



SEAN FINN TO CHAIR CCMM 2017-2018

By Martina Branagan

At its Annual General Meeting on October 24, 2017, Sean Finn, Executive Vice-President, Corporate Services and Chief Legal Officer for CN was appointed Chair of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal for 2017-2018.

An experienced board member, his appointment promises to be a strong one. Mr. Finn is no stranger to Chambers of Commerce having served as chair of the board of directors of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, 2006-2007 and the Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec, 2002-2003 and he is currently a board member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He has been a member of a number of boards of directors, including the Canam Group, the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation, Swim Canada, Tree Canada and the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown.

He successfully completed the Institute of Corporate Directors' Directors Education Program in April 2008 (I.A.S.A) and the

Excellence in the Boardroom program (Spotlight on Effective Leadership) at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management in 2011.

His intentions as Chair of CCMM are clear. "By leveraging innovation and the Chamber's talent, we will advance the economic and cultural interests of our members and our city. This is why I want to focus my energy into meeting your expectations and accomplishing



Sean Finn, Chair,
Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal

the mandates entrusted to me," said Mr. Finn. Furthermore, he believes that "the economy does not know any physical boundaries and that we need to support governments in their NAFTA negotiations, an issue I care deeply about and a challenge for our economy."

As chair of the board for 2017-2018, and then as retiring chair of the board the following year, Mr. Finn will have two years to help influence and guide the CCMM. He succeeds Pierre Pomerleau, President and CEO of Pomerleau Inc.



NAACFF

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and members of the St. Patrick's Society,

Well, the holiday season will soon be upon us – where does the time go? It's that time of year when we tend to reflect on the year behind us and start looking forward to the year ahead.

2017 was an exciting and positive year for the Society. Our events, The Ball, Luncheon and Golf Tournament, were all very well attended, brought some great attention to the Society and the Irish community and helped raise money for our charitable endeavours. That's really our number one purpose: we are first and foremost a charitable organization. Although not unique in Montreal in that role, we certainly have the added purpose of supporting other Irish not-for-profits as well as Irish cultural, sporting and historical groups and individuals. It's a mission to be proud of and one that is taken very seriously by your Board of Directors. I would like to thank all our members for your ongoing support and participation because without you, we would never be able to achieve our goals.

I am proud to report that this year \$70,000 was disbursed to many deserving causes and we hope to be able to improve on that amount in 2018. The needs of the Montreal Irish community seem to get greater every year while the task of raising the funds for these charitable, educational and cultural causes gets harder and harder. We are always looking for ways to maintain and improve our support on this and so in 2018, we'll be launching a "Planned Giving Campaign" to help lay a foundation for future resources while at the same time not having to raise prices for our dues or events.

There's lots new happening at your Society and many new initiatives to get excited about - The new Youth Committee, our new Strategic Planning process, new Governance and Protocols Committee, revamping our website, the resurrection of our Christmas Concert, increasing our brand awareness through social media...

A few weeks ago, we had our very well-attended 183rd Annual General Meeting at the Montreal West Curling Club. Our thanks to Director Dave Dubeau for his help in arranging the event. If you missed the AGM and would like to have a copy of the Annual Report, please contact Katie Irving at the office and one can be sent to you.

As for the coming year, our 171st Charity Ball will be held Friday March 2nd once again at the Marriott Chateau Champlain. Our Guest of Honour will be Mr. Paul Donovan, President of Loyola High School and this year's Patron will be Mr. Sean Finn, Vice-president of CN Rail. Our 184th Charity Luncheon will be held at the Plaza Ballroom of the EVO and will feature His Honour, Jean Charest as our Guest Speaker. Please mark your calendars!

There are also a few upcoming events of note:

- The Annual Concordia Irish Lecture series continues on Thursday November 23rd at the Hall Building, 5th floor at 7 p.m. Our guest speaker this year is Irish Ambassador to Canada, Jim Kelly whose topic will be "Ireland - A Global Island".
- Our Annual Christmas Party will be held Thursday, December 7th at Hurley's Irish Pub on Crescent Street starting at 6 p.m. We hope you can make it and share a glass of Christmas cheer with us! More information will follow shortly via e-mail.
- Take the family and the little ones to see "The Irish Nutcracker" on Tuesday, December 19th at 7 p.m. at Loyola High School – should be a wonderful evening.

I would like to personally thank all of the directors, chairs, committee members and volunteers for the selfless giving of their time and energy to the Society in particular and to the Montreal Irish community in general.

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NUA^{CH}T, Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

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Deadline for submissions for next issue: Jan. 31, 2017

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Thanks again to you, our members, for being the most important part of our Society and for helping spread the word about the good work that we all continue to accomplish together.

On behalf of the executive and directors, may I wish you all the joy of the Christmas and Holiday Season and health and happiness in the New Year!

*Nollaig Shona
agus
Ath-Obhlain faoi
mhaise againh!*

Scott Phelan, November 2017



SPS Committee and Event Chairs

Charity Ball	Kim Hogan
Charity Luncheon	Carol McCormick
Governance and protocol	Christie Brown
Investment Committee	Paul Doyle
Golf Committee (new)	Dave Dubeau
Grants Committee	Christie Brown
Membership Committee (new)	Ken Quinn
Nominating Committee	Paul Dunne
Strategic Planning	Kim Hogan
Youth Wing	Maria Cook/Conor O'Hara

SPS Youth Committee



Visit Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Saint-Patricks-Society-Youth-Committee-119787798659701/>

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1/2 page	\$250	\$700	\$100

For information please contact Kimberly Payne at ads@spsmtl.com

All submissions are to be forwarded directly to our editor, Martina Branagan at nuacht@spsmtl.com

The deadlines for submissions are: September 15th, November 15th, January 31st and May 15th.

Rates do not include layout or art. Please submit all art work in JPEG/PDF, sized accordingly. Rates do not include GST and PST, if applicable.

ST. PATRICK'S AGM

By Ken Quinn

The St. Patrick's Society's 183rd Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday November 2nd 2017 at the Montreal West Curling Club. As members arrived they were warmly greeted by Katie Irving, Carol McCormick and Pat Short. Each member received a new membership pin bearing the Society's current logo.

President Scott Phelan gave a detailed report on the state of the Society and its accomplishments throughout the past year. He thanked departing Directors for their dedication to the Society and welcomed new Directors to the Board.

The Annual meeting is an opportunity to recognize people for their important work and thank them for all that they do. President Phelan acknowledged each Past-President present with a special Past-President's pin and announced that each of them would receive his/her own Past-President Sash for them to walk in a place of honour within the Society's contingent in the 2018 St. Patrick's Parade.

President Phelan announced to the members that longtime Golf Committee Chairman, Paul Doyle was stepping aside after twenty-two years at the helm of the highly successful event. He took the opportunity to present Paul with a plaque in recognition of his years as chairman of the Tournament and for his loyalty to the Society. It was also announced that Director David Dubeau would assume the Chair. We wish him the best of success as he fills some fairly big shoes.

revenues increased over the period and expenses decreased, leaving the Society in a better position financially than it has been for a number of years. Joining the Board are Andrea Bobkowicz (Treasurer), Christopher Deehy, Fergus Keyes, and Kevin Murphy. Leaving the Board are Laurie Bennett (Treasurer), Susan Cahill, Richard McConomy and John McDonough.



Past-President, Paul Dunne reporting on the results of the Society's Nominating Committee and on the Society's finances



New members pictured with President Scott Phelan, chairperson, Carol McCormick, Membership

CÉAD míle fáilte romhainbh!

Following a most successful Annual General Meeting, the members retired to the lounge to mingle, enjoy some scrumptious food, and taste a refreshing libation or two.

We are looking forward with excitement to the coming year and all the associated activities.



President, Scott Phelan thanks Director Paul Doyle for his many years of loyal and dedicated service as Chair of the Golf Committee.

