



## And the force was with us!

By Martina Branagan

History was made on the 4th May 2017 as the Canadian-Irish community turned out in great numbers to welcome Taoiseach Enda Kenny to Montreal. In Canada 4-6 May, visiting Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal, the Taoiseach sought to further strengthen economic, trade and investment ties with Canada motivated by the potential business opportunities arising from CETA and the Irish Government's market diversification plan, core to its Brexit strategy.

During his visit to Montreal, the Taoiseach of Ireland and the Prime Minister of Canada spoke at the packed Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal International Leaders Luncheon attended by senior members of the Montreal business community.

While social media was all atwitter about Canada's Premier's mismatched coloured Star Wars socks worn to mark the 4th of May (May the force be with you!) and the Irish media honed in on the political fate of Taoiseach Enda Kenny, the latter delighted the Canadian-Irish Community and the audience of 500 strong, with what most considered to be an articulately delivered,

well-crafted and thoughtful speech.

The Taoiseach praised many of the qualities that distinguish Canada: "This is a great country and building on the open, global, liberal and generous qualities, I predict that over the next 20 years Canada, will become an even greater force for the good of humanity as we face unprecedented challenges up ahead."

He commented on the current state of politics, democracy and the neglect of the centre ground



An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D.

in favour of the balance sheet: "And it is the Centre that the Irish Nobel laureate WB Yeats once said cannot hold, now must hold, and hold with alacrity... Across democracies, our best are being pushed to the hard Left by anger to the hard Right by fear." In that context he praised PM Trudeau: "you know the difference between patriotism and nationalism." While he recognized the value of the European Union in that context, "It has brought us one of the longest most sustained peace periods on our continent, generations have grown up without being called up." His call to aim for "the higher things, Freedom, Philosophy, Art, Ideas, Love, Spirit" resonated with the audience.

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# NUAIDHE

## A word from the President

By Scott Phelan

What an absolutely incredible Irish Season this year! From the opening film of Ciné Gael on February 3rd to the closing Award banquet on April 1st, the festivities were all first rate. Of course Montreal's 375th and Canada's 150th were motivation for all the Irish Societies to do something special to help commemorate these landmarks. This year also saw the inauguration of the Montreal Irish Festival. The Festival's concept was to bring together all the Irish events in February and March under one marketing umbrella to better involve all communities in the celebration of our Irish heritage and culture. Certainly our 170th Charity Ball and 184th Charity Luncheon were reflections of this effort and both were major hits. I was delighted to see that attendance was up again this year for both events and that both were financially successful with monies raised going to our cultural, educational and charitable endeavors.

This year's Ball was a dazzling affair held at the Chalet on Mount Royal with many Society members, dignitaries, sister societies and special guests in attendance. Many thanks to our Guests of Honour, Ambassador Jim Kelly and Mayor Russell Copeman and to our Patrons, Teresa Dellar, Pierrette Sevigny and Richard McConomy for their tremendous support. Kudos also to our wonderful Ball Committee for such a complex task so well done and for putting in the extra effort to make this year's Ball such a unique and fabulous experience for all who attended. A special thanks to Past President, Jim Killin who worked extremely hard getting it perfect with the City of Montreal and also to event producers, Eventure who performed beyond expectations.

This year, the annual Luncheon moved to a new location at the Plaza Ballroom of the EVO Center and was one of the best ever. In celebration of Montreal's 375th, it was my pleasure to introduce Mayor Denis Coderre, this year's Parade Grand Marshal, as a special Guest Speaker. Our formal Guest Speaker was John Rae, Executive Vice-president of Power Corporation, who was touchingly introduced by his brother Bob, former Premier of Ontario. And what a speech John gave! Congratulations to Luncheon Chair, Carol McCormick and her team for all their tremendous work and innovation in putting on such a wonderful afternoon.

This year's 194th St. Patrick's Parade had beautiful skies, huge crowds and many special dignitaries including a surprise visit by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. For the second year in a row, the Society won the award for Best Marching Sister Society, awarded by the UIS. Parade Chair, Lynda Premerl and her committee which included St. Pat's Vice-president, Christie Brown and Treasurer, Laurie Bennett, did a great job in assembling such a great-looking, and well-behaved, marching group!

The very next weekend saw St. Patrick's Vice-president, Ken Quinn heading up the Montreal Irish contingent who participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Quebec City on March 25th. Ken, one of last year's Quebec City Parade Marshalls, led the feisty group in yet another successful parade capped off by a celebratory pint in nearby St. Patrick's Pub.

I would be remiss if I did not also once again single out Lynn Doyle for doing such a magnificent job on the annual Ciné Gael Film Festival which celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2017. Lynn has been at the helm since the very beginning and is the heart and soul of the Festival. Ciné Gael is a unique celebration of Irish art and culture that is both very highly regarded and extremely well attended. Congratulations Lynn!

There are of course very important upcoming events that are deserving of your patronage and worthy of your attendance.

First off, on Sunday May 28th, the AOH will again be hosting the annual March to the Stone. This year it is particularly important that we show our support for the Walk as by doing so we also show our support for The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation who are working towards creating a more permanent and fitting monument to the world's oldest memorial to the victims of the Irish Famine, which is the Black Rock. This year, on behalf of the Society, I will be laying a wreath in memory of the 6,000 men, women and children interred there in 1847 and 1848. Come walk with us as it will be a day to remember.

On Tuesday June 20th, this year's 22nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held at the lovely Club de Golf Bellvue in Ville de Lery. Normally a sold out event, the tournament rests in the capable hands of Paul Doyle and his terrific committee. For more information and to either purchase tickets, sponsor a hole or donate some prizes to our raffle, please visit our website at [www.spsmtl.com](http://www.spsmtl.com) or call Katie Irving at our office at 514-481-1346.

The "Season" may be over but the work of running your Society goes on. Initiatives are in the works to revitalize our youth wing, create another 5-year strategic plan and other new and exciting ideas. In order to keep our Members up to date with what your Board of Directors is up to, we are holding a General Meeting

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## A word from the President cont.

By Scott Phelan

for all members at St. Patrick's Square on Wednesday June 14th at 7 p.m. Please set aside the date and watch for more information in your inbox in the coming weeks. It's important that we have your guidance and support in making these decisions and launching these new projects. So, please plan to attend.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Society's Executive, Board of Directors, Chairs of all of the committees, committee members and volunteers for their service and tireless energy and enthusiasm in all the work that they do on behalf of our Society and our community.

I look forward to seeing a large number of members at the Walk to the Stone, the Golf Tournament and the June General Meeting. In the meantime, enjoy the lovely spring weather and be well. Cheers!



Cont. from page 1

He recognized the sacrifices made in Ireland to achieve the now "firmly established economic recovery" after the terrible market free-fall: forecasting GDP growth of 4.3% for 2017; more than 2 million people employed, the highest level since 2008; exceptionally strong export growth recently and the continuing Foreign Direct Investment contribution to Ireland's economic development and growth (over 1,300 foreign owned companies set up in Ireland). He credits membership of the EU as key to the country's success and transformation to a tertiary economy in industries such as Biotech, Pharmaceutical, IT, Financial Services and Telecommunications. The open and competitive economy benefits from membership of the Single Market are clear: free trade with over 500 million people; free to travel, live and work across the EU and full access to EU trade agreements with other major markets including CETA.

He explained that Ireland respects Great Britain's decision to exit the EU although he believes that it's not good for either party. As Ireland works on its economic post-Brexit strategy, the country will remain a central member of the EU, working for outcomes that are best for Ireland and for Europe, "guided by the original principles of our union, peace and prosperity and strength in unity." This includes protecting the Northern Ireland Peace Process, minimizing any negative economic impact and maintaining the Common Travel Area with Britain.

The Taoiseach predicted that Ireland would be "an important bridge between Canada and the EU" as Ireland will be the only English-speaking country in the EU. Furthermore, with a well-educated and talented pool of resources, a business friendly environment, a competitive corporation tax regime and strong incentives for research and development, the Taoiseach quoted the 2016 IMD Competitiveness Ranking for Ireland as 7th in the world and the Forbes magazine "best Country in the Eurozone in which to do business for 2016".

The Taoiseach also outlined the importance of CETA for both sides of the Atlantic: the removal of over 99% of tariffs, an end to limitations in access to public contracts, opening-up of the services market and predictable

conditions for investors. And he hopes to see it in effect at the earliest opportunity.

Recognizing the core values of our two countries and the already close collaboration on the political and economic world stage including responses to the needs of most vulnerable, the Taoiseach stated: "Truth and integrity are swamped in the seas of social media comment, allegation becomes conviction, rumour becomes belief and fake news becomes reality. The challenge of politics is to stand up against that, to be believed and to win trust in a time of extraordinary change and challenge in peoples' lives. Canada plays, and will play its part in winning that battle. Ireland will do likewise in answering that call."

