



Petition: “No” to half-tributes!



Source: The light rail network, the Réseau express métropolitain (REM) - interactive map

As many of you know, on June 23rd of this year the Mayor of Montreal sprung the proposed name of the new REM station on our community's leaders mere hours prior to the public announcement at City Hall with REM leadership, City leadership, and even the widow of the late premier, Bernard Landry, in attendance. While the mayor claims the new hyphenated name is partly to honour the Irish community, the lack of Irish community representation at that press conference was indeed a glaring and deliberate omission. While the City requested and CDPQ Infra agreed, the community is largely in disagreement with the naming of this station as “Griffintown-Bernard-Landry”. It should simply be “Griffintown”.

We know that several petitions were launched in the wake of this unpopular announcement in both languages and that media attention

was evident regarding the naming, despite the statutory holiday. With anything, the attention has faded.

Our friends in the United Irish Societies with the help of Jacques-Cartier MNA Gregory Kelley have spearheaded a petition which appears on the National Assembly website. You may or may not have signed the previous petitions. However, if you agree with the petition, we ask that you sign this one, which will no doubt be tabled on the floor of the National Assembly and which you will find [here](#). You will find the petition is written in both official languages. Please note that the signing deadline is **January 23rd, 2021**.

May the late Bernard Landry be appropriately and separately honoured for his contributions to our city!

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SPS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By KEN QUINN, PRESIDENT, SPS

The Holiday Season is fast approaching. All I want for Christmas this year is an end to the COVID19 virus which has dramatically affected every corner of our lives. Where did the time go? It seems like only last month that we were assembling at Le Windsor for the 2019 Annual General Meeting and Christmas Reception followed shortly thereafter by the Charity Ball, which turned out to be the final event of the Irish Season before the provincial government instituted public health measures to try to flatten the COVID curve. Here we are ten months into the efforts to beat the virus back in what seems like futility. Despite that, I know we will eventually prevail and *Ça va bien aller*.

So that everyone stays safe, all Society meetings are being conducted virtually using platforms such as Zoom. I want to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and patience as we navigate this new way of conducting business. It certainly does not replace the joy I feel when meeting people face to face though it makes me wonder how the Society conducted its business during the Spanish Flu pandemic over a century ago.

Also, for everyone's safety, the Society will forgo organizing the great events during the Irish Season that raise significant monies for the charitable, cultural, and educational causes in the community we are happy to support. Supporting the community does not stop, however. We are in the planning stages of organizing a virtual luncheon to be held on March 17th as well as organizing other virtual activities that will be of interest to our members and the community.

While the in-person activities are suspended, the fundraising continues. We are pleased to offer beautiful Christmas gift baskets, details of which you will find in the pages of this edition with special thanks to Christie Brown, Carol McCormick and Mark Gallagher for their work on this project.

As I mentioned in my remarks at the Annual Meeting some of you may or may not know that your St. Patrick's Society is registered with the CRA as a charity. As such the funds that you donate are eligible for a tax receipt. The calendar year is fast coming to an end. Please consider donating to the Society, which is [made easy through our website](#). Your generous donations and those of your friends and families throughout the years have played an important role in the Society's ability to support the numerous charitable, cultural, and educational organizations in the community.

The good work in the community carries on. Since 1993 the Society annually recognizes someone from the Irish community or someone of Irish descent who has done some remarkable things often without fanfare. [The online form and criteria can be found on our website](#) under the "News" menu. Submission deadline is January 22, which leaves you plenty of time to reflect, compose your nominee's bio, and submit for consideration.

As the year comes to a close, I wish you nothing but health and happiness for 2021. May you and your families have every opportunity to celebrate safely while following local health guidelines.

Nollaig Shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise agaibh!



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www.spsmtl.com

Submissions for Spring edition: Jan. 15, 2021

CALL FOR NOMINEES - ANNUAL SPS COMMUNITY AWARD

By KEN QUINN

It's that time of year where your Society is calling for nominations for the annual Community Award, presented at the Annual Charity Luncheon in March.

Since 1993, St. Patrick's Society of Montreal has been honoured to recognize an individual who has made exceptional contributions to the Irish Montreal community.

The Community Award 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.

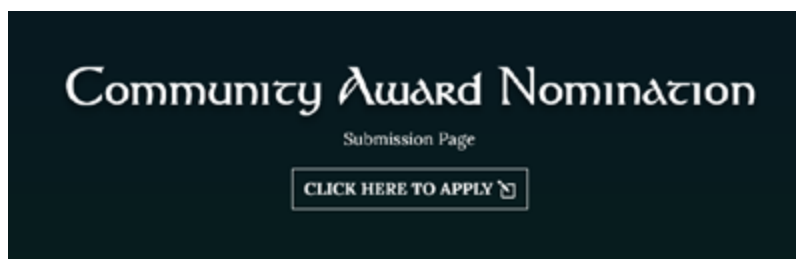
If you believe someone you know meets these criteria, please complete the [online form](#) found on our webpage, under the "News" menu.