Committee chairpersons reported on their committees' activities. Past-President, Paul Dunne reported on the Society's Nominating Committee and on the audited finances for the fiscal year ended, 30th June, 2016:

SPS STRATEGIC PLANNING 2018-2022

By Kim Hogan

At our November 2nd Annual General Meeting, the Society announced that we were embarking upon a new project which would ultimately result in the creation of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal - Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

This new strategic plan will replace the former plan, Strategic Plan 2010-2014, which had in turn identified the following six key areas :

1. Modernize and improve the by-laws
2. Create a strategy to attract and retain youth
3. Create a strategy to attract new members
4. Improve links with other Irish organizations and the community at large
5. Upgrade communications with respect to image and public relations
6. Solidify our financial base

The former plan helped guide the Board of Directors of the Society to fulfill the goals, directives and vision as outlined by the ideas and wishes of our members at that time. Going forward, the Board of Directors cannot properly represent you without your regular input.

In early 2017, a Strategic Planning committee was formed, whose focus is to evaluate what has been achieved since the former plan, and identify where we are going and where we need to be, including any new realities or new priorities. Ultimately, we are seeking to craft – with the membership's input and engagement – a revised five-year strategic plan for the Society.

We Need YOU

It goes without saying that the most important part of this process will be YOU – our members. The membership's voice and input will be mission-critical to our success. To that extent, we are very pleased to be launching within the next few weeks, the 2017 St. Patrick's Society of Montreal - Strategic Planning Survey.

All members will receive a link by email. Let us know your views, tell us where and how we can do better and give us your opinion on new ideas.

Timeline

The survey will be active for a few months, to allow the committee to gather valued membership input which will be used to validate our direction and to formulate our ultimate recommendations.

The St. Patrick's Society of Montreal – Strategic Plan 2018-2022 will be presented to the Board of Directors in the spring for discussion and approval, and then ultimately presented to the general membership for their validation and approval at the General Meeting in June 2018.

We encourage all members to actively participate and engage in this process, and make their views known so that together we can create an essential road map for our Society. This will be a most important exercise, and will enable the Society to remain strong, directed and relevant.

We 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	Marion Mulvenna
Jim McDermott	Kevin Callahan	Denis Trudel	Don McMahan	Kim Hogan	Carol McCormick
Conor Barry	Ronan Corbett				

Go raibh míle maith agaibh!

IBEC AND ICBA PAY A FLYING VISIT

By Conor Barry, President, Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC), Montreal Chapter

September proved to be a very busy month for the Irish community in Montreal. We had a short visit from Taoiseach Varadkar, the welcome announcement from Air Canada that they are beginning direct flights between Montreal and Dublin next June and we also had a visit from the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) and the Irish Canada Business Association (ICBA).

IBEC is the trade body for Irish businesses with over 7,500 members. It represents over 70% of private businesses in Ireland and is the voice of Irish business. The ICBA, based in Dublin, represents Canadian businesses based in Ireland. The outgoing president of the ICBA, Malachy Smyth is a regular visitor to Montreal and his daughter Anne Marie Smyth Floch is the current Irish representative on The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council. Malachy has forged a great relationship with the ICCCM over the years, and in particular, with Vivian Doyle-Kelly, the ICCCM's immediate past-President. Fun fact: Malachy and Vivian were raised two doors from each other in Dublin, which they only discovered in recent years. Kate Hickey, Executive Director of ICBA accompanied Malachy.

IBEC was represented by its CEO, Danny McCoy. Anyone following Irish economic events over the last 10 years would be well aware of Danny. He has a very high media profile and is an extremely articulate advocate of his members' interests. The visit to Montreal was the last stop in a weeklong trip that also took in Toronto and Ottawa. The delegation was accompanied by Michael Hurley, Deputy Head of Mission at the Irish Embassy in Ottawa and John Roxburgh, Counsellor and Senior Trade Commissioner at the Canadian Embassy in Dublin. The ICCCM was able to put together a meeting program that included meetings with the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal (CCMM), Export Quebec, the Mayor of Montreal and Investissement Québec. The trip also included a breakfast seminar at McCarthy Tétrault that featured Danny McCoy and ex-Premier, Jean Charest as speakers.

Michel Leblanc, President and CEO of the CCMM provided a warm welcome to the delegation at its first stop. He outlined the growth that Montreal was currently going through, the size and reach of the CCMM's membership and his delight that Air Canada had just announced direct flights between Montreal and Dublin. The Air Canada announcement was a recurring theme in all meetings and the fact that direct connectivity will lead to increased tourism and trade between Canada and Ireland. Michel Leblanc also stated that the chamber typically organizes a trade mission to a city whenever Air Canada announces a direct flight. The CCMM's aim would be to have a trade mission to Ireland at some stage next summer.



Standing, left to right: Conor Barry, ICCCM; Kate Hickey, ICBA; then Mayor, Denis Coderre; Malachy Smyth ICBA, Vivian Doyle-Kelly, ICCCM, Michael Hurley, Irish Embassy Ottawa and John Roxburgh, Canadian Embassy Dublin. Malachy Smyth is signing the visitors' book at City Hall.

The delegation then had a meeting with Jean Séguin, Assistant Deputy Minister at the Quebec Ministry of Economy, Science and Innovation. Again air connectivity, bilateral trade and the desire of Quebec to grow its trade links with Europe were stressed. Next stop was a meeting with Mayor Coderre and a guided tour of City Hall. There is no doubt that Mayor Coderre is a huge supporter of the Irish community and the warmth of

IBEC AND ICBA PAY A FLYING VISIT [cont.](#)

our reception was genuine and touching. Mayor Coderre visited Dublin in April 2016 and the bonds formed on that trip have lasted. Mayor Coderre committed, if re-elected, to lead a trade mission to Ireland next year.



From left to right: Malachy Smyth, ICBA;
ex-Premier Jean Charest, McCarthy Tétrault and Danny McCoy, IBEC

The main event of the trip was a seminar organized by the CCMM and hosted at the offices of McCarthy Tétrault. This seminar was arranged by Mary Jeanne Phelan, a director of the ICCCM and a partner at McCarthy Tétrault. Jean Charest and Danny McCoy spoke and this was followed by a question and answer session. Both speakers are top class and their insights into Brexit and CETA (Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement) were enlightening. Jean Charest was just back from Europe. His view was that the mood among policymakers in the EU was a lot more positive this year than it was this time last year. There are obviously serious issues (Brexit), but economic growth, the poor performance of populist parties in European elections over the last year and the election of Emanuel Macron in France has put a spring back in the step of policymakers there he felt. Danny McCoy spoke about the serious threats to the Irish economy posed by Brexit. While Ireland may gain in some areas e.g. attracting financial firms who leave London, if you look at the last 100 years, when Britain does well, Ireland does well and vice versa. The big losers from Brexit

will be small Irish companies who have high volume, low margin businesses and who are already being affected by the weaker sterling. Ireland is currently performing very strongly. The unemployment rate has fallen from a high of 15.2% in 2012 to 6% now. It is likely that there will be full employment at some stage in 2018. McCoy, quoting Keynes, spoke about private affluence and public squalor. Anyone who has visited Dublin recently will understand. While the city is booming, public services are lacking due to underinvestment. Traffic jams are infamous. Sound familiar? The big challenges for Ireland over the next 5 to 10 years are to have serious investment in housing (which ground to a halt with the economic crash), to further develop the transport system and to improve the health system.

The final event of the trip was a meeting at the very impressive offices of Investissement Québec (IQ) in Old Montreal. We were hosted there by Stéphanie Murphy, a former ICCCM board member and a great supporter of the Irish community. Anyone who has any doubt about how well Montreal is doing at the moment should look at IQ's website. It is investing in and supporting some incredible companies that are contributing enormously to the present growth of Montreal. IQ stressed that Montreal is doing well, building activity is up and it is becoming a magnet for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology companies. The city is also affordable (well compared to Dublin). Danny McCoy asked about the cost of office space here and was told that an A-ranked building rents at about \$50 per square foot in Montreal. The equivalent in Dublin is closer to \$90.

The trade delegation left Montreal impressed. Great meetings, interesting discussions and a booming, beautiful city. It was also 25 Celsius. That doesn't hurt. I suspect we are going to see a lot more Irish companies set up in Montreal over the next 10 years.



BY JOVE! SHE DID IT!

By Jim McDermott

I have to say that I find Valérie Plante to be a very warm, wee, jaunty woman with a lot of soul.