For the full transcript of the standing-ovation speech delivered by Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny TD visit: [http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/News/Taoiseach's\\_Speeches/Speech\\_by\\_the\\_Taoiseach\\_Mr\\_Enda\\_Kenny\\_TD\\_at\\_Chamber\\_of\\_Commerce\\_of\\_Metropolitan\\_Montreal\\_International\\_Leaders\\_Luncheon\\_Thursday\\_4th\\_May\\_2017.html](http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/News/Taoiseach's_Speeches/Speech_by_the_Taoiseach_Mr_Enda_Kenny_TD_at_Chamber_of_Commerce_of_Metropolitan_Montreal_International_Leaders_Luncheon_Thursday_4th_May_2017.html)



Photos: St. Patrick's Society

An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny with Scott Phelan

During the day, Taoiseach Enda Kenny also met current and potential investors in Ireland and visited the School of Irish studies at Concordia University. Read about the visit to the School of Irish Studies where the Taoiseach also met with the local Irish Diaspora: <https://www.concordia.ca/cunews/artsci/irish-studies/2017/05/11/historic-visit-of-the-irish-prime-minister-to-irish-studies.html?c=artsci/irish-studies>



## We had a ball...

By Kim Hogan



What better way to kick off this year's Irish season than with a Ball at the Chalet at the Kondiaronk lookout atop Mount Royal, overlooking our fabulous and magnificent city of Montreal.

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal could not have picked a better location for this year's Annual Charity Ball. The beautiful Chalet adorned in Emerald green and elegantly decorated served as the ideal backdrop to an Irish Festival kicking off Montreal's 375th anniversary, and coinciding with Canada's 150th celebrations. The gala occasion brought together the numerous

Irish organizations in Montreal as one large family — celebrating alongside many other Montrealers of various backgrounds and origins, who for the evening also became part of the extended Irish family.



Photos: St. Patrick's Society

Mike Nelson (President, Irish Protestant Benevolent Society), Tim Furlong (President, Erin Sports Association), Scott Phelan (President, St. Patrick's Society of Montreal), His Excellency Jim Kelly (Irish Ambassador to Canada), Russell Copeman (Borough Mayor of Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), Danny Doyle (President, United Irish Societies of Montreal) and Jason MacCallum (Vice-President, St. Andrew's Society of Montreal)

### True IRISH Spirit !

The -17C temperature outside the Chalet that evening did not stop the close to 350 revellers from truly enjoying the traditional warmth and atmosphere of an event that annually kicks off Spring. In fact, many of the crowd were daring enough to venture outside to grab a quick photo or selfie of their group with the city's picturesque and

## ... What a ball!

beautifully-lit skyline in the background. But the true Irish festivities would be had inside.

The “Quatuor Trad de Montréal” string quartet performed during the cocktails and delicious Irish-theme hors d’oeuvres, including Guinness Beer Battered Fish ‘N Chip, Corned Beef & Cabbage Sliders, and Miniature Irish-style Bangers & Mash. Returning musical favorites, The Director’s Showband, would later ensure that the dancefloor was filled all night long, in between the five-star five-course Irish-Quebec themed meal served by the event and culinary team of Eventure. As a salute to Montreal’s 375th Anniversary, dance troupes from the four founding communities, as depicted on the City’s flag, entertained us with their homage to their respective cultural traditions. Montreal’s Irish, Scottish, English and French heritages were indeed well represented by the gifted performances and talents of the “Bernadette Short School Celtic Grace Dancers”, the “Montreal Highland Dancers”, “Les Phenix”, and “La R’Voyure Projet Trad”.

Special Guest of Honour for this year’s edition was His Excellency, Jim Kelly, Ireland’s Ambassador to Canada and his wife, Anne Martin. Unfortunately due to illness, Mayor Denis Coderre was unable to attend the long-awaited event. However, Russell Copeman, borough mayor of Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, did attend, representing the Mayor and the City.

Among the many head table guests were the Honorary Co-Chairs for the evening: Mrs. Teresa Dellar, Executive Director of West Island Palliative Care Residence; the Honorable Pierrette Sévigny, Retired Quebec Superior Court Justice; and Maitre Richard McConomy, President of St. Patrick Square.



But perhaps one of the best showstoppers was saved for last, when later in the evening, partygoers believed they were magically transported to Ireland itself. The black curtains dropped to unveil the opening of Hurley’s Irish Pub and the fabulous Celtic band “Solistice” took the stage. The fervour and pace of the dance floor reached even greater heights. The party had just begun.

### All for a GREAT CAUSE

This year, the generous proceeds from the evening’s Silent Auction and the Patrons’ Fund will benefit not only the Society’s charitable endeavours, but also contribute to supporting the West Island Palliative Care Residence in the compassionate care that they provide to terminally ill patients. We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who generously bid on a long array of outstanding auction items.

Heading up the generous community support for this year’s event were our Corporate Sponsors, who truly made the evening a great success: “Enviro Air”, “Hurley’s Irish Pub”, “Irish Embassy Pub & Grill”, “Loyola High School”, “McCarthy Tétrault”, “National Bank”, “Power Corporation”, “Royal Bank” and “Ville de Montréal”. Thank you to all and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

A final high-five goes out to the extraordinary Ball committee, who generously gave of their time and effort in the numerous months leading up to the event: Scott Phelan (chair), Laurie Bennett, Christie Brown, Maria Cook, myself, Kim Hogan, Ken Quinn, Patrick Short, and Sheila Showers. Well done, folks! And now take a quick **short** break – and then we’ll begin the planning for next year. Cheers to all! **Sláinte!**



## THE BEST EVER...

By Carol McCormick, luncheon chair

"THE BEST EVER!" Not my words, but those of this year's attendees of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal's 184th. St. Patrick's Day Luncheon.

This year, it was held at the Plaza Centre-Ville (EVO) on Robert Bourassa, Montréal. We began the festivities at 11:00 a.m. with music from "Solstice". Five hundred people mingled while enjoying a glass of spirits. Our Head Table Guests were treated to canapés as they met each other before lining up for the traditional procession into the ballroom.



The Head Table

The ballroom décor had a touch of the Irish with soft green bows tied to each white covered chair. Beautiful spring table centerpieces from "NDG Florist" and candelabras at the Head Table completed the ambiance.

Our procession of Honored Guests was piped in by our ever faithful bagpiper, Jeff McCarthy. Our Irish and Canadian anthems were once again sung by the lovely Kathleen McAuliffe accompanied by "Solstice".



The luncheon started with an exotic salad of raspberry and goat cheese, followed by the main course of short beef rib with pepper sauce and a trio mousse dessert completed the meal.

The toast to Ireland was given by Ms. Elizabeth Keogh, Second Secretary Irish Embassy of Ottawa, and the toast to Canada by Dr. Michael Kenneally, Honorary Consul General of Ireland. Grace was said by Rev. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt Pastor of St. Andrew and St. Paul and the Most Reverend Thomas Dowd Bishop and Vicar General of the English Montreal Diocese.

Our Montreal Mayor, Mr. Denis Coderre, now known as Mayor O'Coderre every March 17th was introduced by our President, Mr. Scott Phelan to say a few words.



Mayor Denis Coderre addresses the community

Our Community Award recipient this year was presented to Ms. Lisa Forget by Mr. Ken Quinn, one of St. Patrick's Society's Vice Presidents and Historian for the Irish community.



Scott Phelan presents a gift to Lisa Forget, watched by Ken Quinn

The focal point at all our luncheons is the keynote address and this year's Guest Speaker did not disappoint us. During my introduction of both Bob and John Rae, I reminded everyone of the year 2010 when John introduced his brother Bob as Guest Speaker. The light-heartedness and commentaries from each sibling won over the audience. I knew then that sometime

## ...St. Patrick's Day Luncheon!

in the future we had to have them back. However, this time we reversed the roles. Bob introduced John and the pleasure and joy to hear them once again was equally a success as it was in 2010.

Touristique du Mexique. We thank them so much for their generosity. I want to thank all of you who were there in support of our fundraising event. I need not tell you that such an event



Bob Rae introduces the keynote speaker, his brother



John Rae delivers ...



John Rae takes it all in

Photos: St. Patrick's Society



... and the audience loves it, myself included

For those of you who may not be familiar with Bob and John Rae, allow me to present them to you. Mr. Bob Rae is the former Premier of Ontario and former Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada. Mr. John Rae is the Executive Vice-President of Power Corporation of Canada. With one in politics and the other in business, the rhetoric of their life experiences both in and out of their professional life was priceless.

as this is not achieved by one person but by a committee of dedicated, hard working people and they were the following: Laurie Bennett, Christie Brown, Ann Marie Butts, Louise Guimond, Kate Irving, Jim Killin, Paul Loftus, Ann McMahon Rusnak, Brian Payne, Kimberly Payne, Scott Phelan, Ken Quinn and Patrick Short. Volunteers were Roberta Bennett, Maureen Irving, Richard Sims and Dave Supleve.

Comments after the Luncheon were nothing but praise for these two fine gentlemen who are known to give of their time to helping societies such as ours to achieve our goals of helping the community.

I wish you a wonderful summer and hope to see you all at the next St. Patrick's Day Luncheon in 2018.

According to those in attendance, this year's Luncheon was a great success. We added a new feature this year, a Raffle for a 5-night stay at a 5 star hotel in Puerto Vallarta courtesy of Aero Mexico and the Conseil de Promotion



## Walk to the Park - to preserve from desecration!

By Victor Boyle, President, A.O.H.

Records show that the Ancient Order of Hibernians performed a religious ceremony at the site of the Black Rock as early as 1862. There is no indication as to attendance. The ceremony became more formal in 1865 as membership grew. It continues today as the Annual *Walk to the Stone*.