Please be certain to include your full name and contact details as well as the nominee's full name and a brief biography explaining why they are deserving of this honour in the "Supporting information for nomination" field.

The submission deadline is Friday, January 22, 2021.

We look forward to receiving your suggestions and to presenting the Award at the Luncheon to be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

Previous winners are listed on our website here: <https://spsmtl.com/community-award-nominations/>



SPS Committee and Event Chairs

Charity Luncheon	Pamela McGovern
Community Award	Vacant
Governance and Protocol	Christopher Deehy
Investment Committee	Paul Doyle
Golf Committee	Dave Dubeau
Charitable Giving & Sponsorship Committee	Vacant
Membership Committee	Vacant
Nominating Committee	Christie Brown
Strategic Planning	Vacant
Youth Wing	Caitlin Moynan

Advertising Rates for Nuacht

Size	One issue	Four issues	Saving
Card size	\$75	\$200	\$100
1/4 page	\$150	\$350	\$250
1/3 page	\$200	\$500	\$300
1/2 page	\$250	\$700	\$300

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

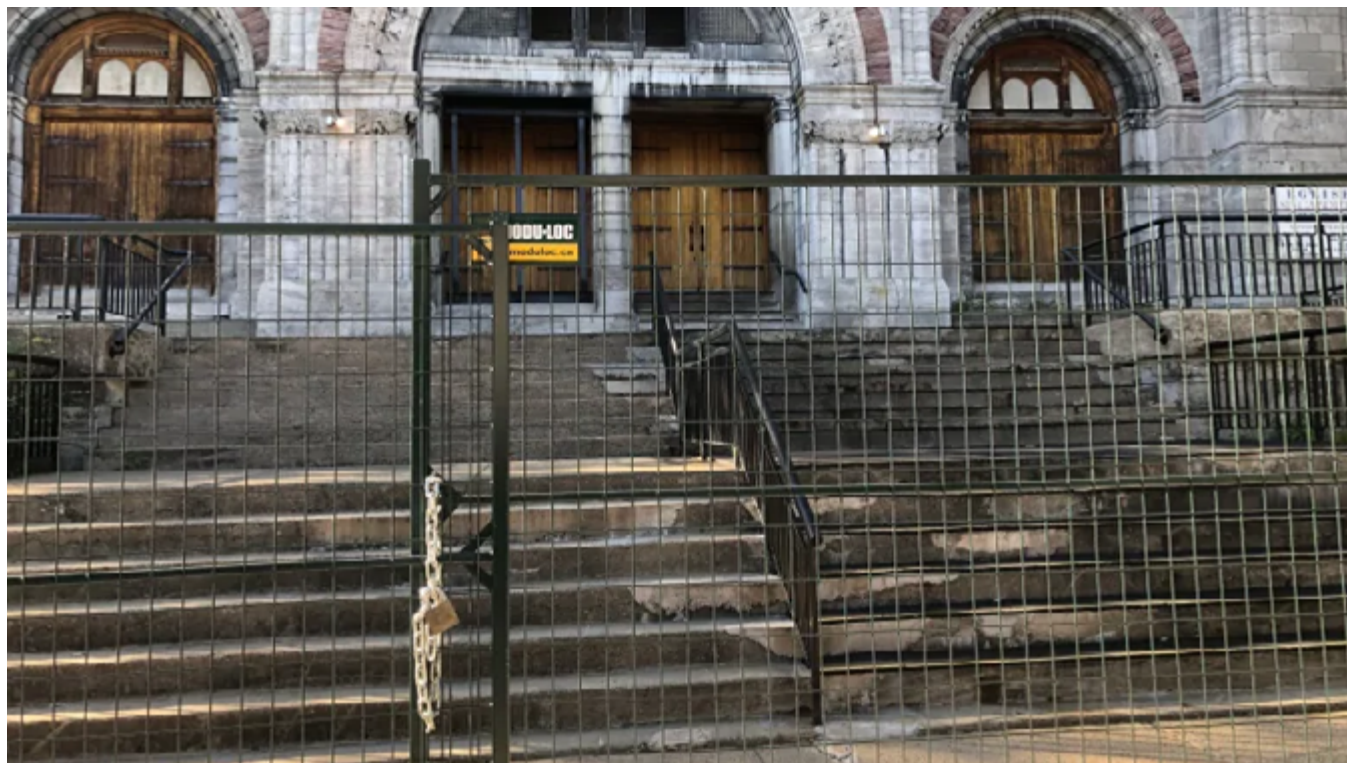
The deadlines for submissions are usually: September 15th, November 15th, January 15th and May 15th.

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.

Thank you to our committee chairs for all your hard work and dedication to the society.

ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH

By KEN QUINN



As you are aware, a safety perimeter surrounds Saint Gabriel's Parish Church, in Montreal. Neither the church nor the rectory can be used. The parish offices are now located in St. Charles' rectory (2111 Centre St.)