As you know, many a true word is spoken in jest... It was only back in September when I recall introducing our new Mayor to Paul Loftus and emphasizing that she would undoubtedly become the next, and first female Mayor of Montreal. During that fleeting moment, I remember, as she pranced off on her campaign trail, she chirped out to us "Invite me... invite me to meet the Irish community!" Of course we both said "Yes... yes, we will."

On the 6th September, I predicted, in writing (opposite), that she would capture our hearts and minds and be our first Madame la Mairesse.

By Jove! She did it! Valérie Plante has now become a huge part of our city's history as the first woman to hold the mayorship. Let's hope Plante keeps her promises and doesn't forget the pink metro line which will be an amazing venture for our city and more importantly, will help the endless fight against greenhouse gas pollution.

Good luck!

And no, I don't have the lotto numbers in case you're asking...

Plante is 'a true people's person'



Montreal Gazette 6 Sep 2017

Re: "The name of the game is recognition" (Montreal Gazette, Sept. 2)

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with Valérie Plante. During our brief conversation, I found her to be personable, stylish and pleasingly clever in a simple down-to-Earth manner — a true people's person.

I honestly think she will capture the hearts and minds of Montreal at the next election.

Change and less-foolish spending are badly needed at city hall.

I'm confident our future and very first mairesse will make things right.

Jim McDermott, St-Laurent



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de soins palliatifs
de l'Ouest-de-l'Île



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Join us on February 9, 2018
at The Château Vaudreuil for our
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SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR TARA GOLF'S 56TH YEAR

By Denis Trudel, Tara Golf President

2017 turned out to be a very successful golf season for Tara Golf and for our participation in various events for the Irish community (Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade, SPS Charity Golf Tournament, Walk to the Black Rock and other events) in an unofficial capacity but present nonetheless to promote the strong ties prevalent in the Irish community.

The weather obliged us to cancel one tournament this summer which is a rare occurrence. We have retained our booking with Golf des Îles for next year and we are very much looking forward to playing this beautiful course in the middle of the St. Lawrence River.

Our year-end tournament for the President's Trophy and the Aer Lingus Team Trophy was well-attended and, with our St. Jean de Matha weekend, both were crown jewels in this, our 56th year.

Congratulations to **Brendan O'Connor, Michael Baralha, Neils Franken and Sean Manley** of the Montreal Shamrocks Gaelic Athletic Association for their illustrious victory. They carried home the **Aer Lingus Team Trophy** - well done! Many thanks as well to the Erin Sports Association, the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal and the United Irish Societies for making this yet one more successful challenge among the various Irish societies of the Montreal region vying year after year for this prestigious award. Hats off also to the Tara Golf team who fell just short of a repeat win.



A big Congrats as well to **Sheila Largan**, our 2017 winner of the **President's Cup** who turned in a very respectable round. Sheila was on her game and when she's hot, she's hot!

Thank you to all our members, friends, guests and, of course, our amazing executive team who make Tara Golf such an enjoyable and rewarding way to spend our short summers while promoting the Irish identity of so many Canadians living in and around Montreal and elsewhere in Quebec. Thank you also to all the venues which welcomed us this year. We enjoyed the hospitality and the excellent conditions at each and every one of them: Piedmont, St. Zotique, St. Jean de Matha, La Cité and Caughnawaga. And Golf des Îles, we'll be seeing you next year.

To all our members, please make it a point to attend our next AGM which should take place in early January 2018. We will keep you all posted on the specifics when they are known. We have a number of executive positions which

are being freed up this year and we need to fill them. For nearly 60 years, Tara Golf has been an institution and its continuation is wholly dependent on a strong commitment from all its members.

To everybody, enjoy the upcoming winter and stay safe and healthy until the 2018 Tara Golf season comes around.



GIVING BACK THE ONLY WAY I KNOW HOW...

By Carol McCormick

Some of you may know that I am a professional singer. Lead Soprano and Cantor at St. Patrick's Basilica of Montreal, I have had the opportunity to sing at many festive occasions in and around Montreal as well as in the United States.

One of the wonderful experiences I enjoyed was singing our National Anthem for the Canadiens Hockey Games at the Bell Center. It was a great honor for me to sing at the Memorial Service for the father of our former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Mr. Paul Martin as well as for the father of former Premiers of Quebec, Mr. Daniel Johnson Jr. and Pierre-Marc Johnson.

On a happier note, (pardon the pun!), it was exciting to sing at celebrity celebrations such as Ben Mulroney's and Ken Dryden's son's wedding.

All this to say, I want to give back to the community in a way I know how and that is through singing. I produced 3 albums: "Then Sings My Soul", "My Celtic Spirit" and "A Christmas Carol". There is an "Ave Maria" on the Album of "Then Sings My Soul" that was composed by Bruce Khan for Caruso. I never heard it before I recorded it and I haven't heard it since but it is an amazing composition. "A Christmas Carol" has many of the old chestnuts as we say and some others that may not be familiar to you. A mix of "Pop" and "Sacred" music, it includes a male choir with keyboard, flute and organ accompaniment.

I use these albums to raise money for community needs and for churches both in Montreal and in Ottawa at concerts that I give.

Over 3,000 of these CD's have been sold through the years. These sales certainly won't earn me a Platinum but I am happy that some good comes out of these albums. I'm not finished, either!

This year, I am offering: "A Christmas Carol" and "Then Sings My Soul" to St. Patrick's Society of Montreal to raise funds for one of the charitable organizations it supports: The Manna Food Bank in Verdun.

Someone recently asked me, why the Manna Food Bank?



I have a soft spot for Verdun because my grandparents settled in Verdun when they arrived from Belfast, Ireland. My father and uncle, Fr. Dominic McCormick were born and raised in Verdun. A lot of Irish people still live in Verdun, many of whom are married to French Canadians, as it was with my dad being Irish Canadian and marrying a young French Canadian girl.

Christmas time or for that matter anytime of year, it shouldn't matter who or where we help as long as we do. I chose Verdun this time.

I invite you to help me help others. If you are interested in purchasing one of these CD's, please contact me at: 514-386-8082 or email me carol@ramcanada.ca

\$15 is the cost for a CD. \$5.00 from each sale will be donated to St. Patrick's Society of Montreal.

If you already have one, perhaps offer a Christmas gift to someone else, someone who might be alone in a senior residence or in a hospital, someone who would enjoy a Christmas album.

I thank you all in advance and wish you the blessings of the season with joy and peace for you and yours.

Merry Christmas!

LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN CONGRATULATES VALÉRIE PLANTE

By Kevin Callahan

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mícheál MacDonncha has written a letter of congratulations to Montreal's new mayor, Valérie Plante following her stunning victory in the municipal elections on November 5th. MacDonncha said that he looked forward to working with Mayor Plante on developing relations between Dublin and its sister city, Montreal. He also reiterated his call, expressed previously to former Mayor Denis Coderre, for the City of Montreal to work with the Irish Community to develop a fitting Memorial Park to honour the thousands of Irish who lie buried at the site of the Black Rock.



Valérie Plante, first woman to be elected as Mayor of Montreal



The Lord Mayor of Dublin congratulates Valérie Plante on her election victory and urges support for a fitting Memorial Park for Black Rock.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL COMMUNITY AWARD

The 2017 Nominations are now being accepted for St. Patrick's Society of Montreal Community Award.

This Community Award was first presented in 1993 to Rev. Russell Breen, Pastor of St. Patrick's Basilica for restoration work completed on that fine church.

In choosing a recipient for this award, St. Patrick's Society has two distinct goals:

1. To honour a person within the Irish community who has served in low profile positions yet who has worked wholeheartedly for the good of the whole community.

2. To honour a Montrealer of Irish descent who has assumed a broader mandate to serve beyond the borders of our local Irish societies. His/her achievements bring honour to us all and it is fitting that we acknowledge such commitment.

Nominations can be made at: <http://tinyurl.com/y7lyn5zs>
The deadline for submissions is **Monday, January 15, 2018**.

CINÉ GAEL DATES SET...

