio na Gaeltachta, and Canvas TV (Belgium). Dr. Mac Con Iomaire is a regular contributor at the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery. Along with other publications, he recently published *Ticklin the Palate: Gastronomy in Irish Literature and Culture* (2014), a collection of essays co-edited with Eamon Maher.

Alvin Jackson — 7th Annual Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Lecture. The Two Unions: Ireland, Scotland and the Survival of the United Kingdom, 1707-2014

Thursday, October 23, 7:00 pm

1455 de Maisonneuve West, Hall Building, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor,

McEntee Reading Room (1001.01)

**A**lvin Jackson is an historian of modern Ireland and of Anglo-Irish relations. He holds the position of Sir Richard Lodge Professor of History and Dean of Research at the University of Edinburgh. He was educated at Corpus Christi and Nuffield Colleges, Oxford, and has taught at University College Dublin and at Queen's University Belfast. He has authored or edited seven books, including the prize-winning *The Ulster Party* (1989) and the *Two Unions* (2012), which has been short-listed for two national prizes in the United Kingdom. His latest work is the *Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish History*. His research has earned numerous awards and grants, most recently a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship.

For information or registration assistance, contact

Matina Skalkogiannis:

514-848-2424, ext. 8711

[cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca](mailto:cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca)

### 2014-15 Courses in Irish Studies

#### Fall 2014

Introduction to Canadian Irish Studies

The Irish in Canada

History of Ireland

Celtic Christianity

Parades, Pageants, Performances: Examining

Contemporary Irish Identity

Irish Plays

Irish Traditional Music: A Global Soundscape

Highlights of Irish Literature

Narrating Irish Childhoods

Tudor Ireland

Contemporary Politics in Ireland

Referendums in Ireland, Canada and Scotland

#### Fall/Winter 2014-2015

Irish Language & Culture I

#### Winter 2015

The Irish in Montreal

James Joyce

Irish Literary Revival

Irish Film Studies

Contemporary Irish Theatre

Fadó, Fadó: Irish Folklore, Mythology and Orality

Sex and Sexualities in the Irish Diaspora: A History

Research Methods in Irish Studies

**D**r. Theresa Reidy joins us as the 2014 Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar in Canadian Irish Studies. This position, jointly funded by Concordia University and the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, brings a distinguished scholar to teach within the programmes of the School of Canadian Irish Studies every fall semester. The Visiting Scholar teaches two undergraduate courses cross-listed with an appropriate department and gives a public lecture

Dr. Reidy is a lecturer in the Department of Government at University College Cork, where she teaches Irish politics, political economy and public finance. Her research interests lie in the areas of public finance and electoral behaviour in Ireland. She has been involved in a number of research projects on elections and referendums in Ireland and is also very involved in the political studies community. She is Co-Editor of *Irish Political Studies*, Vice President of the Political Studies Association of Ireland (PSAI), was honorary secretary of the PSAI from 2006 to 2011, and she represents political science on the social science committee of the Royal Irish Academy since 2007. Dr Reidy convened the annual conference of the PSAI in 2006 at University College Cork, has run a series of academic conferences, given expert evidence to the Constitutional Convention and other parliamentary committees, and is a regular contributor to national and international radio, television and the print media.



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Full Page	\$400.00	\$1,300.00



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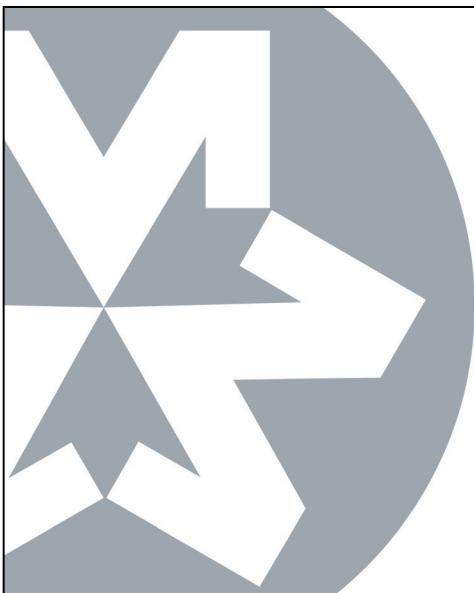
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## People in the news ...

The Society welcomes two potential new members. First, congratulations to **Andrea Stanford** whose baby **Fiona Ivy Brown** was born July 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:08 a.m. weighing 7 lbs 9 oz and measuring 53 cm in length. Proud papa **Mark Brown** and big brother **Andrew** (2.5 yrs) couldn't be happier, which Andrew demonstrates by sticking his fingers in Fiona's eyes as often as possible!



*Andrea and baby Fiona*



*Zoe Méabh Gallagher*

was 52 cm long! Olivia is being very helpful with her new baby sister and Mum and Dad are delighted with their new addition to the family.

Our apologies to **Theresa Reidy**, the 2014 Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar in Canadian Irish Studies. We were unable to find a space for her photo on p.17, so here it is now. We wish her a successful and happy year in Montreal.



*Theresa Reidy*

We are delighted to report that **Maria Cook** (an Ógra member and former dancer with the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing) married **Matthew Held** on August 9<sup>th</sup> at Loyola Chapel. Maria surprised Matt during the reception when members of the Celtic Grace alumnae were there to perform together with her.