Usually, the Irish community gathers on key occasions throughout the year at St. Gabriel's. The Mass of Anticipation is celebrated in the church each March on the Sunday before the annual Montreal Saint Patrick's parade. On the last Sunday of May, after Sunday Mass, there is a ceremonial walk from the church to the Black Rock (at the foot of Victoria Bridge). This memorial is near where the fever sheds housed the sick and dying victims of the Great Irish Famine of 1847 as well as those who succumbed to the dreaded typhus while caring for them.



Father Timothy Scott

Within the last few weeks, Father Timothy Scott, the new pastor of St. Gabriel's and St. Charles' Parishes, released a [letter](#) to the congregation and community of St. Gabriel's about decisions that must be made about the future of the church itself and other possible options. The letter invites interested people to share their comments with him.

I ask you to please read the letter and to share your thoughts. If you are a parishioner or simply a friend of the parish, I invite you to join their Facebook group. Simply search on Facebook for "Friends from St Gabriel's Parish".

MEET TWO NEW SPS DIRECTORS

LAURIE MCKEOWN-THOMASSIN is a Celt: Irish & Scottish. Her father's side of the family hail from Tipperary, came to Canada in the 1830's and settled in Gore, Quebec and again in 1848 from Belfast. Her mother's side is Scottish.

We all know Laurie as the photographer at the last Annual SPS Golf Tournament.

A graduate of Concordia University in various disciplines (Exercise Science, Photography - Digital Imaging and Irish Studies), Laurie currently works in Medical Billing and Office Accounting /Book Keeping.

A committed volunteer, Laurie also serves Loyola High School as President Parent's Association, President Mother's Guild, President Grad Committee; Canadian Power and Sail Squadron: West Island Training Officer and various Community Sport Organizations.



Married to Bruce Thomassin for 37 years, they have three sons: Michael (Michelle), Bryce (Brianna), and Hayden (Caroline). Pointe Claire has been their home for the last 32 years. In 2001, Laurie started a group called 'Mothers for Others,' assembling a group of women to teach them the art of traditional quilting. Today "Mothers for Others" is an independent group that makes over 100 quilts a year for the Pediatric ICU at the Montreal Children's Hospital. They have made quilts to raise money for the Cedar's Cancer Centre of Montreal, along with the Quebec Breast Cancer Society and the Montreal Service Dogs for Wounded Warriors. They have also made a commitment to produce twelve quilts for a new Palliative Care Facility downtown and are currently involved in the project "7 Quilts for Joyce Echaquon's Children" through the Indigenous Health Centre of Tiohtiia:ke. In 2016, Laurie decided to go back to school and in 2019, she graduated from the School of Irish Studies at Concordia University. "Although it was daunting to go back to school at the age of 59, it was a fabulous experience", she said.



THOMAS G. IRELAND was born in NDG, Montreal and raised on the West Island. His parents are Raymond and Millicent.

Married for 34 years to Jackie St-Laurent, they live in Baie D'Urfé and have two grown-up children: 34 year-old Liam who works as a Civil Engineer and 32 year-old Melanie who is an Investment Executive.

Tom, as he prefers to be called, is a graduate of the Executive Institute at McGill University. He also studied at the Institut de protection contre les incendies du Québec (IPIQ) - Quebec Fire Protection Institute.

He has worked primarily in the Consumer Packaged Goods Industry in various capacities such as National Sales Manager and Vice President Sales and Marketing. He retired in 2013. He also worked as Managing Partner in a small private business.

Tom is currently employed as a Firefighter / First Responder with the Montreal Fire Department.

His many interests include volunteer work with several charitable initiatives and he also participates in many sports including hockey, golf, kayaking, cycling and hiking/mountaineering.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE DIASPORA

FROM PRESIDENT OF IRELAND MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

May I send my warmest Christmas greetings, as Uachtarán na hÉireann, President of Ireland, to all our extended Irish family across the world.

Wherever you may be, and in whatever circumstances, as Ireland's global family connected by our shared Irishness, its culture, heritage and history, it is a privilege to send greetings on what has been a difficult year for all of us, but some more than others.

Christmas this year will, by necessity, be a different Christmas to that with which we are familiar. At this time of year, it has long been the practice of workers, friends and families to gather together to socialise and celebrate. So many friends and family from abroad looked forward to returning home to catch up on family and local news and of course to experience and share the excitement and joy that, for so many, Christmastime represents.

Regrettably, so many of these traditional Christmas activities will not take place in 2020, or will have to be severely curtailed, owing to COVID-19. This is yet another disappointment to be added to the personal, social, economic and indeed cultural consequences of a pandemic that has resulted in so much tragedy since it enveloped the world earlier this year.

May I suggest, however, that the COVID crisis should not mean that we cannot have a Christmas of resonance this year, one that we will remember in the future. With a little imagination and goodwill, we can all make Christmas 2020 a Christmas to remember for all the right reasons. I suggest we do so on the basis of good citizenship.