In 1870 an Irish priest, Father M.B. Buckley, in North America collecting money to build the cathedral at Cork, visited the "Irish Stone monument". Changes that have since altered the appearance of the area around the stone had not yet obliterated the marks of the tragedy. "I came down with Father Hogan", Father Buckley wrote, "to see the spot where so many of my fellow countrymen so miserably perished. There was the desolate spot, enclosed by a fragile paling, there the numerous mounds and, above all, in the centre, an enormous stone. "May God have mercy on their souls!"

Their inscription haunts me:

To  
 preserve from desecration  
 the remains of 6000 immigrants  
 who died of ship fever  
 A.D. 1847-48  
 this stone  
 is erected by the workmen of  
 Messrs. Peto, Brassey and Betts  
 employed in the construction  
 of the  
 Victoria Bridge  
 A.D. 1859

To preserve from desecration.....

That 20-ton stone that stands guard over the hopes and dreams of the "Children of the Gael who died in their thousands, having fled from the laws of the foreign tyrants and an artificial famine in the years 1847-1848.", has not had an easy time fulfilling that promise. The razing of Goose Village, the construction of the Autostad.....

In 1900, the Grand Trunk Railway decided to shift the stone several streets away to St. Patrick Square. The railway consulted nobody; it made no public announcement. About nine o'clock on the morning of December 21, 1900, hoping a controversy would be avoided by moving quickly and quietly, the "Irish Stone" was hauled up with a big steam derrick; run on a flatcar along the track on St. Patrick Street and deposited in



Black Rock photo, 1859

The workmen who had set up that enormous stone – themselves long passed - had intended it to stand on the spot forever "while grass grows and water flows."

a corner of the Square.

It was not long before the railway realized its mistake.

The Irish community was in an uproar. Spearheaded by

## Walk to the Park - to preserve from desecration! cont.

the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Saint Patrick's Society, it demanded that the monument be restored immediately to its original and rightful place. Years passed in inconclusive controversy. In 1910, the Grand Trunk made a formal application to the Board of Railway Commissioners asking for the right to expropriate the old site in order to improve the approach to Victoria Bridge. The board announced its decision in 1911. The land was reduced to a quarter of its original size. The stone was to be shifted about fifteen feet to the east from where it had at first stood. The Bishop of Montreal (at that time Right Reverend John C. Farthing) sold the land to the Grand Trunk. The railway assumed responsibility for its perpetual maintenance. (!?)

With this supposed compromise between sentiment and utility in place, the issue remained settled for half a century - until Montreal began to make plans for Expo '67.

With Bridge Street needing to be widened and straightened, the "Irish Stone" was again standing in the path of progress. Councilors Kenneth McKenna and John Lynch-Staunton spoke up in defense of the stone. It was sacred in the eyes of the Irish community, they insisted; it must not be disturbed. A committee was formed and consultations with the civic administration took place. At the meeting of City Council on June 21, 1966, Chairman of Montreal's Executive Committee, Lucien Saulnier announced that Montreal's planning and public works department had worked out a solution. The "Irish Stone" would remain unmoved. Bridge Street would be changed instead. It would pass on either side of a central dividing mall. On this mall, the stone would stand, with its site extended at both ends.

Now this most scarred Irish monument, the first in the world dedicated to the Great Hunger, remains isolated in the centre of a grassy island. Cut off from its community, in a prison, held guard by passing cars driven by motorists blissfully unaware that they are desecrating the graves of 6,000 Irish.

For more than 150 years, on the last Sunday in May the Ancient Order of Hibernians Canada host the Walk to the Stone. One day out of 365, for forty-five minutes about two hundred and fifty die-hard Irish participate.



Black Rock, Parade 2017

Some media coverage is provided each year as a human interest story about the "plucky" Irish.

But we're aging - some of us - and we need to remember the commitment of the workers: to preserve from desecration.

The Walk to the Stone may be a simple ceremony but with sufficient turnout it does afford us the opportunity to draw attention to the bigger story of the site - a story that begins in tragedy, includes unselfish heroism and ends in the building of a City and a Country.

Heroes like Montreal Mayor John Easton Mill who was neither Catholic nor Irish; the Grey Nuns; the Sulpician priests, British soldiers, the First Nations who shared crops and offered what little money they had; the French Montrealers who adopted the orphans; and Anglican clergy such as Reverend Mark Willoughby, the first Rector of Trinity Anglican Church who organized a band of workers from his congregation.

Through the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation, the Irish community has set out to tell that incredible story by developing the land from Rue des Irlandais on the south up to and including the lot containing the large cement blocks to the north into an all-season and self-sustaining commemorative site.

Take a look: [www.MontrealIrishMonument.com](http://www.MontrealIrishMonument.com).



Please. Participate in this year's Walk. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors so we can one day "Walk to the Park". All are most welcome.

Sunday May 28th at St. Gabriel's Church at 2157 Centre Street. Mass is at 10:00AM, the Walk starts after mass at noon. A bus is provided for those with difficulties.

To preserve from desecration.....



# Tara Golf Club 2016 round-up and teeing off for 2017

By Denis Trudel, President Tara Golf Club



Eternal optimists that we are, we are already looking forward to the 2017 golf season and the Tara Golf tournament schedule for 2017.

2016 was a real turnaround year for Tara Golf as we pursued many initiatives to make our presence more visible through the continued development of our website, [www.taragolf.ca](http://www.taragolf.ca), our new Facebook presence, walking in the Hudson Saint-Patrick's Day Parade as well as our participation with a refreshment booth in the SPS Charity Golf Tournament.

Our tournament schedule kept us in tip-top golf shape in 2016 with six tournaments and seven golf dates which were all well attended. Five of the six venues were new this year including our two-day weekend get-together in St-Jean de Matha which was hugely successful and blessed with the luck of the Irish in terms of good weather, good food, good drink, good company and good golfing. We look forward to returning this year.

Our end-of-year tournament in Hemmingford was equally crowned with success as was the competition to take home the prestigious **Aer Lingus Trophy**. This year, a full contingent of contenders from various proud Irish societies vied for the long-standing Aer Lingus trophy.

We thank the following teams for having made this the most competitive field in many years: St. Patrick's Society, United Irish Societies, Erin Sports Association, Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club, Montreal Shamrocks Gaelic Athletic Association, Ancient Order of Hibernians and, of course, our very own Tara Golf team. With just a few blades of bent bluegrass making the difference in the final stroke tally, the Tara Golf team was victorious by one stroke over the second-place Montreal Shamrocks Gaelic Athletic Association. We, the members and executives of Tara Golf, were honoured by your lively presence, competitive and fun spirit and we look forward to vigorously defend our hold on the Aer Lingus Trophy this year against all of you again on **September 30th, 2017 at the Caughnawaga Golf Club**.

Should any other Irish association or club be interested in forming a team and competing in this year's edition of the Aer Lingus Trophy, please contact Ann Butts at [ann.butts@taragolf.ca](mailto:ann.butts@taragolf.ca) for more information.



Aer Lingus Trophy Winners - Tara Golf



Montreal Shamrocks Gaelic Athletic Association



United Irish Societies

If you are a golfer, irrespective of your handicap, we urge you to consider joining Tara Golf and connecting with a fine bunch of people who are proud to represent and promote the Irish fact in Montreal and throughout Quebec, through the social interactions provided by the game of golf and its associated activities. Please visit our website for information on how to join. Membership fees are very affordable (\$30 in 2016) and contribute towards the prizes, trophies and engraving.

Enjoy the rest of the Spring season and we look forward to seeing you on the links shortly.

# Congratulations to all Aer Lingus Golf Trophy participants!



Ancient Order of Hibernians



Erin Sports Association



St. Patrick's Society



Montreal Irish Rugby Club

## 2017 Season Line-up

- May 13 2017 - Tara Golf Association Opening Tournament - Club de Golf, Piedmont
- June 10th 2017 - Tara Golf Association Tournament - Club de Golf St. Zotique
- July 15-16 2017 - Tara Golf Association Weekend Tournament - Club de Golf St-Jean-de-Matha
- August 5 2017 - Tara Golf Association Summer Tournament - Golf des Iles, Boucherville
- September 9 2017 - Tara Golf Association Team Skins Game - Club de Golf La Cite, Hawkesbury
- September 30 2017 - Tara Golf Association Presidents Trophy & Aer Lingus Competition (Irish societies competition)
- Caughnawaga Golf Club

To register for any and all of these competitions, please contact: the Tournament Director, Ann Butts: [ann.butts@taragolf.ca](mailto:ann.butts@taragolf.ca)



## SPS Annual Charity Golf Tournament **June 20, 2017**, Club de Golf Bellevue, Ville de Lery, Quebec

By Paul Doyle, Chairman

Mark your calendars as it's about that time again to register for the St. Patrick's Annual Golf Tournament. This fundraising event will take place at the stunning Club de Golf Bellevue in Chateauguay on June 20th, 2017. The ticket cost is \$150 and this includes breakfast, green fees, golf cart, roast beef dinner and wine. Breakfast commences at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. This year, the raffle will be another big hit with a value of more than \$25,000 in fabulous prizes.