By Tim Hine

We would like to thank all the members who made it out to our Member's Night at Hurley's Pub on Wednesday September 13th, where we presented Kevin Moynihan's excellent documentary, *The Famine Irish and Canada's First Responders*. We were delighted to be joined by four representatives from Hydro-Québec, who stayed around long after the film to discuss the situation and who wrote to say what a special evening it was for them to meet members of the Irish community. In addition to Kevin Moynihan, Victor Boyle and Fergus Keyes were also on hand to answer questions. We'd like to give a special thanks to Bill Hurley for his great support to Ciné Gael both on the night and for many years.

We would also like to announce two new members to our committee of volunteers. Ann Shaw and Ken Wilson have been members for quite some time and have helped out before with films on several occasions. I am extremely pleased to let you know that they have now joined us on a full time basis, specifically to help with media and advertising. Based on our first meeting, I can't wait to see their ideas come to fruition.

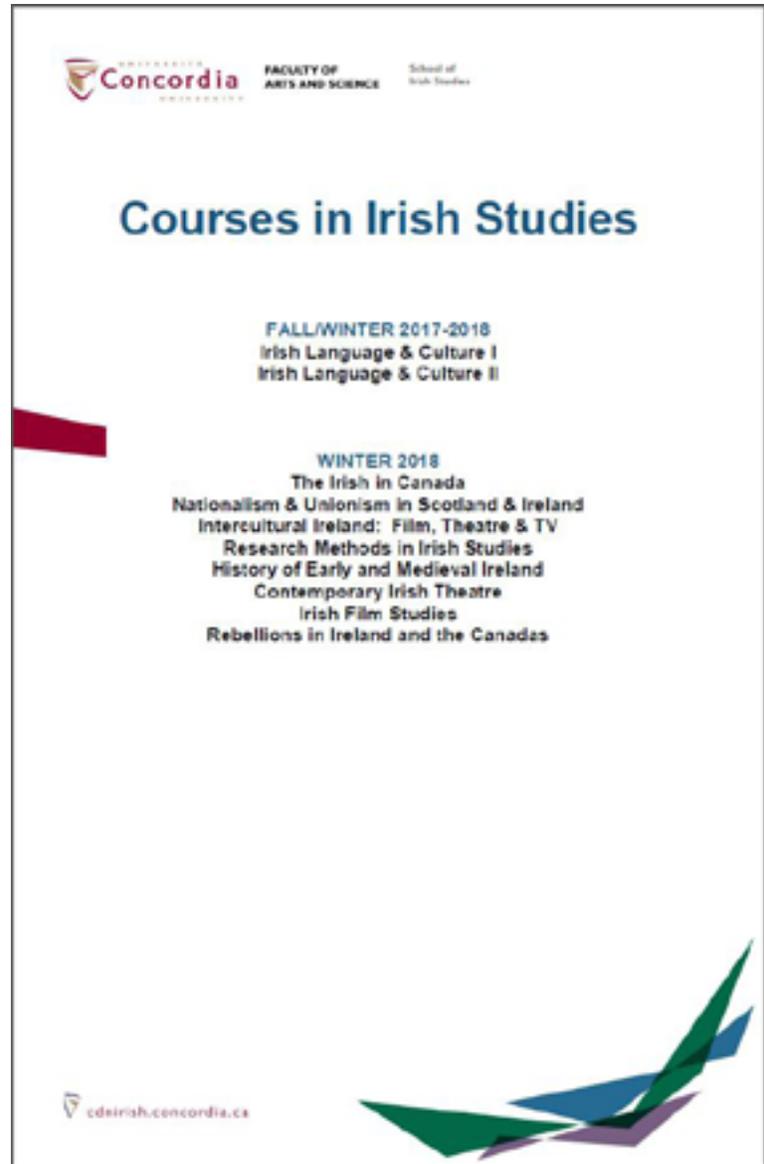
Here are the dates and screening times for our 2018 season so please save the dates in your calendar. We have already confirmed many of the films and will hopefully be able to provide full details by the next issue of Nuacht.

Friday January 12	7:15 p.m.
Friday January 26	7:15 p.m.
Friday February 9	7:15 p.m.
Thursday February 22	7:15 p.m.
Friday March 9	7:15 p.m.
Friday March 30	7:15 p.m.
Saturday March 31	3:00 p.m.
Friday April 20	7:15p.m.
Thursday May 3	7:15p.m.

Save the dates
for Season 26

IRISH STUDIES - WINTER COURSES

By Marion Mulvenna



ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

*Christmas comes but once a year, so please
join us for some holiday cheer!*

*St. Patrick's Society will be holding their Christmas Reception on
December 7th at Hurley's Irish Pub, 2nd floor.
The festivities will commence at 6 p.m. A buffet dinner and drinks
will be included and guests are welcome.*

*Please R.S.V.P. to Katie at 514-481-1346 or office@spsmtl.com
to confirm your attendance.*

*We look forward to celebrating the joy of the season with
you all.*

Scott Phelan.

CELTIC CULTURE IN THE LAURENTIANS

By Don McMahon

The Laurentians, with its vast boreal forests and charming lakes, rivers and scenery, has enchanted the newly arrived resident or vacationing visitor since its earliest history. The Celtic influence began in earnest after the conquest and the clearances in Scotland and expanded in the following years, particularly after the Great Famine. Today, there are entire communities with place names from Ireland, Scotland and England like Gore, Wentworth, Doncaster, Weir, Arundel, Harrington, Brownsburg, Chatham, Saint Coloman, and so on. Few have many Celtic descendants still living there but the traditions of Irish Catholic and Anglo-Scots families remain.

When I first arrived in Sainte-Marguerite-du-lac-Masson, a small francophone community of 2,800 souls, nestled in a mountainous region with a beautiful trio of lakes right in the village, it occurred to me that the community would enjoy the Celtic traditions and culture of my ancestors as much as I do. I became a church warden and suggested that, as an initial project, the local church organize a Celtic-inspired Mass near the time of St. Patrick's celebrations. To my surprise, I discovered that the village had a few half-Irish families and that the locals and visitors were very interested in hearing this music and watching Celtic dancing.

The first Celtic Mass was held in April of 2016 and completely filled the church, with people coming from as far away as Ontario to participate and celebrate the Celtic traditions in a religious atmosphere. We subsequently organized a Celtic music presentation during the summer festival which the village sponsors each year and despite horrible weather, it was a complete success.

In March of 2017, we held the 2nd annual Celtic Mass with a 30-minute recital before the actual service began and the church was, once again, filled. The curate was so impressed that he asked us about holding two Celtic Mass events, one for the Christmas period and one in April. We agreed and so, the parish of Sainte-Marguerite-du-lac-Masson will hold a Celtic Mass on the feast of the Epiphany, Sunday January

7th and a St. Patrick's Celtic Mass, Sunday April 15th. These two Masses are special events and this year, the Epiphany Mass will feature a choir, organ, Celtic band and religious music from all Celtic cultures, with many traditional musical works exclusive to the Epiphany season. The St. Patrick's Mass will also feature an extended Celtic music recital before the Mass and will include Scottish country dance and perhaps Irish dancing as well.

There is no charge for these celebrations. Participants and attendees are encouraged to display their Celtic adherence by wearing something green or Celtic-related. The group we have used for the past three years is known as *Keltik Pilgrim*, a.k.a. *Agincourt* and boasts an extensive repertoire as well as being entirely Francophone. The Mass is, of course, in French but there are bilingual programs provided to help the faithful follow the celebration.



Don McMahon at the Jardin Botanique, Montreal

One does not need to be a Catholic to participate so everyone is welcome in Sainte-Marguerite-du-lac-Masson to celebrate the noble Celtic traditions that everyone loves and cherishes.

Here is a 25-minute video of the 2016 celebration:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikuQbl22_R0



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SHAMROCKS CLAIM HISTORIC DOUBLE!

by Ronan Corbett



Montreal Shamrocks men's and ladies Gaelic football and hurling teams competed in the 4th annual Eastern GAA Championships in Ottawa on Saturday, September 2nd 2017.

The club sent its largest ever contingent of players to the tournament – with two men's football teams, two ladies' football teams, as well as a hurling team competing on the day.

The Shamrocks managed to win both the men's football championship for the first time since 2014, while also claiming the club's first ever victory in the hurling championship!