This Christmas presents us with an opportunity to make a profound reflection on the importance of strengthening our determination to continue with our efforts to take care, to suppress the virus and, in doing so, demonstrate solidarity with our essential workers and with each other, so that we all prevail with our health protected and with the essentials of our social and economic interactions recovered with the minimum of risk.



President and his wife Sabina turn on Christmas lights
Photo: Maxwell's Photography

can be sourced in those fundamental values that represent the best of ourselves, such as solidarity, care, compassion, kindness, sensitivity. These values have been generously demonstrated by so many of our citizens over the past year as the public health crisis unfolded.

We continue to share the grief of those who have lost loved-ones, and share the anguish of those whose lives and livelihoods that have been impacted adversely. We feel for the loneliness being experienced by those who have been separated from contact with those who previously sustained them. This is all the more poignant at Christmastime. We must acknowledge, too, that for so many the loss of the social, economic and recreational practices that were their links to life in its rich totality is near devastating. We must encourage each other and draw strength from that.

As we connect to our wider Irish family and to the many friends of Ireland who celebrate Christmas with us, from far and wide, in perhaps equally unusual circumstances, let us also resolve to embrace all of our responsibilities as global citizens, and to work with fellow citizens across all continents for a more equal, just and sustainable world; a world that, with all our endeavours, can reject violence in all its forms, and redoubles its efforts to end global poverty, exploitation and exclusion.

Yes, 2020 has been a gruelling year for all of us and a tragic year for so many, but let us recall that, while it is important never to forget that Christmas marks the birth of Jesus Christ, it also marks the beginning of longer, lighter days, and is thus a powerful symbol of hope, a beacon of better days to come.

May I wish all those who share this island, be they Irish people by birth or descent, or those who have a connection with Ireland, wherever they may be in the world, and all those fellow global citizens who are friends of Ireland, a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.

The principles that guide us in our renewed commitment

Winter 2020

FEDERAL PARTIES URGED TO DEFEND GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

By KEVIN CALLAHAN

MARY LOU MCDONALD, leader of the official opposition Sinn Féin party in the Irish parliament Dáil Éireann, has called on the leaders of the five federal parties in Canada to defend the Good Friday Agreement in any future trade agreement with the United Kingdom. In an opinion piece in the Toronto Star (October 30th), Ms McDonald revealed that she had written to federal party leaders to ask for their support in preventing a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.



Joe Biden affirmed that the Good Friday Agreement “cannot become a casualty of Brexit.” Thanks to the efforts of prominent Canadians such as General John de Chastelain, Justice William Hoyt, the late Warren Allmand, and Judge Peter Cory, Canada played a key role in the Irish peace process. McDonald hopes that the Canadian government will continue this tradition and make it clear to the British government that the peace process in Ireland, negotiated after decades of conflict, is not on the bargaining table.

Last September, the British government unveiled an Internal Market Bill which it admitted would breach the Withdrawal Agreement it had signed with the European Community in October 2019. This cavalier approach to an international agreement not only violates international law but also puts the Good Friday Agreement in jeopardy. Moreover, the Internal Market Bill was drafted without consultation with the Northern Ireland Assembly or the Irish government, and both bodies oppose this unilateral action on the part of the British government.

Both the twenty-seven EU member states and the U.S. Congress have made unequivocal statements that there will be no trade agreements with the U.K. if the Good Friday Agreement is threatened. U.S. president-elect

The issue is increasingly urgent because Canada and the British government announced on November 21st that an interim post-Brexit trade agreement had been reached. Unlike his EU and U.S. counterparts, Prime Minister Trudeau did not make any reference to the Internal Market Bill or the Good Friday Agreement when announcing the agreement. The trade deal now must be approved by the Canadian parliament, but the timeline is tight as the Liberal government wants the bill passed by December 31st when the U.K. formally leaves the European Union. Irish Canadians concerned with peace and stability in Ireland must hope that the Canadian government will take a principled stand and demand that the U.K. live up to its international agreements if it wants to do business here.

THE IRISH TIMES

PRICE 85p (incl. VAT) 11p morning rate DUBLIN, SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1998 No. 45,111 CITY

WEEKEND

Into the Music
Van Morrison takes John Kelly back to his East Belfast roots

SPORT
Mastering the Masters
Dermot Gilleece reports from Augusta

John McGahern: In praise of Ernie O'Malley
Eileen Battersby: In awe of Germaine Greer
The General: In line for big screen treatment

INSIDE: 12-page colour supplement on the Northern settlement

THE IRISH TIMES
EASTER 1998
PERHAPS, in time, the date will resonate in the collective memory of our children and our grandchildren, just as 1916 or 1912 or 1949 or 1958 have done for those of earlier generations. Where the inherited historic icons were the rebels of 1916 or the Larne gun-runners of 1912, or the victors in ancient battles, perhaps those of the coming times will be the peacemakers who buried the quarrel of 400 years inside the grey, prefabricated huts of the Castle Buildings at Stormont, in the days running up to Easter 1998.
Perhaps. What has been achieved over these days is a beginning. It marks the start of the challenging experiment, so often and so painstakingly prescribed over the years by John Hume, the bringing together of the representatives of the people of all of Ireland to agree how they might share this space of land upon which they have been cast by the tide of history. They have set out a structure. Will it be sturdy enough to endure the strains and stresses which

‘Historic agreement marks a new beginning for us all’

‘I’m pleased to announce that the two governments, and the political parties of Northern Ireland, have reached agreement.’
—Senator George Mitchell

Read the full text of The Good Friday Agreement [here](#).