Join the Society on June 20th in one of their major fundraising events. One does not have to be the greatest golfer to participate as this is a fun tournament that even sells "mulligans" to help you with your game. This event sells out quickly, so, don't forget to register at [www.spsmtl.com](http://www.spsmtl.com) or call our office manager Katie Irving at 514-481-1346. If you are interested in sponsoring a hole or to get your name or company in the program, please call the Chair of the golf committee, Paul Doyle, at 514-481-3503. Don't miss out on this popular tournament that has become one of the major contributors to the Society's cultural, charitable and educational endeavours. Fore!

# Ciné Gael's 25th anniversary season round-up

By Tim Hine

Having kicked off in January with the hilarious caper-comedy, "Young Offenders", on May 4th, Ciné Gael Montreal wrapped up our 25th anniversary season with the award-winning, poignant and very modern comedy/drama, "A Date for Mad Mary". At the reception following the film, whilst enjoying the wine and delicious snacks, our faithful members and newcomers to our festival discussed what a stellar season it had been. I was delighted to hear that there was no consensus on a favourite, a testament to the eclectic strengths of the films. This column does not allow space to give the warranted praise for each of the films, so I invite you to visit our website for all the details: [www.cinegaelmontreal.com](http://www.cinegaelmontreal.com)

However, apart from the two films mentioned above, selective highlights were the powerful documentary "66 Days" about Bobby Sands' hunger strike, the delightful, groundbreaking coming-of-age comedy, "Handsome Devil", and, of course, an amazing weekend dedicated to Women in Irish Film.

For the weekend, we had the great pleasure of welcoming Dr. Annie Doona, Chair of the Irish Film Board and President of the I.A.D.T., as our guest. She not only gave a series of illuminating and entertaining lectures on the struggles women in Irish film have faced and the current status, but, having had all the filmmakers as students and now friends, was able to give an invaluable personal perspective. Cathy Brady, one the exciting new crop of young, female directors, joined us for a live



Photo: Martina Branagan

On behalf of Ciné Gael, Tim Hine presents Marie Vallely with a parting gift and best wishes for her new life in Ottawa.

Skype Q&A from outside a pub in Galway and answered questions from the audience about her television series, "Can't Cope, Won't Cope", and the three short films we had screened. We ended Annie's visit with Aisling Walsh's astonishing, award winning, biopic, "Maudie", with the special treat of anecdotal stories from Pamela Cowan, whose family knew Maud Lewis well, and a special chance to see one of the paintings up close.

The evening of Short films was, as ever, superb, making the audience smile, laugh, cry and seethe, instigating highly animated discussion as they left and, I imagine, all the way home.

Thanks to all our sponsors, to our hard-working committee of volunteers and to all the filmmakers who joined us for live Skype conversations despite being 2:30 a.m. in Ireland.

We are already working on the 2018 season and please stay tuned for details on a member's evening.



Photo: Martina Branagan

L to R: Antoine Maloney, Dana Hearne, Tim Hine, Lynn Doyle, David Hanley and Marie Vallely  
Missing committee members are:  
Heather Macdougall, Kester Dyer, Emer O'Toole and Patrick Brodie

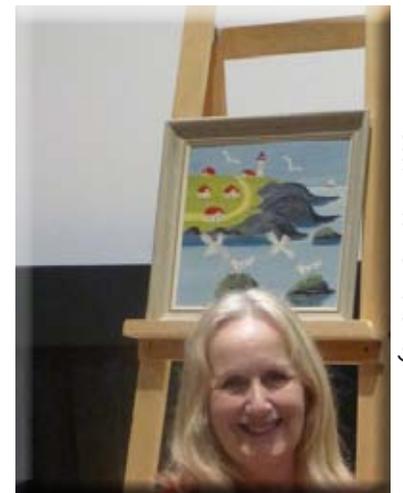


Photo: Antoine Maloney

Annie Doona posing in front of the Maud Lewis painting an owner showed us after the screening of "Maudie"

# Last thoughts on Martin McGuinness

By Jim Mc Dermott

Martin McGuinness' recent passing was a sad moment in the shared history of the island of Ireland. His life is an epic portrayal of one of Ireland's greatest sons. His unrelenting rise to power was astonishing.

Looking back at his life's extraordinary journey, his achievements including the leadership shown during the implementation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and his consistent, responsible support for devolution of the power in the North, will be marked down in history as some of the most important efforts towards peace in Ireland. Given better health, he could have devoted many more years to the cause he espoused but his record is substantial nevertheless.

As a peacemaker, Martin McGuinness was a figure well known on the world stage and together with Gerry Adams developed a close relationship with Nelson Mandela over many years. Speaking at a private luncheon in Dublin in 2000, about a year after his retirement as South African president, Mr. Mandela told news reporters of his admiration for McGuinness. This was seven years before Mr. McGuinness became deputy first minister, but it was clear Mr. Mandela regarded him very highly and was determined to stress their friendship.

Others however, will see Martin's life very differently, some very critically, based on their own perspectives. Emerging from the North's conflict, that's understandable. No path is perfect. In his remarkable rapport with the nationalist nemesis, Ian Paisley, Martin McGuinness came to epitomise the peace process. At Stormont, he sought to disarm and persuade his most bitter detractors through his natural charm and gift for friendship. At the end of the day, there can be no doubt that history will view Martin in a positive light, as a man of war who became a man of peace.

I remember watching the moving funeral coverage of Martin's McGuinness final procession. The beauty of Frances Black's voice, the Irish singer who stood beside his tricolored draped coffin and sang a moving rendition of Patrick Kavanagh's "Raglan Road". Then a piper played a sad lament. And inside the church, former US president, Bill Clinton declared that he will forever treasure Martin McGuinness' friendship.

Rest peacefully Martin.

P.S. "History", Stephen said, "is a nightmare from which I am trying to awaken." James Joyce, "Ulysses"

<http://www.irishcentral.com>



Martin McGuinness with former U.S. President Bill Clinton, Nov. 1995, Ireland.

NUACHT

<http://www.irishtimes.com>



First Minister Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness in 2007 shortly after being sworn into office

<http://www.derryjournal.com>



Martin McGuinness with his wife, Bernie, visiting Nelson Mandela in South Africa

<http://o.canada.com>



Queen Elizabeth with Ireland's President Michael D Higgins (R) greet Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness (L), First Minister Peter Robinson (2nd L) and Britain's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Theresa Villiers (3rd L) during a Northern Ireland-themed reception at Windsor Castle on April 10, 2014. Luke MacGregor, WPA Pool/Getty Images.



# News from the School of Irish Studies at Concordia University

By Marion Mulvenna, Irish Studies

Intensive two-week summer course:

[Evolution of the Irish Cultural Landscape, 1600-2017](#)

August 14 to 24, 2017, taught by [Dr. Kevin Whelan](#), Director of the Keough Naughton Notre Dame Centre in Dublin



This course will use the Irish landscape as a text to explore the evolution of Ireland from the early modern period to the present day. It will be interdisciplinary in focus, with a concentration on the interaction among geography, history and literature. Environmental themes will include vernacular housing, bogs, woodlands and settlement. The course will explore the Irish language dimension embedded in the landscape, ranging from placenames to Irish traditional music. The course will also cover how the Irish landscape has been represented in arts and film. Historical topics examined will include colonialism, landlordism, the Famine, emigration, and the Troubles. Among writers addressed will be Jonathan Swift, Maria Edgeworth, W.B. Yeats, James Joyce, Brian Friel, Edna O'Brien, John McGahern, Seamus Heaney and Alannah O'Kelly.

While in Montreal, Kevin Whelan will give a public lecture on [Friday, August 18](#). More information will be posted on the website of the School of Irish Studies. [cdnirish.concordia.ca](http://cdnirish.concordia.ca)

Dr. Maureen Murphy, Co-Director of the undergraduate Irish Studies minor at Hofstra University, Long Island, New York will be the [Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar](#) at the School for fall 2017. While at Concordia, Professor Murphy will teach two courses and give a public lecture.

## Highlights of Irish Literature

Ireland is home to some of the greatest and most influential writers in the world. With four winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature (W.B. Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett and Seamus Heaney), Ireland boasts a disproportionately large number of influential writers. Such writers have been instrumental in the development of literary movements and genres such as romanticism, realism, modernism, postmodernism, avant-garde theatre, satire, and the gothic, and have contributed to innovating the novel and poetic forms. This course introduces students to some of the best-known and influential Irish texts, placing them in their cultural and literary backgrounds and exploring their resonances through to the present day. Texts will include such classics as *Gulliver's Travels* and *Dracula*, plays by Samuel Beckett and Oscar Wilde, fiction by Elizabeth Bowen and Maeve Brennan as well as the innovations of more contemporary writers such as Kevin Barry and Anne Enright.

## Irish Mythology and Folklore

This course explores Irish culture through folklore and myth — in particular, their manifestations in Irish music, literature, performing arts, and cinema. It addresses the significance of myth and folklore in written and oral history, traditions, and iconography. The course focuses on the forms, functions, and influences of Irish legends, myths, and folktales that attract learned and popular interest in Ireland and abroad.

[Bloomsday Montreal](#), the literary festival centred around Irish author, James Joyce's "Ulysses" runs from June 10 to 16, including activities related to the School of Irish Studies:

On June 12, [Meet the Author](#) – Academic Panel at Concordia Denis Sampson opens up his recent book, "The Found Voice: Writers' Beginnings", Oxford University Press, followed by academic panels at the School of Irish Studies with graduate students; including presentations in French. Concordia University, Hall building, 10th floor, 1455 Boulevard de Maisonneuve O. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free!