The day was capped off with the club's winning of the MVP awards for men's and ladies' football, with Evelyne Moisan claiming the ladies' award, and Ronan Shaughnessy winning the men's award.

Congratulations to both of them.

Ladies Football

Our ladies teams reached both the cup and shield finals, but were defeated in both finals by the more experienced Ottawa teams. Our senior team, captained by Eimear O'Leary-Barrett, recorded a first-ever victory over Halifax Gaels on the day, which underlines the terrific progress being made by the ladies over the past couple of years. Great credit is due to ladies coach, Shaundel Leamon and all of the players for their dedication throughout the year.

Our junior ladies team, captained by Yette Gram and featuring many players who only started playing Gaelic football a year ago, also gave a great account of themselves on the day – showing great team spirit and heart in all of their matches.

Here's hoping a first title can come our way at next year's championships in Prince Edward Island!



Back Row (L-R): Larissa Andrusyshyn, Manon Walsh, Shera Robinson, Brandy Byrd, Julie Morrice, Laura Brody, Annie Gaumont, Véronique Buisson, Jennifer Dumais, Paris Williams, Yette Gram and Sandra Tremblay.
 Front Row (L-R): Krista Wells, Eimear O'Leary-Barrett, Saraïd McCarrick, Shaundel Leamon, Shannon Pine, Ariane Jodoin, Claire Lubell, Evelyne Moisan, Mariette Parrod and Karolyne Courville.

SHAMROCKS CLAIM HISTORIC DOUBLE! CONT.

by Ronan Corbett

Men's Football

After two narrow final defeats over the past two years, the Shamrocks men's senior football team finally took home the title with an emphatic victory over Ottawa in the final, as well as defeating Halifax Gaels, Quebec Patriots and PEI Gaels along the way. The team showed great spirit, skill and composure throughout each game, ably led by their captain, Neil O'Brien, and the effort was capped by corner forward Ronan Shaughnessy winning the MVP award on the day.

Our junior men's team, captained by Loris Langlois, also reached the final of the **Shield** competition, and was narrowly defeated by Halifax in the final. Overall, the players justified the effort put in on the training field and all of the fitness sessions organised by our dedicated and passionate coach – Damian Conneely!



Back Row (L-R): Steven Owens, Ronan Corbett, David Glynn, Dara Corrigan, Damian Conneely, Conor McNelis, Patrick Bourke
Front Row (L-R): Mickael Herbelin, Olivier Sakr, Tony Cunningham, Neil O'Brien (captain), Alan Baxter, Ronan Shaughnessy and John McEvoy



Back Row (L-R): Michael Johnson, Curtis Watson, Paul Ryan, Tony Purdie, Liam Patterson-Morris, Martin Burke, Kevin Hughes, and Damian Conneely (coach)
Front Row (L-R): Suibhne Blaix, Loris Langlois (captain), Thien Tran, Martin Lawless, Jake Ouellette



Back Row (L-R): Olivier Sakr, Damian Conneely, John McEvoy, Ronan Corbett, Liam Patterson-Morris, Martin Lawless, Martin Burke, Alan Baxter, Conor McNelis and Patrick Bourke.
Front Row (L-R): Kevin Hughes, Laura Brody (captain), Paul Ryan, Jake Ouellette, Mike Johnson, Loris Langlois and Suibhne Blaix.

Hurling

A hurling title has not been seen in Montreal since the 1970's but the Shamrocks finally put an end to that barren spell with a vintage hurling performance – defeating Ottawa Eire Og and Halifax in the group stage, before again defeating Eire Og in the final. Our hurlers showed their quality throughout the day, driven on by their inspirational captain, Laura Brody and coach, Martin Lawless, who reaped the rewards for the huge effort of organising weekly training sessions since the beginning of the season!

The club would like to thank the Ottawa Gaels and Eire Og for organising a magnificent tournament, book-ended by a reception at the Irish Ambassador to Canada's residence, and an awards' banquet attended by the chairmen of the Western, Toronto and Eastern Canadian Divisional Boards, as well as the Canadian GAA president.

Here's hoping the 2018 Eastern Championships in PEI will see a clean sweep of the men's and ladies' football and hurling trophies!



By Kim Hogan

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 2ND, 2018

BE SURE TO JOIN US AT THE SOCIAL HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR KICKING OFF MONTREAL'S 2018 IRISH SEASON THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY ANNUAL CHARITY BALL

An event not to be missed - our next St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Ball will be held on Friday, March 2nd, 2018, and returns once again to the Salle de Bal Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Château Champlain, in the heart of beautiful downtown Montreal.

Our long-standing charitable ball is not only the kick-off to the numerous festivities surrounding the Irish season in Montreal, but also a key event helping the Society raise funds towards its charitable, educational and cultural endeavours.

This year's **black-tie** event promises to be one of our best charitable Balls ever, attended by the who's who of Montreal's business, government, sports and cultural communities, and will keep you partying in style into the wee hours!



The Director's Showband entertaining the guests in 2017

The Society is most pleased to have, as our Guest of Honour at the ball, Mr. Paul Donovan, who is being recognized for his contribution to the education and formation of our future leaders, as the first lay President of Loyola High School.

Joining Mr. Donovan at this year's head table, the Society is thrilled to have, in the role of Honourary Patron, Mr. Sean Finn. Mr. Finn is the Executive Vice-President Corporate Services and Chief Legal Officer for CN, and was recently named Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal.

Returning musical favourites, "The Director's Showband", will certainly ensure, as always, that the live orchestra's sumptuous sounds keep the dance floor filled all night long.

Tickets will be available soon on the Society's website at http://www.spsmtl.com/purchase_tickets

So, be sure not to miss it.

SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY, MARCH 2ND, 2018.

You want to be where it is HAPPENING!

Dust off your tuxedo...

Put on your best gown...

and

WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE BALL.



AROUND TOWN

12th Annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture - "Ireland: A Global Island"



Jim Kelly became Ambassador of Ireland to Canada in August 2016. This is Ambassador Kelly's fourth posting as an Irish diplomat. He previously served as Deputy Permanent Representative at Ireland's Mission to the United Nations in New York (2008-13), and also served at Ireland's Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels (2001-05) and at the Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark (1995-98). Most recently, Ambassador Kelly established and directed the new Policy Planning function at the Foreign Ministry, where he led policy development on key issues such as the implications of Brexit for Ireland, and Ireland's response to the refugee and migration crisis. Please join us to hear what His Excellency has to say.

WHEN: Thursday, November 23, 2017, 7:00 pm

WHERE: Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve West, 10th floor, McEntee Reading Room

Two Celtic Masses



The Parish of Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson is holding two special Celtic Masses: the first, a Nativity and Epiphany service on Sunday January 7th, 2018 at 11 a.m. and the second in honour of St. Patrick on April 15th, 2018, also at 11 a.m. The latter celebration is an annual event that fills the church. A group called *Keltik Pilgrim* provides the music and holds a 30-minute pre-mass music and song presentation for the public as well. The programme will incorporate music from various Celtic traditions including Andalusia, Brittany, Shetlands, Quebec (Rigadon), Ireland, Scotland, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland. The music and songs are a mix of ancient melodies and more recent music sung in English (70%), French (20%) and Irish or Scots about 10%. For more information, contact Don McMahon on 438 792 5100 or email: weedonald@hotmail.com

The Irish Nutcracker

St. Patrick's Society is proud to announce its sponsorship of the upcoming production of "The Irish Nutcracker".

The Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing along with invited musicians and singers, are presenting this very special Irish Christmas show. Rehearsals are well underway and this promises to be an enjoyable Christmas event for Montreal Irish families and friends.

The Irish Nutcracker

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

7 p.m. (cocktail reception beginning at 6 p.m.)