CBC INVITES YOU TO...

By ANDREA STANFORD

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: 2021 CBC/QWF DIGITAL WRITERS IN RESIDENCE



CBC Quebec and the Quebec Writers' Federation are now taking submissions for the 2021 Digital Writers-in-Residence program. This opportunity is open to all residents of Quebec. They are looking for a broad range of perspectives, including those from new voices and will be selecting three writers with diverse backgrounds and experiences. If you have a unique point of view and a fresh way of presenting it, we invite you to apply. You do not have to be a published writer. To apply, writers should submit a 600-word nonfiction personal essay (in English) based on the theme of "light and dark". Essays must be previously unpublished.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 22. For more details visit the "Community" section of cbc.ca/montreal

CBC IS LOOKING FOR STORIES OF KINDNESS

CBC Montreal is looking for people to share their stories of kindness this holiday season as part of their Make the Season Kind campaign. E-mail mtlcomm@cbc.ca with your story of how you gave or received an act of kindness. By sharing your story, you'll be entered into a draw to win some CBC swag and may even get a chance to be interviewed on radio or television. No act of kindness is too small!



Ongoing initiatives (i.e. for future issues):
CBC Montreal looking for Montrealers making a difference

CBC MONTREAL'S AFTERNOON RADIO SHOW LET'S GO WANTS TO CELEBRATE THE WORK OF EVERYDAY MONTREALERS



Do you know someone who has had a positive impact on you, your loved ones or friends? Maybe it's the recycling collector, the teacher who takes the extra time, the barista who goes the extra mile, or the teen who cut your lawn when you were not feeling your best. Every month, the Let's Go team will choose someone who is, whether in big ways or small, making a difference in their community.

Send them your nomination and explain what kind of an impact this Montrealer has had on their community. We will celebrate them on air and send them a personal thank you for trying to better the lives of people in our beautiful city. Send your nominations to letsgo@cbc.ca

MONTREAL IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB - ALIVE & KICKING

By MARK GALLAGHER

The Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club (MIRFC), like everyone else, was forced to adapt during the 2020 regular season. On finding out that the playing season was essentially cancelled, the club decided to use the time in as positive a way as possible.

RUGBY SOUPE

You may recall in the last edition of Nuacht, President of the MIRFC, James Acker initiated a program leveraging club member's spare time, to help give back to the local community, by providing much needed meals to the homeless and those feeling the pinch. Seeing what a positive initiative this was and because of the comradery that is ever present in the rugby community, this program grew with many more volunteers stepping forward from a number of other clubs. There is now a network of over one hundred (100) volunteers across Montreal, preparing and delivering three meals a day at Resilience on St. Catherine and Atwater, Welcome Hall Mission, Nazareth Community, Patricia MacKenzie Pavillion and most other homeless shelters across Montreal. This humble team of people has now provided a whopping 60,000 meals for those in need and is doing an amazing job!

The program is always looking for more volunteers to help prepare food or deliver, so if you have some spare time and would like to help out, you can go to www.rugbysoupe.com to find out more.



Emersyn, newest member of the Montreal Irish, is helping Dad and Club President James Acker prepare food for delivery to homeless shelters



Tom Smith, founder of rugby at Concordia and Wanderers Rugby Club

MONTREAL IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB - ALIVE & KICKING

By MARK GALLAGHER

CLUBHOUSE REPAIRS

The Club also used the time to make essential repairs at the grounds and clubhouse at St Julie. With no regular season planned, members young and old still made their way to St. Julie every Saturday for pretty much twenty weeks in a row, to give their time and hard work, in maintaining what is the only club-owned, dedicated rugby asset, in the entire Province. Club members took to essential maintenance of the veranda, as well as gutting the bathroom facilities and installing sump pumps as well as (cough) expanding the trophy cabinet. Whilst these works were required, the club found it particularly tough this year as there were essentially no revenues from events at the club house to pay for this ongoing maintenance. It is hoped that 2021 will bring a full rugby schedule with plenty of games and social events for members. The MIRFC is a core part of the Irish community in Montreal and it was greatly encouraging to see how club members came together in a year of uncertainty and rallied to support not only one another, but the wider community in Montreal.