On June 14, [Principal Michael Kenneally](#) will give the keynote lecture at this year's Bloomsday Montreal Festival. Titled, "[Introducing Mr. Joyce's Ulysses](#)", the lecture will take place in The Jewish Public Library, 5151 Cote Ste. Catherine Road, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., \$15.

More information: [bloomsdaymontreal.com](http://bloomsdaymontreal.com)



# Donations for Scholarship Honouring Gus O’Gorman Continue to Grow

By Marion Mulvenna, Irish Studies

## 2017/18 Courses in Irish Studies

### SUMMER 2017

The Evolution of the Irish Cultural Landscape 1600-2017

### FALL 2017

- Introduction to Canadian Irish Studies
- The Irish Home: Food, Space and Agency
- Irish Literary Revival
- The Irish in Montreal
- History of Ireland
- Classics of Irish Theatre
- The Troubles in Northern Ireland
- Sexualities in the Irish Diaspora
- Irish Cultural Traditions in Quebec
- Highlights of Irish Literature
- Irish Mythology and Folklore
- Celtic Christianity

### FALL/WINTER 2017-2018

- Irish Language & Culture I
- Irish Language & Culture II

### WINTER 2018

- The Irish in Canada
- Nationalism & Unionism in Scotland & Ireland
- Intercultural Ireland: Film, Theatre & TV
- Research Methods in Irish Studies
- History of Early and Medieval Ireland
- The Irish Literary Revival
- Contemporary Irish Theatre
- Irish Film Studies
- Rebellions in Ireland and the Canadas



Photo: Judith and David Schurman

Dr. Gus O’Gorman donning another hat at the Bloomsday Festival, Victoria Hall, Westmount, June 2016

With the help of many donors, we are delighted that more than \$26,000 has been raised towards our goal of \$50,000. This amount will generate an annual scholarship of \$2,500 to send a student each year to an intensive Irish language course in Carraroe, County Galway. The Gus O’Gorman Irish Language Scholarship will be a permanent recognition of all that Gus did to promote the Irish language and culture in Montreal and Canada.

It would be wonderful if you would join us in this effort. Your tax-deductible donation would be an important step in reaching our goal and you can do so by contacting the School at 514-848-2424 Ext. 8711.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Pamela McGovern  
Chair

Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

Michael Kenneally  
Principal

School of Irish Studies

## Community Service Day at Sacred Heart

By Isabel Brinck

The Sacred Heart School of Montreal is committed to educating to a social awareness which impels action. At Sacred Heart, the pre-eminent all-girls English Catholic high school, students exceed their volunteer requirement by contributing annually, as a whole school, to “Community Service Day”. This event, in its 6th edition, took place on Wednesday, April 12. All students and faculty from the school volunteered for 22 local non-profit organizations, including Sun Youth, Chez Doris and the NDG Food Depot.



Sorting donated food at SunYouth, April 12 © Julie Beaudet



Robin Burns, inspirational speaker, April 12. (c) Megan Littman

Truly a student-led initiative, Sacred Heart’s Community Service Day was launched in 2012 and is now organized by the grade 10 Leadership Elective class. The students choose and contact each charity, organize the student and faculty volunteers and transportation logistics, among other tasks. Danielle Lecuyer, Student Life Coordinator, highlights that Community Service Day “is a unique, student-led initiative that involves the entire school coming together to reach out to our community. This represents what we stand for the most!” Ms. Lecuyer teaches the Leadership elective with Megan Littman, Athletic Director.

## Irish Community welcome for Mr. Breen

By Paul Loftus

Pat Breen, Minister for Employment and Small Business, Government of Ireland led a trade mission from Ireland to Montreal from April 4th to 8th. He was accompanied by Kevin Vickers, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland. In addition, a number of executives from the Shannon Group were with them. The members of the trade mission met with several companies in Montreal including Air Canada, Montreal International, Keyword Studios, a number of aviation companies and Mayor Denis Coderre.

As there was no official function planned for the Tuesday evening Paul Loftus, in cooperation with Ambassador Vickers, agreed on a reception for the visitors to give them an opportunity to meet members of the local Irish Community. The event was held at the Irish Embassy Pub and Grill on Bishop Street.



Left to right - Kevin Vickers, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland; Jim Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada; Pat Breen, Minister for Employment and Small Business, Government of Ireland; Danny Doyle, President, United Irish Societies of Montreal; Paul Loftus

Paul started the evening by welcoming the visitors from Ireland and then provided a little background on the organizers of the evening's event. In addition to Paul, there were Victor Boyle, National President, Ancient Order of Hibernians who unfortunately couldn't be at the reception because of business commitments in the US; Ronan Corbett, Immediate Past President, Gaelic Athletic Association; and Lynn Doyle, President, Ciné Gael.

During the evening, background music was provided by the musicians of the GAA. They're earning an excellent reputation for their musical ability.

The elected representatives from the provincial and federal governments who normally attend these functions couldn't be there as the houses were sitting in Quebec City and Ottawa. However, Lisa Montgomery, assistant to Marc Miller, MP for Ville Marie, the South West and Nun's Island attended.

The Guests of Honour for the evening, Minister Pat Breen and Ambassador Vickers were accompanied

by Jim Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada. Also present, representing the Irish Government were Michael Kenneally, Honorary Consul General of Ireland in Montreal and Michael Hurley, Deputy Head of Mission, Ottawa. In attendance from Toronto were Neil Cooney, Senior Vice-President/Country Manager, Canada, Enterprise Ireland and Dana Welch, Manager Canada, Tourism Ireland.

The Shannon Group was represented by: Matthew Thomas, CEO; Marie Slattery, Head of Marketing; Andrew Murphy, Managing Director, Shannon Airport; Declan Power, Head of Aviation Development, Shannon Airport and Patrick Edmond, Group Strategy Director/Managing Director, International Aviation Services Centre.

The following Presidents of Irish Societies were present: Danny Doyle, United Irish Societies, Lynn Doyle, Ciné Gael, Paul Loftus, University College Dublin Alumni Association and Vivian Doyle-Kelly, Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the following members of the Executive of St. Patrick's Society attended: Christie Brown, Vice President; Laurie Bennett, Treasurer and Carol McCormick, Secretary.

The Guest of Honour, Minister Pat Breen was introduced by Ambassador Kelly. Minister Breen spoke enthusiastically about the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the European Union and Canada. He is convinced that it will be beneficial to both of our countries. He sees the agreement leading to strong economic growth in both Ireland and Canada as a result of the elimination of trade barriers. He also spoke of the important part being played in Ireland-Canada relations by the Irish Diaspora. He spoke of the cultural and sporting ties in addition to the trade and economic ones. Minister Breen emphasized the importance of connectivity and the trade mission has helped in this area.

He was followed by Ambassador Vickers. who emphasized the importance of increased awareness in Ireland of Canada in general. There is so much more awareness of the United States that Canada is often forgotten. The Ambassador is certainly playing his part in enhancing Canada's image in the Emerald Isle. The good news is that Mr. Vickers will be back in Canada again accompanying another Minister on a trade mission but they will be in Toronto and Ottawa.

Paul concluded the formalities by thanking the Montreal GAA musicians for providing the music; Paul Quinn, Owner, Irish Embassy and sponsor for the evening; Joe Cannon, Manager and all the staff at The Irish Embassy for their hospitality. He then thanked all for coming to welcome the visitors from Ireland.

# Dreams come true at World Championships of Irish Dance in Dublin

By Pat Short



James Houghton, Worlds U20

Dorval resident, Aselin Bates' dreams came true on April 9th, 2017 when she competed and won a World's Medal for 18th place out of 148 competitors in the Girls Under 11. Aselin was also in the highest placed dancer hailing from outside the Irish & British Islands. Aselin was one of 16 dancers from the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing who qualified for the Worlds and traveled to Ireland for a week in April.

Other recalls and finalists in the top thirty of their age group were: James Houghton 13th, Spencer Geary 22nd, and Meaghan Kilmartin 26th.

Five thousand eight hundred dancers from Irish dance schools around the world landed in Dublin. Each of these dancers had qualified for the World Championships by competing at the regional and national level in their own region. There were dancers from over 20 countries with the biggest representation from Ireland, England, Scotland, Canada, USA, and Australia.

This was the first year in 6 since the competition was held in Ireland and was a great adventure for all our Montreal and Shannon boys and girls. Many of the competitors were accompanied by family members and made a holiday of the visit.

The 41st annual **Ville-Marie Feis Montreal** will take place on **May 20th** at John Abbott College. This is an all schools event and we have dancers coming in from Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, New York, Vermont and Massachusetts for the event. This year, the Feis committee are offering an extended competitive program and are bringing back the famous Parent & Child competition. This is a wonderfully entertaining event.

Coming back to entertain with great Irish and Canadian Music, "Mariner's Curse", on our outdoor terrace. There will be a BBQ and beverage service also. Come with your friends as admission is FREE.