Eric Maclean S.J. Centre for the Performing Arts

Loyola High School

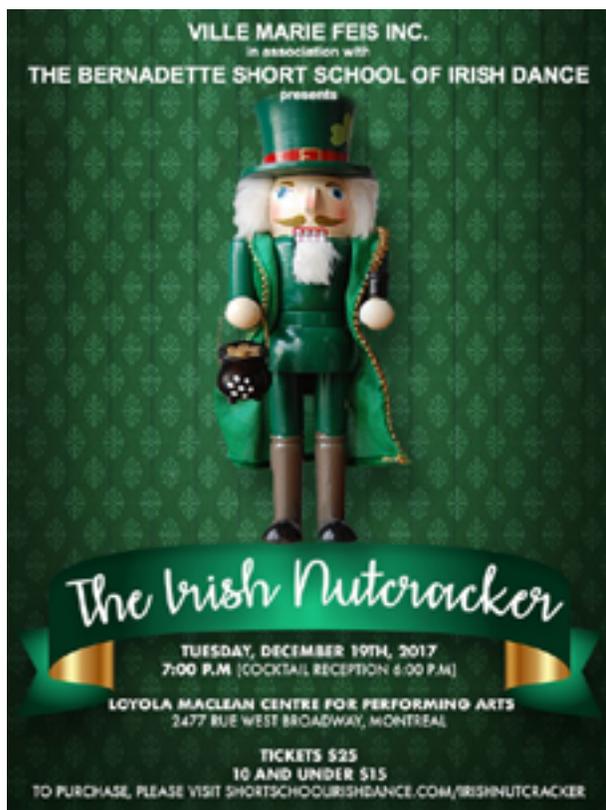
2477 West Broadway Ave.

Montreal (NDG)

We invite our members to support this event.

To purchase your tickets, visit:

<http://shortschoolirishdance.com/irishnutcracker/>



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

"It's a girl!"



SAOL FADA ROMHAT, A EMMA!

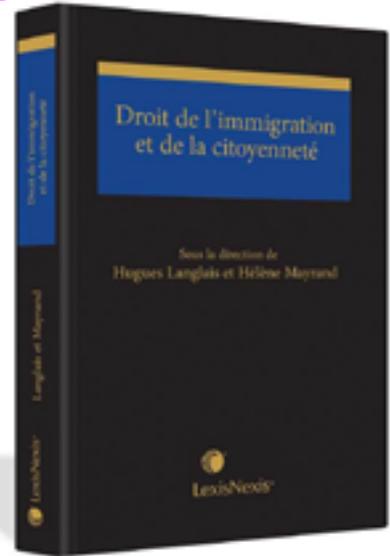
The Doyle Clan is proud to present their first grandchild, *Emma Doyle* born to proud parents, Myriam De Buhan & Shawn Doyle.

Extremely happy first-time grandparents to this wee colleen are immediate past-President of the UIS, Danny Doyle and his wife, Cathy Doyle. Proud uncles are Danny Jr. & Brandon.

Congratulations to Stephen James Fogarty, St. Patrick's Society member and contributor to "Nuacht" who is one of the authors featured in the book "*Droit de l'immigration et de la citoyenneté*".

Published: 30th October 2017
 ISBN/ISSN: 9780433491835
 Editor: LexisNexis Canada
 Language: French

COMHGHARDEAS, A CHARA!



See Chapter 5, entitled "*Interdictions de territoire*", penned by Stephen.

Billed as a comprehensive tool for those interested in learning about immigration, refugee and citizenship law in Canada, this tome aims to profile various migratory statuses, from stranger to Canadian citizen. It also describes how some people may be deemed inadmissible and subject to deportation. The various administrative and judicial remedies available to obtain status or challenge a decision are also presented.



On the same day, Stephen's daughter, Clare tied for first place in the McGill Medical School Osler Essay Competition. This is the article from the McGill Med ENews which explains the prize.

<http://publications.mcgill.ca/medenews/2017/11/08/2017-osler-student-essay-contest/medenews/2017/11/08/2017-osler-student-essay-contest/>

Over the last twenty years, the American Thanksgiving holiday has become synonymous with the Erin Sports Association raising money for their charitable Christmas activities. This year is no different. On November 23rd, while the club and its members were hospitable to a fault providing a turkey luncheon with all the trimmings, the club also organized a live auction under the capable auctioneering of their president, Tim Furlong. Much money was raised in a benevolent and social environment. We tip our caps to the men of the Erin Sports Association for their hard work.

We are pleased to learn that, during the afternoon, Erin Sports President, Tim Furlong announced to all present that the 2018 Irishman of the Year is someone we are all familiar with. He is currently the longest serving director of the Society, quite possibly the longest serving in the Society's history, and has championed the Society's Annual Golf Tournament for the last twenty years to the point where his committee has raised over a quarter of a million dollars for the Society's charitable endeavours. When you see Paul Doyle around town, please take the time to shake his hand, hug him, and congratulate him for receiving a prestigious honour. Of course, please be sure to support him by attending the *Irishman of the Year Breakfast* in March.



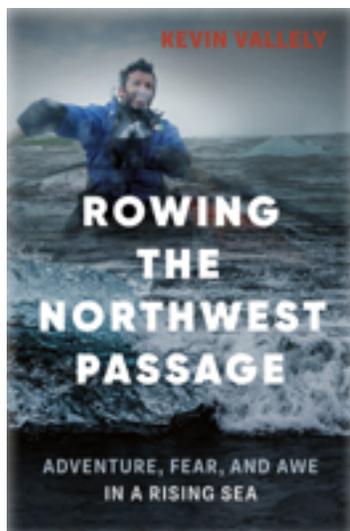
Tim Furlong congratulates Paul Doyle

ROWING THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE – ANOTHER 1ST

By Martina Branagan

If you read Kevin Valley's blog in 2013, you will be somewhat prepared for what lies in store for you with this, his first book "Rowing the Northwest Passage Adventure, Fear, and Awe in a Rising Sea". If not, be prepared for a roller-coaster armchair adventure, peppered with plenty of research (environment, history and Inuit legends), often poetic descriptions, a great sense of humour, a philosophical approach and a clear, important climate change message. A seasoned expeditionist, this book is more than the story of a personal test of courage, positivity and endurance, it is an insightful testament to the traits required in life-threatening, life-changing and life-informing situations.

Be prepared to be educated. Historical snapshots seen through today's eyes provide insights into previous failed expeditions. Kevin even obliges with sharing the team's reading list about previous similar expeditions. Along the way, we learn about Kevin's father, the late Patrick Valley of CinéGael and the germination of the seed for adventure in his son, how long it took for this world's first, his 12th expedition, to take root and why the very idea eventually saw the light of day at all (yes, you guessed right - climate change). At other times, we glimpse the cramped and unsavoury close quarters four grown men endured in the 'behemoth', purpose-built ocean rowing boat, the Arctic Joule – Kevin with Frank Wolf, Paul Gleeson and Denis Barnett - hearing through the interspersed video dialogue, the often 'colourful' language of desperate frustration at the mercy of the elements. Meet the beautiful, welcoming people who help them when they really need angels as well



as the nay-sayers on the NET. Indeed, the human backdrop is gripping, ranging from the feat of surviving the elements to learning to navigate the anti-climate change vitriol on Social Media. Very importantly, Kevin brings us up to speed with how our past abuses are coming home to roost. Learn the difference between a glacier and permafrost, icebergs and sea-ice, the possibility of wild fires so far north, the effects of melting ice and what the released methane might do to our earth!

Can Kevin's book make a difference and encourage large-scale political will to make the changes we need

to see if we don't want our world to disappear into the ether? Yes. The team partnered with the Vancouver Aquarium and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to collect ocean data along the route, using a CTD device to measure different characteristics such as conductivity, temperature, and depth as a benchmark for future observations. Best of all, Kevin manages to win the reader's trust by firmly and humbly sharing what is known, reported and unknown.

A riveting read. Congratulations Kevin and here's to many more!

The book is available in paperback (ISBN 978-1-77164-134-0) and as an ebook (ISBN 978-1-77164-135-7) from www.greystonebooks.com



HYDRO-QUÉBEC VIGER-2 SUBSTATION

On the 14th November, the Irish Community was invited to a presentation at the Hydro-Québec offices on René Levesque concerning the 6-year, 3-stage "Viger-2 Substation 315-25kV Project". The presentation forms part of a public consultation with various stakeholders.

Hydro-Québec's project managers outlined the need for the station in that location, the prospective plans, processes, procedures and anticipated timeline to enable Hydro-Québec to eventually choose the best possible project and integration in order to meet the commissioning plan of March 2023.