Veteran player and coach Dave Linard working hard at St. Julie & modeling the club's new Irish apparel (supplier: O'Neill's)



St Patrick's Society branding on new rugby balls in 2020



Two younger players practice their 'lifting' drills

MONTREAL IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB - ALIVE & KICKING

By MARK GALLAGHER

MINI RUGBY

Despite not having a full playing season at senior level, the club still managed to run a safe St. Patrick's Society mini rugby for 5-12 year olds in Verdun. Working closely with the City and adapting to the confines of COVID regulations, the dedicated leadership group and coaches were committed to having children continue to play and try and have as normal a summer as possible. Whilst multi-club jamborees were not allowed, training and intra club sessions were and the club ran a program every Sunday morning throughout the summer. The kids and parents were extremely thankful for the commitment and desire to keep kids active and healthy and will only serve as a great platform for the 2021 season.

NUACHT



Prize-giving medals



U8 Team and coaches sporting their medals



St. Patrick's Society branding on jerseys

WHAT IS THE PILLARS TRUST FUND?

BY CAROL McCORMICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE PILLARS TRUST FUND

The Pillars Trust Fund was founded in Montreal, in 1972, by Bishop Leonard J. Crowley, former chaplain and member of SPS, AOH and UIS. As much as it was nearly fifty years ago, there are many in Montreal who are unaware of its existence and sadly, what it has accomplished in the Montreal Community.

Pillars Trust, as it's often called, was created as an independent, incorporated, not for profit organization run by a volunteer board to assist and support the English-speaking community of Montreal. Through the years, Pillars Trust has focused its mission, independently of the diocese, on helping individual, English-speaking Catholic parishes of the Archdiocese.

But the parishes are only part of The Pillars Trust Fund's mission. Social action holds an important place in that mission. Just recently, Pillars Trust and Nazareth House held a joint fundraising event to help create the new "John's House" named after our recently passed pillar of the community in his own right, Father John Walsh. "John's House" will be housing men who are unable at this time in their lives to support themselves. "Accueil Bonneau" is another Montreal organization that has reached out to The Pillars Trust Fund for assistance during this terrible time we are all going through in one way or another.

I realize that there are many, many organizations helping people in need. So why give to Pillars Trust? My personal answer is that Pillars Trust is very unique in its giving. It's unique because it not only helps those organizations that feed the body of those in need but Pillars Trust also helps those who help feed the souls. Training and formation of priests for our parishes and revitalization

of parishes are part of The Pillars Trust Fund's Mission.

For me, feeding the body and the soul go hand in hand. The struggles we have all faced in these last few months have required that we not only have a roof over our heads and food to sustain us but we needed and still need hope that we can get through this devastating disease that has perhaps taken lives in our own families. Belief in a higher power may not be a focal point for some but it is for others to help get them through the day. Pillars has been helping churches in Montreal to bring that spiritual support to their congregations through e.g. virtual Masses. Without the financial support of Pillars, this spiritual support may not have been achieved.

Our greatest supporters are individuals, those who know the great works of Pillars Trust and may have even experienced Pillars' support in some way.

If you would like to know more about The Pillars Trust Fund, I invite you to go to our website: www.pillarstrust.org. At the end of this article is a contribution form for you to use if you would like to donate whatever you can give. Income Tax Receipts are given for all donations beginning at \$10.00. You could clip out the form below and send it with your donation to:

The Pillars Trust Fund Inc.
2005 Saint Marc St.
Montreal, QC
H3H 9Z9



On behalf of The Pillars Trust Fund Inc, I hope you stay safe, healthy and wish you the very best of the Christmas Season.

Yes, I wish to contribute to The Pillars Trust Fund.

Please accept my gift of:

☒ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: \$ _____
☐ Pledge _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____

Telephone: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

My Parish Community is: _____

Make your donation online: www.pillarstrust.org. You will receive a tax receipt by email.

Method of payment

☐ Cheque (payable to The Pillars Trust Fund)

☐ Visa

☐ Master Card

Card# _____

Exp. Date: _____ / _____

Signature: _____

Thank You

Charitable Registration No.: 11909 3326 RR0001

If you have already sent in your annual donation, thank you very much.

FESTIVE IRISH COFFEE GIFT BOX - GREAT GIFT IDEA

BY MARK GALLAGHER

We know it's going to be difficult this holiday season, due to limited contact with friends and family, but don't let that stop you raising a virtual toast together! St Patrick's Society of Montreal has put together a [Festive Irish Coffee Gift Box](#), that you can send to friends and family to let them know you're thinking about them over the holidays. Or even just pick one up for yourself and enjoy at home relaxing by the fire, on a cold winter night.

The basket includes carefully selected, high quality ingredients, to ensure the best results for you and your loved ones. The coffee was sourced locally and has been specially selected, roasted and ground, for St Patrick's Society, by Brulerie Balance, located in Verdun.