In other events, The Costello School had their second trip to Syracuse this year and brought home plenty of hardware, medals and trophies. Having won and placed at last year events, Casey's dancers advanced into higher levels of competition and those who competed did extremely well. For further information on Irish dancing in the Vaudreuil/Dorion/Hudson/St. Lazare areas contact [casey@costelloirishdance.ca](mailto:casey@costelloirishdance.ca)

In the Laval/Deux Montagnes, Eileen Moran teaches and she can be reached at [eileenmoran28@hotmail.com](mailto:eileenmoran28@hotmail.com) and in the Chateauguay area there are two schools Chateauguay Academy of Irish Dancing (Bernadette Short) [Bernadette@shortschoolirishdanc.com](http://Bernadette@shortschoolirishdanc.com) as well as The Young Academy (Janice Young) [youngirishdance@hotmail.com](mailto:youngirishdance@hotmail.com)



Bernadette Short & Meaghan Kilmartin

## People in the News

By Pat Short

We would like to congratulate a few new arrivals to the Montreal-Irish Community.



In Philadelphia, PA, **Cashel Patrick Dunn-Francoeur** arrived safely and weighed in at 9 lb 9 oz, to Julie Dunn and Conall on March 3rd 2017.

A very determined **Rosalind Afric Denise Gillespie**, Rosie to her friends, was delivered unto her surprised mother, Catherine Eustace, eight weeks early because it seems she wanted to have the same birthday as Conor, her three year-old brother – Valentine's Day (February 14). She weighed in at 4 lbs 1 oz and after a four-week stay in the MUHC Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) decided to join her mother and her father, Brian, in Montreal West. Rosie is doing fine. Catherine, Brian and Conor not so much.

**Nora Bridget Black** weighed in at 7 lb 12 oz on May 9th to Corey and Marie Short, a little sister for Thomas & Gavin.



Bernadette short with Nora

# Saint Colombans honour their Irish Heritage with a new street

By Fergus Keyes

On Thursday, March 16th 2017, I was honored to be invited by Mayor Jean Dumais of Saint-Colomban, to represent the Irish descendants at the unveiling of a new street in the town called "rue des Irlandais" (Irish Street; or Street of the Irish).

Saint Colomban (previously spelled with a "u" as in St. Columban) is located not far from Mirabel Airport and was, until just about the First World War, an almost 100% Irish community. A few years ago, a group of descendants of these Irish immigrants completed the restoration of the old cemetery in the community.

I was accompanied for this event by Victor Boyle, National President of the Canadian chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and by Scott Phelan, President of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal (SPS). It is likely that many of the original Irish settlers in St. Columban were members of the AOH, the SPS or both.



©gracieuserie

L to R: Chris Phelan, Scott Phelan, Victor Boyle, Fergus Keyes, Mayor Jean Dumais, Claude Burguignon (historian and author of "Saint-Colomban, une épopée irlandaise au piémont des Laurentides" and Linda Rivest, Managing Director of the Société d'histoire de la Rivière-du-Nord

Scott Phelan was with his brother Chris, since Scott was serving in two roles, one as the SPS President; as well as, with Chris, descendants of the well known Phelan family of St. Columban.

On hand also was Claude Bourguignon, our most favorite historian and author about everything to do with the Irish and St. Columban.

After the small ceremony to unveil this new street name, Mayor Dumais invited us all back to City Hall for a wee Guinness.



Photos: Fergus Keyes

The Phelan Brothers

And, on the way, we stopped so the Phelan Brothers could take a picture under another street sign, Phelan Street. (There is also a Phelan Park in Saint-Colomban).

At the Mayor's office we talked about the Irish and Saint-Colomban (Mayor Dumais is a big supporter of remembering the Irish roots of the town). We also talked about his effort to have a new school named after Emmett Hall. He was born in St. Columban and eventually became a judge on the Supreme Court of Canada. Mr. Hall also headed the Hall Commission that recommended that Canada have a trans-country medical system. Mr. Hall is considered by many as the real father of the Canadian Medicare System.

The Mayor also mentioned that they will have their 3rd Irish Heritage Day in Saint Colomban toward the end of August 2017 and more information will be posted about this event closer to the date.

So other than me spilling my Guinness all over a nice table in the Mayor's office, it was indeed a grand day for the Irish of St. Columban.



## Save the dates

### Bloomsday Festival

Various Locations 10-16 June 2017

The Bloomsday Festival caters for all tastes with a walking tour, films, music, storytelling, lectures, the proverbial brunch, Bloomsday readings and a Pub Quiz, exploring James Joyce and Irish culture, right here on your doorstep. Visit <https://bloomsdaymontreal.com/2017-events/> for more details and to reserve your place.

### St. Patrick's Society

General Meeting

14 June 2017

### St. Patrick's Square,

6767 Cote-St-Luc rd, McCormick Hall

Start Time: 7 p.m.

## One of our own crowns his big goal

By Carol McCormick, Proud Mom

One minute, my son, Robert Payne was moving from the “Champlain Cavaliers” Football team to coach at St. Mary’s University, Halifax when a phone-call from Cory McDiarmid, former coach at University of Ottawa, changed everything beyond his wildest dreams.

Aged twenty-nine, one of the younger members of St. Patrick’s Society which he joined two years ago, Rob was at a time in his life when he was planning his future. He always played at elite levels of sports such as hockey, soccer and football for Loyola High School as well as his city’s teams. He played football with the Greenfield Packers, Vanier College and with the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees. Like all of us, he had goals and dreams he wanted to fulfill. Of all the sports, football was his primary focus and now, he is on his way to fulfill one of his dreams: he has been hired onto the coaching staff for the Edmonton Eskimos. Starting May 2017, Rob will be an Offensive Assistant under Jason Maas and Carson Walch.

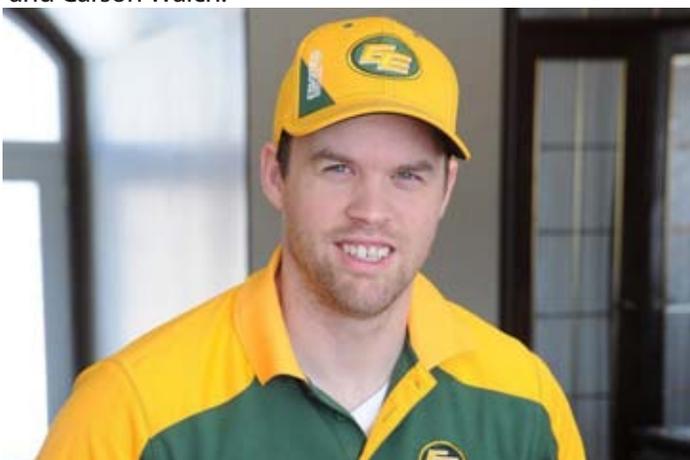


Photo: Denis Germain

Robert Payne, Offensive Quality Control Coach, Edmonton Eskimos

Needless to say, I’m absolutely thrilled for him and bombarded him with questions such as:

**Me:** How does it feel, son?

**Rob:** It’s a dream come true, Mom. You know that I’ve always wanted to coach in the pros...

**Me:** How did it happen?

**Rob:** Well, as you know, I believe in growing my “coaching tree” and I always maintain contact with my coaches ever since playing with the Ottawa Gee-Gees. When I decided to make the move to university level, I contacted coach Cory McDiarmid (the Special Team’s Coordinator at the Eskimos) to discuss the transition from CEGEP to University football. During the conversation, he mentioned that they might be looking for someone on the offensive side of the ball. He asked if it was something I would be interested in. I answered “Yes” not thinking much of it, as it was a long shot. Coach McDiarmid didn’t think they would call me but “You never know! I’ll put your name in the hat” he said. The next day Coach McDiarmid calls me to let me know that they had a meeting and they talked about me for quite some time, that maybe they would give me a call after all. The following day, that call came. We spoke for 45 minutes. He mentioned that I was very highly recommended so we didn’t talk much about

football, mostly about my responsibilities and the time huge time commitment this position requires.

**Me:** What happened next?

**Rob:** I had to get on a plane two days later for a 5-day work interview. We went over the entire offense, and spent 14–15 hour days watching game film and preparing the offense for the upcoming season. They wanted to see if I would grasp the information and the concepts they use, and if I could operate consistently with little sleep and long days. At the end of the 5 days, I was offered the position.

**Me:** Why do you think that the Eskimos chose you?

**Rob:** I think I had a few things going for me:

- my experience at Ottawa University - the coaches there were terrific e.g. Cory McDiarmid and Nelson Martin. Never too busy to sit with me, answer my questions and give me advice on my play/position.
- they suggested that I should consider coaching
- throughout my coaching years at the Champlain Cavaliers, I kept in touch with coaches McDiarmid and Nelson to discuss different plays etc. They were always generous with their time for which I will be forever grateful.
- The 2016 season - I was the Defensive Coordinator for the Champlain College Cavaliers in St. Lambert. They never lost a game and made it to the finals of the Bol d’Or. So proud of the guys and the 40-hour weeks they committed to...

**Me:** What do you think of what your friend, the Cavaliers Head Coach, Seb Deschamps had to say when he heard your good news: “I knew he would eventually make it to the pros. The entire defense he ran last year was CFL caliber. Every week, he found different ways to counter the opposing offense and that’s why he had success. He understands the defensive passing game like no-one else and has the ability to adjust on the fly. He has the drive, knowledge, resources and contacts to make it far in the coaching world.”

**Rob:** Seb is a smart guy who works hard to prepare whatever team he is coaching. Given an opportunity to coach at a high level, he will excel without a doubt. I look forward to coaching with him again soon, hopefully in the CFL!