The Irish Community was told that the most cost-efficient solution would have been an outdoor one but that would have used the whole plot which was purchased in July 2017. To reduce footprint and free space around the bridge, Hydro-Québec plans to house the 25kV indoors along with an office and control tower. These plans are dependent on the City's requirements, what will happen to Bridge Street and the outcome of the consultation process.

Hydro-Québec intends to comply with all regulations at all levels and in all fields – federal, regional, municipal and the company's internal regulations. They will consult all previous studies and reports including historical maps. Results will

be made available to the public although the format is as yet, unknown. Surveys have begun. They have identified the original ground level, circa 1840 but have found few artefacts to date in the three completed trenches – four more are planned.

All questions from the community were answered and the area of "living culture" was brought to the project's attention.

Now that we have our new mayor, Hydro-Québec is planning a tripartite meeting with the City of Montreal and representatives of the Irish Community and reiterated the CEO's commitment to honouring the memory of the Irish who died in 1847.



Members of the Hydro-Québec Project Team: Pascale Bolduc (Chef Projets), Chantale Lapointe (Ingénieur Projets), André Burroughs (Archéologue) and Carole Charest (Chargée de projets Environnement)



ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL LUNCHEON IN DECEMBER?

By Carol McCormick



Did that heading catch your eye? Good! Just as the phrase “Christmas in July” is often used by retailers to get ahead of the game of making you buy early and often, I wanted to let you know it’s never too early to think about March 17th!

The committee started planning right after last year’s event with a post mortem and discussion about what we were going to do to make 2018’s Luncheon even better.

This year’s Luncheon will be held on Friday, March 16th, 2018 starting with, refreshments at 11:00 a.m. in the foyer of Plaza Centre Ville, (EVO), 777 boulevard Robert Bourassa, Montreal, QC H3C 3Z7, followed by lunch at 12:00 noon. Tickets are \$85.00 per person for members, \$95.00 for non-members.

Our Guest Speaker will be The Honourable Jean Charest, former Premier of Québec and Deputy Prime Minister of Canada in 1993. He will be introduced by his longtime friend and a well-known member of the Montreal business community, Mr. Sean Finn, CN Executive Vice President Corporate Services and Chief Legal Officer.

Last year, we introduced two new ideas for the Luncheon. They were the 4/clr brochure for all those who wished to advertise their company, society, school, etc. and a first time raffle. These two ideas were well received and added to the day’s revenue to help the Society’s mission of supporting the community in cultural, educational and charitable needs. Therefore, we will continue these two opportunities.

We have 3 prizes for the draw this year:

1. **Champagne Basket**
– Value CAD\$200.00 (sponsored by ROI - Research on Investment)
2. **NHL Tickets:** (Canadiens vs. Washington Capitals)
– Value: CAD\$384.00 (sponsored by Mr. Brian O’Neil)
3. **7-day Cruise for two to the Bahamas**
– Value: CAD\$2,500 (Sponsored by: Expedia CruiseShipCenters, Montreal)

Tickets will be:

- 1 Ticket: \$5; 3 Tickets: \$10;
- 7 Tickets: \$20.

Great Christmas idea for yourself or for loved ones !

Brochure advertising

Last year advertisers, you can save some money if you reserve your space before December 31st. We will honor last year’s prices and you can pay us in 2018 before the date of the Luncheon. Advise Kimberly Payne by email ads@spsmtl.com and she will coordinate everything for you.

Pub Break !

A new idea for this year’s Luncheon. After you have had a wonderful meal and enjoyed great conversation, why not continue the festivities in the Foyer from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in a Pub like environment? We are going to convert the Foyer into that same relaxed atmosphere as you would have in a downtown pub. Lights, music, drinks and great fun will await you. After that, you will be ready to party at several of the downtown pubs in Montreal, many of whom support St. Patrick’s Society of Montreal.

Now you know why I said at the beginning of this article St. Patrick’s Luncheon in December! Buy your Luncheon ticket, raffle tickets and reserve your space in the brochure now and be worry free in January. May I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas Season full of peace, joy and happiness for the coming New Year.

Carol McCormick,
Luncheon Chair.



A SIMPLE BLESSING

By Victor Boyle, A.O.H.

For more than a century, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and their chaplains were witnesses to excavations at the site of the Black Rock to see that any remains uncovered

Keys from the Park Foundation, Father Murray McCrory and I approached the workers at the site. They would later say that it was a sight they had never before experienced and would not soon forget. Faces became solemn and hardhats slowly removed and lowered to side as we described the long history of the site. The foreman offered to cease operations until he could confer with his supervisor. A machine operator, affirming his own Irish ancestry, confessed he was uneasy continuing for fear he would disrespect the Irish.



received a proper burial close to the monument. That included full funeral ceremonies when in 1942, 95 years after the tragedy of 1847, twelve simple but intact coffins were uncovered during excavations near the Victoria bridge.

The first step in the realization of the Black Rock Memorial is the taking of soil samples which consists of a benign and unintrusive process where six holes are drilled in strategic locations within the lot and the surrendered soil is taken to a laboratory for testing to determine if - and to what degree - the soil is contaminated. Those samples were taken from the lot directly across from the Black Rock over a three-day period beginning October 10, 2017.

Although the likelihood of discovering any human remains during this process was remote, let it begin in the faith of the 6,000; with a simple blessing.

At 10:30 a.m. on October 10th, Fergus

and we were off. With the work stopped, and the site as quiet as it can be given its location, Father McCrory began the ceremony to respectfully bowed heads. Blessed was the site, the men, their machinery and the completion of the task at hand. A few minutes to allow the assembled to share in Father's infectious sense of humor

and we were off. Fergus and I contacted representatives from Hydro-Québec that afternoon to express the Irish Community's appreciation for their support and understanding and to make them aware of the respect shown by the workers. Hydro-Québec offered to pass that appreciation on to the company performing the soil samples.

The Irish have a true partner in Hydro-Québec in this sacred undertaking. 



IRISH DANCING SCENE

By Pat Short

More than 800 Irish Dancers from the four eastern Canadian provinces packed the Sheraton Downtown Toronto Hotel over the Remembrance Day weekend to compete in solo and céilí team competitions at the Eastern Canadian Oireachtas. This is our qualifying event for the World Championships to be held in Glasgow, Scotland at Easter 2018, and the North American Championships to be held in Orlando, Florida over the national holidays in July.

This 3-day event features competitions for boys and girls in single age groups from under 8 to over 22 years. There are also 4-, 6- and 8-hand céilí competitions. Dancers come from the 39 schools in Ontario, 5 schools in Quebec, and from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

All the G.M.A. schools were well represented. They are Bernadette Short School, Moran Academy, Marie-Claude Rousseau School, Young Academy, and Costello Irish Dance. The dancers were beautifully turned out and they all did their parents and teachers proud.

The dancers were judged by 9 adjudicators, 3 per dance, who came from Ireland, Great Britain, Norway, and the U.S. for this event.

Each year, this region offers what is called a "Premiership". This is open to up-and-coming dancers who are new to competitions and gives them an opportunity to perform on the big stage and compete for trophies and medals but has no ranking in the general progression of events.

Marie Claude Rousseau School

There were 2 dancers from this school at the Oireachtas. Information: m.c.rousseau@videotron.ca

Moran Academy

Eileen had 2 dancers from her school and Kathleen Moran-Pauluk placed 10th in Canada (East). Information: Eileenmoran28@hotmail.com

Costello Irish Dance

Casey sent 2 dancers to the Oireachtas and one had to withdraw because of injury. His Under 10 four-hand was superbly polished and stole the show. The judges gave them, a well-earned, 1st place in this competition that had 11 other teams competing. In the Premiership, Kayleigh Parsons and Lilly St-Pierre placed in the top 5 of their respective age groups.