The gift box includes:

- 1 x recipe and guide to making the 'Perfect Irish Coffee'
- 2 x Irish Coffee glasses
- 375ml bottle of Jameson Irish Whiskey
- 200g of specially selected ground coffee
- 1 x 60g bar of Laura Secord chocolate

This ideal gift idea is priced very reasonably at \$45 for pick up, or can be delivered in and around the Island of Montreal for \$50. Remember the profits from every box sold, will go to helping local organisations that promote Irish heritage, sport and culture.

So [order](#) your Festive Irish Coffee Gift Box today. Supplies are limited - first come, first served.



SAINT PATRICK'S SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

FACULTY OF
ARTS AND SCIENCESchool of
Irish Studies

To the Donors of the Saint Patrick's Society Scholarship,

I am writing to express my deepest thanks to the members of Saint Patrick's Society of Montreal for creating this prestigious scholarship, and say how grateful I am to be the 2019 recipient of this high-profile academic award.

My name is Eimear Rosato. I grew up in Belfast, Northern Ireland and I am currently in the second year of my PhD in History on Irish related research at Concordia University. My research explores the intergenerational memory and trauma in "post-conflict" Northern Ireland, utilizing oral history interviews.

I would like to express my gratitude for the Saint Patrick's Society Scholarship, which has helped fund my studies here in Montreal. Without being the recipient of this generous scholarship, my studies in Montreal would not be possible. Such significant scholarships enable graduate students like me to pay my tuition fees, health insurance, living expenses, and research materials, so that we can concentrate on our academic activities. Without these generous scholarships, conducting research within the humanities would be considerably more difficult.

Over the last year I have been working on my comprehensive exams, and have published an academic article on my research. I was also one of the primary organizers of the Annual Concordia University Graduate Conference in Irish Studies which took place in January 2020. Aside from sharing our academic research with graduate students from across North America, organizing such events enables us to gain valuable skills which will prove useful in our careers after graduation. During the next academic year, I will be finishing my comprehensive exams and conducting interviews for my research.

I chose to undertake my PhD at Concordia University because of the renowned reputation of the School of Irish Studies, which is recognized internationally for conducting innovative and impactful research. The cultural legacy and connection of Montréal to Ireland provides an excellent backdrop to conducting my research.

Once again, I cannot express enough how grateful I am for the financial support of the Saint Patrick's Society Scholarship.

Kind regards,

Eimear Rosato

concordia.ca/irishstudies

COMHGHAIRDEAS LEAT!



EXTRAORDINARY TIMES, EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES

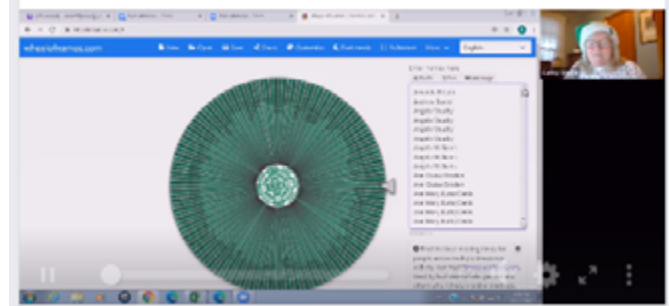
BY KEN QUINN

The United Irish Societies of Montreal (UIS) has been holding a Christmas Draw for more than fifty years. The global pandemic and public health guidelines threatened the viability of holding a draw this year. The UIS would not be deterred in its efforts to help the less fortunate at a time of year when they are most vulnerable. While Cathy Ross-Doyle and her team put their thinking caps on, corporate parade participants and Banquet Souvenir Program advertisers were polled about whether they preferred their money be refunded, whether it be rolled into the 2021 parade, or whether they would consider donating the money toward the UIS Christmas Basket program. Thanks to very generous corporate parade participants, program advertisers, and individual donors, the UIS is once again in a position to help roughly sixty families.

Just as the UIS will continue its tradition of helping families, it also continued the tradition of holding a Draw. Like every meeting or gathering, it took place virtually on November 22nd and was shared via Facebook. For every 25\$ donated, the individual's name was placed in the draw with three beautiful gift baskets as prizes.

Since it is unsafe for people to gather, the usual Saturday morning basket assembly and delivery is not taking place. Ross-Doyle and her team along with a few volunteers, will deliver IGA gift cards and other goodies to basket recipients instead.

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. When called to action the community rolled up its sleeves and showed what's possible when we all work together. Now, if we could just flatten that COVID curve.



Cathy Doyle



Three wonderful baskets were put together by Cathy Doyle and her team:

- Basket #3 - Colleen O'Reilly
- Basket #2 - Jane Skelton and
- Basket #1 - Elizabeth Quinn

The UIS is very grateful to the long list of community and corporate sponsors. A special thank you to Cathy Doyle, Susan James, Kim O'Neill for running the campaign this year that will help over 65 families in need this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas to all of you.