**Me:** What advice would you give to young people in the Irish Community?

**Rob:** Contacts and networking are very important. Being perfectly bilingual is a plus. Several of the players playing for CFL are primarily French-speaking and having someone who can speak their language fluently makes them feel more comfortable and it’s easier for them to get the job done. That’s what it’s all about, getting the job done - winning games!

Let’s wish: “One of ours” the best of luck.

**Editor’s Note:**

See the big “Thank you” from Champlain College Saint -Lambert: <http://www.champlainonline.com/champlainweb/2017/03/coach-robert-payne/>



## Irish Participation at the battle of VIMY RIDGE

By Anthony Kirby. Photos: Denis Kirby

Recent celebrations here in Canada and in North Eastern France justly celebrate Canada's courageous actions in the second Battle of Arras, known here as the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

This action was in fact part of a larger offensive known as "le Chemin de Dame Offensive". The action was proposed by General Robert Neville of the French Army. The "Neville offensive" was simple in concept - after an artillery bombardment, immense numbers of soldiers would overwhelm the enemy. Ultimately, the operation failed. The French army mutinied. General Petain took over command.

Broadcast/ journalist/ historian Pierre Berton's bestselling popular history "Vimy" (1986) while brilliantly researched and including interviews with fellow feature writer Gregory Clarke, M.C., memoirist, Ronald Bird, and all of the survivors of the action, it completely ignores the participation of Irish Regiments in the offensive. In a sense, this is understandable as Berton justly wanted to celebrate Canada.

However, as part of the British 1Corps (24th Division) the 2nd Leinster Regiment was involved in the attack on "Le Boise en Hache" on the morning of 12th April, this was "a mopping up operation". Corporal John Cunningham of Thurles, Co. Tipperary earned the Victoria Cross (V.C.) for his bravery in this action. Sadly, Corporal Cunningham died of his wounds on 17th April 1917. His V.C. is on permanent exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.



Trench positions at Vimy

Major General Arthur Currie commander of the Canadian Forces was fearless in protecting his men from the vagaries of British Military Discipline. He insisted that his

men be tried in Canadian Army Courts. He won his point. The Canadian Army had distinguished itself at the Second Battle of Ypres. This was the first time the Axis Armies had used mustard gas. French Zuaves fled leaving a four-mile gap. But the Canadians pressed urine soaked handkerchiefs to their faces and held strong as the yellow cloud enveloped them.

At Ypres, Canadian and Irish regiments worked almost hand in hand. Unit diaries show that on the Salient and at Kimmel, wherever the Canadians were for one month or more, Irish Regiments were there the following month.

Following the debacle of the Somme, General Currie participated in a detailed analysis of the battle and lessons to be learned. He then made a report as to how these lessons might be applied to infantry tactics in future engagements.

On 4th March 1917, the 2nd Battalion of "The Leinster Rifles" relieved the 1st Canadian Battalion at Souches northeast of Vimy Ridge. They spent the next six days in the front lines and were relieved by the Northampton Battalion.

Military training began on the 11th and continued through the 15th. This training was intense and was a joint operation with the Canadians. From his study of the Somme, Currie concluded that precise training of men and officers was the key to military success. "This included fixed objectives for each platoon. In an area some distance from the front lines miles of white and coloured tape and thousands of small flags were used to replicate the enemy trench system. Every pillbox, every redoubt, every barbed wire entanglement was marked and labelled.... Big signposts named the German trenches: coloured pennants outlined enemy positions, - red for trenches, blue for roads, black for dugouts, yellow for machine guns." Berton, Vimy pp 157 & 8 General Currie had perfected the technique of the 'creeping barrage' first used at the Somme. "Canadian and Irish officers on horseback carried pennants to represent the screen of bursting shrapnel. Behind them troops marched in groups, marched at a fixed pace, carrying their rifles in the high port position with fixed bayonets ready to shoot or lunge when the red tape position was reached. This advance was at 75 yards in good weather receding to 15 yards in drizzle or snowy weather. Over and over, the troops practiced this manoeuvre while instructors checked their stopwatches, halting the troops to allow the barrage to lift, then ordering the advance again.

Currie's superior, British trained Field Marshal Byng G.O.C. of the operation supervised the mock battles saying "Chaps you shall go over exactly like a railway train, on the exact time, or you shall be annihilated." Berton, Vimy p 158.

Another aspect of the pre-battle training was the insistence on overnight raids of enemy lines with the object of taking prisoners. These captives were then interrogated regarding gun emplacement and platoon positions.

Headquartered at Souchez, "The Leinster Rifles 2nd Battalion" participated in these raids. My maternal uncle, Lt. Michael A. Higgins died while on a sortie on 31st March 1917. On the evening of the 7th April, the Leinster's received preliminary instructions for their participation in the offensive. The battalion comprised a company of Bombers whose duties were "to clear the trenches over which the assaulting troops have passed, to protect the flanks of the attack when it has reached and occupied the enemy's

## Irish Participation at the battle of VIMY RIDGE cont.

trenches, to secure the enemy's trenches, and to form barricades so far down that grenades cannot be thrown into the trenches just captured." Memorandum #2 Unit Diary Leinster Rifles reference WO 95/2218 xc4508.

While these instructions were followed to the letter, the Leinsters were held back from the offensive for more than 72 hours.

Then, on the morning of the 12th April, the Leinsters assembled near the village of Aix Noulette and occupied trenches in the Souchez sector. 4 a.m. Zero hour. Wet snow was falling and the recently frozen ground was a quagmire. At 4.31 a.m., the men moved into assembly positions ready to advance. At 5 a.m., three companies advanced under a barrage. The blinding snowstorm and lie of the land made progress extremely slow. *No Man's Land* consisted of craters filled with three feet of water. Enemy opened fire on the right flank company from Le Bois de Givenchy. This flank took heavy losses. (Br. Public Record's Office, Kew, U.K. reference WO 95/ 2218 xc 4508 p.p. 1-4.) Note: The 2nd Battalion of the Leinster Regiment was aided in this action by the 9th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment and by elements of the 4th Canadian Division whose objective was 'THE PIMPLE'

At 5.10 a.m., the barrage lifted. The Leinster's took the enemy's front line which had been much damaged by shell fire. Several prisoners were taken but most Germans retreated to support trenches. If anything, the ground behind the enemy's front line was in worse shape than in *NO MAN'S LAND*. Troops had tremendous difficulty in advancing. All officers in the first wave were either killed or wounded. Men did advance under very heavy fire. The enemy resisted strongly, using natural cover. There was much hand to hand combat. Then, the men appeared to have outrun their protective gun cover. They assaulted a strongly held enemy trench. It was at this point that Corporal John Cunningham, armed with Mills Bombs, seized a heavy Lewis gun and subdued at least twenty Germans. Hit time after time by hostile fire, he held his position until his ammunition ran out. The enemy counter-attacked twice. The longer of these two attacks was combatted by Corporal Cunningham's platoon.

At 7.30 a.m., the Battalion was holding the enemy's former front line and was in touch with the Royal Sussex Regiment. They were in the process of making this their line of resistance and establishing a communications trench to their former front line.

By 9.00 a.m., two platoons of the Leinster's Reserve Company, the Royal Engineers and survivors of Assaulting Companies were employed in consolidating strong points in former enemy lines. Enemy resistance was still strong.

By 11.30 a.m., nearly all resistance ceased. Large enemy

guns shelled the Leinster's Headquarter trench. Then, at 12.05 p.m., evacuation of the wounded began.

Though this action was a little over seven hours, casualties were high. They consisted of two middle rank officers, eight junior officers, and two hundred and six soldiers.

The V.C. commendation of Corporal Cunningham reads as follows: "Although wounded, he succeeded almost alone in reaching his objective with a Lewis Gun. When counter attacked by a party of twenty, he exhausted his ammunition against them, then, standing in full view, wounded again, he picked himself up and continued to fight single-handed until his bombs were exhausted. ... " There is little doubt that the superb courage of this N.C.O. cleared up a most difficult situation."



Lt. Michael A Higgins  
Woodlands, Stradbally, Co. Laois  
2nd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians)  
Killed in Action on Saturday 31st March 1917  
Near Souchez, Pas-de-Calais, France

Total Casualties for the Vimy Ridge Offensive are estimated to be 3,600. The undersigned is unsure if the casualties of the Leinster Regiment are included in this count. Historians generally consider that had British/Canadian Forces been able to follow through on their success in this action, the Great War might have been shortened by a year.



Notre Dame de Lorette today from where the Leinsters moved to Souchez, Pas-de-Calais, France



Our Uncle, Grand Uncle and Great Grand Uncle, was remembered on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of his death, at 11.30 a.m. Mass, Sunday 2nd April 2017, in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Stradbally.



## Griffintown revisited - thriving...

By G. Scott MacLeod

*'Every old man that dies is a library that burns.'*

African Proverb

My work in oral history over the last decade has made me believe that there is value in recording personal narrative histories. Therefore, I have been capturing French Canadian and Irish life histories from historians and elders from another generation, who possess an important archive of personal photos, insights and stories from the once working class neighbourhood of Griffintown, an historic Montreal neighbourhood that birthed the Industrial Revolution in Canada and was once home to a large immigrant community.