*Maria and Matt Held exchanging their vows*

Someone who has made a difference to the Society has left us. We have mixed emotions as we say goodbye to **Jim Kellett**, former treasurer of the Society, his wife **Pam**, and children **Oliver, Emily and Megan**. We wish them all the best as they begin a new life in Singapore. Jim will be working with Lumen Capital Investors ([www.lci.com.sg](http://www.lci.com.sg)) as its North American equity specialist but plans to return to Canada on a regular basis. He will continue to work very closely with 3Macs. We're sure he'll dazzle the rugby crowd there with his stunning green jacket and will soon be playing for a local team over there. The Society is going to miss him!



*Jim Kellett*

## In and Around town

### ICCC's activities

The ICCC nationally is working closely with our corresponding Association in Dublin, the Ireland-Canada Business Association, to co-ordinate its Trade Mission to Canada. The updated calendar now has the group arriving in Montreal on the evening of Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and spending the full day Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> with us in Montreal. We will schedule a full day for October 8<sup>th</sup>, but are very pleased to advise that The Honourable Jean Charest and Danny McCoy, CEO of IEBC have agreed to be the keynote speakers at the luncheon beginning at noon.

Many thanks to Ann-Mary Butts for chairing the ICCC organizing team for this visit. This will be a great networking opportunity. We do need more people to support Ann-Mary and would welcome other volunteers. Please contact her at **AButts@ogilvy.ca**

### Want to learn how to play the harp?

What's the best part about learning the harp? No matter how many mistakes you make, it always sounds beautiful! Kathryn Humphries, whom many of you saw and listened to at the Society Christmas Concert a couple of years ago, is back in town and offering beginner harp lessons and Celtic and classical music for beginners for Folk Harp (Lever Harp).

Come for fun, musical enrichment, or food for the soul. All ages welcome! No experience necessary. Kathryn's studio is located in Ville-Marie. For more information, contact her at **kathrynhumphries@hotmail.com** <http://www.kathrynhumphriesmusic.blogspot.com>

## 2014-2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2014-2015

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION	
Sept. 24	Montreal Chapter UCD Alumni Assoc. Meet Dr. Helen O'Neill, Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 5:30 p.m.	Paul Loftus	282-1225 <a href="mailto:contact@icccmtl.com">contact@icccmtl.com</a>
Sept. 25	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	Brian Baldry	630-5628 <a href="mailto:contact@icccmtl.com">contact@icccmtl.com</a>
Sept. 27	Tara Golf Tournament and closing dinner, Hemmingford		
Oct. 8	ICBA-ICCC Business Breakfast, Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel, 8:00 a.m.		
Oct. 8	ICBA-ICCC Luncheon (Guest speakers Jean Charest & Danny McCoy), McCarthy Tétrault, 11:30 a.m.		
Oct. 9	Third Annual St. Patrick's Society Oyster Party (details not yet available)		
Oct. 15	ICCC European Pub Quiz, McKibbin's Puh, Bishop St., (\$20 members/\$25 guests) 5:30 p.m.	Erin Matheson	481-1346 <a href="mailto:contact@icccmtl.com">contact@icccmtl.com</a>
Oct. 17	9 <sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick Society Lecture, H-763 Hall Bldg, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Ouest	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Oct. 17	Innisfail Oktoberfest, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve, 7:30 p.m.	Rose Quinn	450-671-7217 <a href="mailto:irishpbs@bellnet">irishpbs@bellnet</a> <a href="mailto:president@montrealirishparade.com">president@montrealirishparade.com</a>
Oct. 23	7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Lecture, H-1001.01, 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Ouest		
Oct. 26	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.		
Oct. 30	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.		
Nov. 27	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.		
Nov. 30	UIS General Meeting & Christmas Draw, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.		
Dec. 5	Innisfail Annual Christmas Party (members \$5.00/guests \$10.00), NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn	450-671-7217
Jan. 16	Innisfail "Kick-Off" Céili, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve, 7:30 p.m.	Rose Quinn	450-671-7217
Jan. 18	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.		
Jan. 23	Ciné Gael, Opening Night and reception, (TBC) DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503 <a href="mailto:contact@icccmtl.com">contact@icccmtl.com</a>
Jan. 29	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.		
Feb. 6	Ciné Gael, (TBC) DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503 <a href="mailto:cmurphy2_3@msn.com">cmurphy2_3@msn.com</a>
Feb. 7	UIS 60 <sup>th</sup> Queen's Selection Evening, Buffet Sorrento, 7:00 p.m.		
Feb. 15	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.		
Feb. 26	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.		
Feb. 27/28	Ciné Gael Weekend, (TBC) DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 6	St. Patrick's Society Annual Ball, Mariott Chateau Champlain	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 6	Ciné Gael, (TBC) DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503 <a href="mailto:dad.jr@hotmail.com">dad.jr@hotmail.com</a>
Mar. 15	UIS Mass of Anticipation, St. Gabriel's Church, 11:30 a.m.		
Mar. 15	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.		
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Society Annual Luncheon	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 22	UIS 192 <sup>nd</sup> Consecutive St. Patrick's Parade, Noon		
Mar. 28	UIS Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance, Buffet Sorrento, 6 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503 <a href="mailto:sdoyle@firtonsite.ca">sdoyle@firtonsite.ca</a>
Apr. 11	Ciné Gael – n.b. Saturday – (TBC) DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 17	Innisfail Pasta Night, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve, 7:30 p.m.	Rose Quinn	450-671-7217
Apr. 19	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.		
Apr. 24	Ciné Gael, (TBC) DeSève Cinema, Concordia		
May 2	Innisfail Mass for Deceased Members, St Patrick's Basilica, 12:10 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
May 7	Ciné Gael, Closing Night and reception, (TBC) DeSève Cinema, Concordia	Rose Quinn	450-671-7217
June 5	Innisfail AGM, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
		Rose Quinn	450-671-7217

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