Information: casey@costelloirishdance.ca

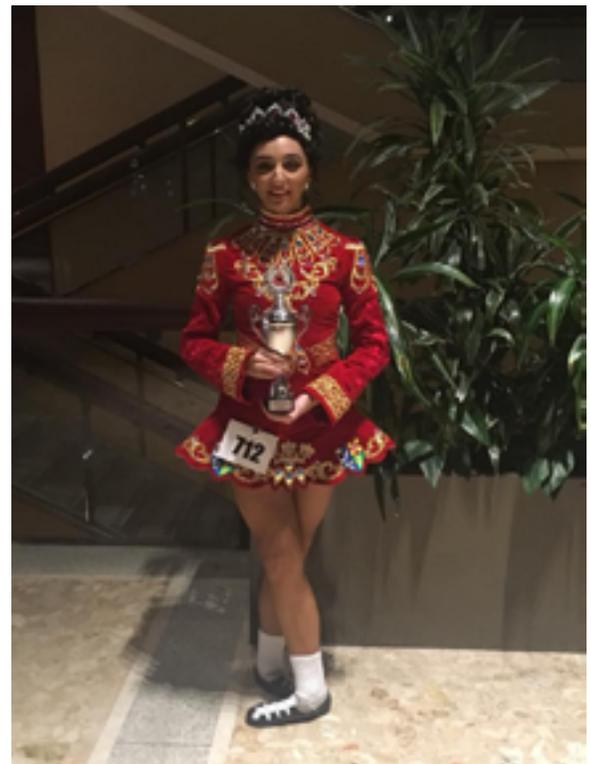
Winning 4-hand
Costello Irish Dance



Young Academy

Janice had 19 competitors this year competing in Oireachtas, Premiership and Figure Céilí Dancing. Shauna placed 11th in Canada (East) in Senior Ladies and just a couple of places shy of qualifying for the World's but qualified for the North American Championships again. In the Premiership, Cassidy placed 6th and Ariana 12th in their age categories.

Information: youngirishdance@hotmail.com



Shauna Young,
Young Academy



Isabella Parent, Mika Li-Moncel
& Shylah Morrison,
Costello Irish Dance

Bernadette Short School

This year Bernadette is celebrating 40 years teaching Irish dancing in various locations from Hudson to Shannon in Quebec.

Sixteen of her dancers qualified for World's and 28 for the North American Championships.

Her 4-Hand Under 12 years placed 3rd and 5th and her 8-hand Under 12 placed 1st and 3rd.

Many of her dancers medaled in the Premierships.

Bernadette wants to thank her assistant coaches Marie, Katie, Natasha, Anne-Marie, and Lucas for all their work.



Morgan Flannigan,
Bernadette Short School

World's qualifiers were as follows: placing 1st in Canada (East) in their competitions were Meghan Kilmartin, Aselin Bates and North American Champion James Houghton.

Other World's qualifiers were:

- Kelsey Crone 3rd,
- Kayla Gagne 4th,
- Gabrielle McBain 5th,
- Morgan Flanagan 3rd,
- Michaela Isaacson 4th,
- Britney Shiaman 5th,
- Justin Shiaman 4th,
- Mary Roper 8th,
- Isabelle Chouinard 6th,
- Emile Choiniere-Shields 2nd,
- Spencer Gearey 2nd,
- Kaylee Finlay 5th and
- Aidan Foley 2nd.

Information: info@shortschoolirishdance.com



James Houghton Meaghan Kilmartin
1st in Canada & 1st in N. America 1st in Canada
Bernadette Short School

*Comhghairdeas libh
sach daire!*



2017-2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2017-2018

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION
Nov 23	American Thanksgiving Dinner, Erin Sports, 1119 Hickson Ave. in Verdun. Contact: Dave Dubeau	ddubeau7@gmail.com or 514 894 6561
Nov 23	SPS Lecture, Concordia Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve W., 10 th floor, McEntee Reading Room	cdnirish.fas@concordia.ca
Nov 26	UIS Gen. Meeting & Christmas Draw 1:30 p.m., St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle	president@montrealirishparade.com
Nov 25	Céilí, Siamsa, 8 p.m., The NDG Legion Hall, 5455 boul de Maisonneuve West, Montreal	info@siamsa.org
Dec 7	SPS Christmas Party, 6 p.m., Hurley's Irish Pub, 2 nd floor	office@spsmtl.com
Dec 8	Innisfail "Christmas Party" at 7:30 p.m., NDG Legion on Addington & De Maisonneuve	gordonrose@videotron.ca
Dec 12	ICCCM Christmas Party, Bier Markt Montreal, 1221 René-Lévesque Blvd. W., 18:00-21:00	office@icccmtl.com
Dec 19	"The Irish Nutcracker", Eric Maclean S.J. Centre for the Performing Arts, 2477 West Broadway Ave.	shortschoolirishdance.com/irishnutcracker
Jan 7	Celtic Mass, 11 a.m. (Epiphany), Parish of Sainte-Marguerite-du-lac-Masson, Don McMahon	weedonald@hotmail.com
Jan 14	UIS Gen. Meeting 1:30 p.m., St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle	president@montrealirishparade.com
Jan 19	Innisfail "Kick-off Céilí" - members only - 7:30 p.m., NDG Legion on Addington & De Maisonneuve	gordonrose@videotron.ca
Feb 3	UIS Queen's Selection Evening, 7:00 p.m., 777 boul Robert-Bourassa	cmurphy2_3@msn.com
Feb 15	UIS Flagraising 12 p.m., Place Ville Marie	pmulqueen@hotmail.com
Feb 18	UIS Gen Meeting 1:30 p.m., St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle	president@montrealirishparade.com
Feb 24	Céilí, Siamsa, 8 p.m., The NDG Legion Hall, 5455 boul de Maisonneuve West, Montreal	info@siamsa.org
Apr 15	Celtic Mass, 11 a.m. (St. Patrick), Parish of Sainte-Marguerite-du-lac-Masson, Don McMahon	weedonald@hotmail.com
Mar 2	SPS Charity Ball, Salle de Bal Grand Ballroom of the Marriott Château Champlain, Montreal	http://www.spsmtl.com/purchase_tickets
Mar 10	Erin Club's Irishman-of-the-Year Breakfast, The Evo/The Plaza Centre-Ville, 777 Robert Bourassa	ddubeau7@gmail.com or 514 894 6561
Mar 11	UIS Mass of Anticipation 11:30 p.m., St. Gabriel's Church Point St. Charles	pmulqueen@hotmail.com
Mar 11	UIS Gen Meeting 2:00 p.m., St. Gabriel's Church, Point St. Charles	president@montrealirishparade.com
Mar 16	SPS luncheon, Plaza Centre Ville, (EVO), 777 boulevard Robert Bourassa, Montreal, QC H3C 3Z7	http://www.spsmtl.com/purchase_tickets
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day Parade, Hudson	cunninghamspub@live.ca
Mar 17	Céilí, Siamsa, 8 p.m., The NDG Legion Hall, 5455 boul de Maisonneuve West, Montreal	info@siamsa.org
Mar 18	UIS 195 th Consecutive St. Patrick's Parade, 12 p.m. downtown Montreal	director@montrealirishparade.com
Mar 24	St. Patrick's Day Parade, Quebec city	fcribb@cribtec.com
Mar 25	St. Patrick's Day Parade, Chateauguy	gtkeenan61@hotmail.com
Apr 7	UIS Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance 6:00 p.m., 777 boul Robert-Bourassa	coach_shawn12@hotmail.com
Apr 7	Thomas D'Arcy McGee Memorial	office@spsmtl.com
Apr 28	Céilí, Siamsa, 8 p.m., The NDG Legion Hall, 5455 boul de Maisonneuve West, Montreal	info@siamsa.org
Apr 29	UIS Mass for Deceased Members 11:00 a.m., St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle	pmulqueen@hotmail.com
Apr 29	UIS AGM 1:30 p.m., St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle	president@montrealirishparade.com
May 27	AOH Walk to the Stone	info@aoh-Montreal.com (514-928-7196)
Jun 7	SPS AGM, TBC	office@spsmtl.com
Jun 13-16	Bloomsday Festival Montreal	bloomsdaymontreal@gmail.com
Jun 19	SPS Annual Charity Golf Tournament	office@spsmtl.com
July 26	AOH Mass in the Park	info@aoh-Montreal.com, 514-928-7196
Aug 18	AOH Pilgrimage to Grosse Ile	info@aoh-Montreal.com, 514-928-7196

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