What is exceptional about the oral histories that I collected, is that the life described in Griffintown no longer exists, and that when they pass on, so will their stories as the African Proverb states. I believe that oral histories offer the viewer something deeper and worth celebrating. This sentiment propelled me to create my "In Griffintown" documentary [www.ingriffintown.com](http://www.ingriffintown.com) and the Griffintown Tour [www.griffintowntour.com](http://www.griffintowntour.com)

This Griffintown project is a culmination of seven years work documented through my sketchbook, photos, personal notes and reflections, from which I created a documentary film, 21 drawings of key sites, 21 short films and a self-guided urban history walk guide and tour on the web. It is my hope that this work and collaboration with historian Dr. Matthew Barlow, designers Jessica and Elizabeth Charbonneau, help to contextualize Griffintown as a thriving neighbourhood after the disintegration and subsequent redevelopment began.

My goal as an artist and filmmaker was to make my research, art and film work on Griffintown accessible to the public, in order to highlight Griffintown's social history and personal narratives and memories that centered around their family homes and community living in order to reveal the importance of public spaces, buildings and communities.

There is little that remains of the former Griffintown. The current rapid gentrification of the remaining industrial and residential sections of the southwest and downtown boroughs lacks integrated public spaces and institutions of the old neighbourhood. This means that not only the buildings but also the defining cultural and ethnic nature of the old Griffintown will be completely eradicated.

What struck me in the interviews was that the families spoke joyfully of their families, homes, schools, churches, holidays, courtship, friends, jobs, sports teams, but never angrily of the wrecking ball that knocked sections of their community down.

Realizing this project has been a great experience for me, I have a deep interest in preserving and sharing

the industrial history, architecture and cultural landscape of Griffintown. My research project provided me with the opportunity to enter the community and become more familiar with the Griffintown of today, with the buildings, the streets, the people and their stories, and, through all that, with the Griffintown of yesterdays. I feel that I have had the privilege of capturing part of Griffintown's library before it burned.



Scott MacLeod at his exhibition "Dans l'Griff"

### Related Links:

My Griffintown projects can be seen at [www.ingriffintown.com](http://www.ingriffintown.com) and [www.griffintowntour.com](http://www.griffintowntour.com)

The "In Griffintown" exhibition at the Centre d'histoire de Montréal 2015- 2016, [http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?\\_pageid=9077,142268028&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=9077,142268028&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)

Matthew Barlow's recent book "Griffintown: Identity and Memory in an Irish Diaspora Neighbourhood" is available at <https://www.amazon.ca/Griffintown-Identity-Memory-Diaspora-Neighbourhood/dp/0774834331>

Sonali Karnick - All in a weekend, CBC  
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/programs/allinaweekend/griffintown-in-21-short-films-1.4031786>

Kevin Tierney - The Gazette  
<http://montrealgazette.com/entertainment/local-arts/kevin-tierney-scott-macleods-21-short-films-are-ode-to-griffintown>

Billy Shields - Global News  
<http://globalnews.ca/news/3314526/virtual-tour-of-griffintown-showcases-montreals-early-irish-history/>

Richard Dagenais - City Life.MATv  
<http://matv.ca/montreal/mes-emissions/citylife> 46:35



## In Memoriam - Patrick Wilson Rourke

By Martina Branagan

Following a very courageous battle with cancer, we lost another former member of the board of St. Patrick's Society, on the 18th March 2017. Patrick Rourke has left a gap in the area of volunteering in the English speaking community of Montreal and his dying wish encourages more people to find it in their hearts to volunteer so as to enjoy serving the community as he did.

A benevolent, caring, compassionate, encouraging and gentlemanly soul, I first met Patrick and his wife, Alanna when we sang together or later, when they attended concerts to hear our combined choir at St. Malachy's Church or the Annunciation in the Town of Mount Royal. I sat with him and Alanna at meals of celebration and camaraderie. With a ready smile, his attention and devotion to his wife was a sight to behold, especially as his health began to fail too. My recent and abiding memory is of Patrick tending to Alanna's needs while ferrying her around in her wheelchair. Never phased, always willing and ready to serve...

I discovered the well-known story of their wonderful relationship; how Alanna swept him off his feet when he was preparing for priestly ministry and how he had recognized his life's soul-mate. Such a together couple! Common values, goals and aspirations strived for and achieved together along with four lovely children, one of whom predeceased them.

It's a well-known fact that Patrick placed hundreds of middle and senior executives, and trained dozens of consultants over the years. He recognized leadership qualities and the story goes that he even encouraged Msgr. Harty, former Episcopal Vicar of Montreal, to study for the priesthood. They're probably sharing memories as I write!

One of his closest life-long friends is Father John Walsh who celebrated fifty years of ordination to the priesthood last year. They had plenty of laughs together over the years and he is definitely the go-to man for stories about Patrick.

He and Alanna are gratefully recognised as founders of Ascension Parish in the Town of Mount Royal where Patrick willingly and lovingly served as a warden for many years.

Patrick was passionate about community service and with his leadership qualities, he enlisted numerous people to volunteer in the many organizations with which he was involved over his lifetime. He and his wife, Alanna who died last year, volunteered at St. Mary's Hospital for over forty years. He served as President of its Board of Directors, Foundation, and Board of Governors. He was among those who founded the English Speaking Catholic Council (E.S.C.C.) and served as its first President. For almost thirty years, he also served on the boards of the Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation and St. Patrick's Society. Many other organizations benefitted from his commitment, enthusiasm and leadership including the Foundation of Catholic Community Services, Sacred Heart School of Montreal, Father Dowd Nursing Home and Refuge Juan Moreno, a home for refugee women seeking asylum.

It is no wonder then that in 2006, St. Patrick's Society honored Patrick with the Community Award for his involvement with Pillars Trust, ESCC, Catholic Community Services and Refuge Juan Moreno. Other awards include the Ignace Bourget Diocesan Award of Merit from the Archdiocese of Montreal and the Bishop Crowley Award from the English Speaking Catholic Council.

Your encouraging words and lovely voice are missed... Rest in peace, Patrick. I know you'll have found your true love where you are...



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**W**e wish to thank the following who contributed articles and/or photos to this issue of NUACHT:

Pat Short	Ken Quinn	Tim Hine	Scott Phelan	Victor Boyle	Paul Doyle
Marion Mulvenna	Denis Trudel	Paul Loftus	Carol McCormick	Christie Brown	Kim Hogan
Fergus Keyes	Ann Butts	Isabel Brinck	Scott MacLeod	Jim McDermott	
Anthony & Denis Kirby	Judith and David Schurman				

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2017

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION
May 20	Ville Marie Feis, John Abbott College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec	feismontreal@gmail.com
May 20	Innisfail Memorial Mass for Deceased Members & F. Tom McEntee Memorial, Ladies' Chapel, noon	Rose Quinn (450) 671-7217
May 25	ICCC Craic agus Comhrá, The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	office@iccmtl.com
May 27	Pop-up Irish Gaeltacht, Concordia University, 1455 boul. de Maisonneuve Ouest, Rm H1001.01	https://www.comhra.org/ws/shop/
May 28	Walk to the Stone, 12 noon. Contact Victor Boyle.	vp_boyle@sympatico.ca
June 9	Innisfail Annual General Meeting, NDG Legion Addington/de Maisonneuve	Rose Quinn (450) 671-7217
June 10	Tara Golf Association Tournament, Club de Golf St. Zotique	Ann Butts: ann.butts@taragolf.ca
June 10-16	Festival Bloomsday Montreal, various locations. Registration is ongoing. Subject to change.	http://bloomsdaymontreal.com
June 14	ICCC AGM (6pm members only) & Summer Get-together 6:30pm (All welcome), Hurley's Irish Pub	contact@iccmtl.com
June 14	St. Patrick's General Meeting, St. Patrick's Square, 6767 Cote-St-Luc rd, McCormick Hall, 7 p.m.	Katie Irving: office@spsmtl.com
June 16	Ottawa - Hold the date for 150th Celebrations in Irish Pavillion	https://www.facebook.com/spsmtl/
June 16	Save the date: Women's Day, Ottawa - Details to be announced	https://www.facebook.com/spsmtl/
June 20	St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Golf Tournament, Club de Golf Bellevue, Ville de Lery, Quebec	Paul Doyle 514-481-3503
June 15-16	Tara Golf Association Tournament Weekend Tournament, Club de Golf St-Jean-de-Matha	Ann Butts: ann.butts@taragolf.ca
26 July	Annual "Mass in the Park" Celebration, 6 p.m.	vp_boyle@sympatico.ca
Aug 5	Tara Golf Association Summer Tournament, Golf des Iles, Boucherville	Ann Butts: ann.butts@taragolf.ca
Aug 19	Annual Pilgrimage to Grosse-Île and the Irish Memorial, 9:00 a.m., 6600 rue Saint-Jacques	vp_boyle@sympatico.ca
Sept 9	Tara Golf Association Team Skins Game, Club de Golf La Cite, Hawkesbury	Ann Butts: ann.butts@taragolf.ca
Sept 21	Community launch of www.griffintowntour.com at the http://www.le5ieme.com	macleod_nine@hotmail.com
Sept 30	Tara Golf Assoc. Presidents Trophy & Aer Lingus Competition, Caughnawaga Golf Club	Ann Butts: ann.butts@taragolf.ca

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