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JOHN WHALEN DIES AT AGE 90

July 14, 1930 - October 19, 2020

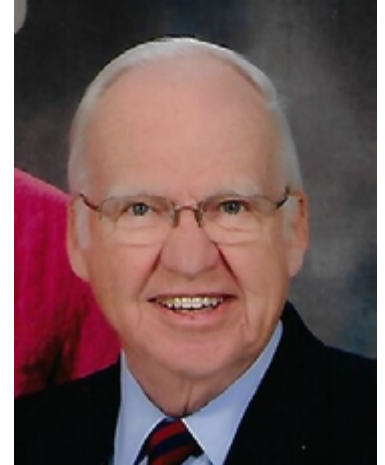
John Hubert Whalen, age 90, of Dorval, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, October 19.

Hugh was born in Trois Rivières, Quebec and grew up with his four siblings, Winnifred (Emmett), Gerald, Charlie, and Joan (Bilodeau). He attended the University of New Brunswick and later the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received a Masters of Engineering. He worked for Canadian International Paper Company for forty years and retired in 1994.

Whalen was an active golfer and skier and could still be found on the ski hills up until a couple of years ago. He instilled the love of skiing in all his children and skied at the Lakeshore Ski Club with the family for many years.

He will be greatly missed by his wife, Mary (LeBlanc) with whom he celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in October. His children, Michael, Nancy (Mallett) and Maryanne will forever remember his warm smile and quick wit and that he was a great listener and wonderful father. He always doted on his grandchildren, Kevin, Caitlyn, Tyler, Klara and Monika and loved spending time with them and celebrating their accomplishments.

He is remembered for the joy, love, and care he gave and a life well-lived.



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO PASSED THIS YEAR



At the SPS Annual General Meeting, we showed a short video in memory of our departed members and friends. Unfortunately the presentation was glitchy for reasons unknown to us. Those of you on Facebook may have seen the video posted there. For those of you who are not on Facebook, I invite you to please view the video posted to [Youtube](#) and to remember these members and friends with fondness.

IRELAND AND THE IRISH DIASPORA - 5-YEAR STRATEGY

By MARTINA McLEAN

The Government of Ireland recognises “the need to sustain and renew a meaningful connection with our diaspora”. To that end, it is adopting a 5-year strategic approach to supporting its citizens overseas and the global Irish diaspora networks internationally.

In 2019, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade undertook wide-ranging public consultations on the future of Ireland’s diaspora policy. The resultant five-year strategy was shaped by contributions from hundreds of individuals and organisations in Ireland and in Irish communities around the world.

A few key elements in this strategy stand out for me, both personally and professionally:

1. Our People: Ireland will ensure that the welfare of the Irish abroad remains at the heart of diaspora support:

- Care for the most vulnerable and marginalised Irish emigrants will remain the primary focus of the Government’s Emigrant Support Programme;
- Diaspora participation in presidential elections will strengthen the connection between the Presidency, and the diaspora. A referendum will be held on extending the franchise in presidential elections to citizens resident outside the State (we’ve been awaiting this for some time).

2. Our Values: Ireland will work with our diaspora to promote our values abroad and celebrate the diversity of our diaspora. Three items caught my eye:

- Increase outreach to traditionally under-represented groups such as Irish Travellers and Irish of mixed heritage among the diaspora;
- Under the heading “Women in the diaspora” is the promotion of St. Brigid’s Day (1 February) as an annual day of celebration of the talent and creativity of Irish women across many spheres of life, while also supporting research to improve the understanding of the role and contribution of women in the diaspora and the creation of women in business diaspora networks, aimed at fostering peer mentoring;
- They will make concerted efforts to connect with people born outside the island of Ireland who are entitled to Irish citizenship.

3. Our Prosperity: Ireland will build mutually beneficial economic ties with the diaspora.

With the active work of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce in Montreal and around Canada; the Ireland-Canada Business Association and the close ties with various levels of Government and governmental agencies, I see a lot of health in this area. What I find interesting is the government recognition of the need to minimise the challenges faced by individuals and families returning to Ireland.

4. Our Culture: Ireland will support cultural expression among our diaspora.

Again, thanks to the various associations in Montreal, much of what is proposed in the 5-year strategy is already thriving.

I wonder how our different organizations can be supported more or better by the Irish government. Will we need more financial support or visibility especially as a consequence of the physical distancing and financial strains resulting from the pandemic? And I’m looking forward to see how we will embrace a diverse range of contemporary and traditional cultural and artistic expression that reflects the multicultural and intercultural flavours of our Irishness at home and abroad. I’m also looking forward to an investment in Irish teams and athletes on the world stage.

5. Our Influence: Ireland will extend our global reach by connecting with the next generation.

I congratulate the government and the influencers here in Montreal, particularly for the advancement in Irish Studies. With the Irish reputation for integrating, adapting and contributing to their adoptive countries, I’m very keen to see how the government initiatives targeting the next generation will help to keep those next generations connected. In my opinion, this will involve an intergenerational approach and a shared understanding of what it means to be Irish today, respecting and reflecting our global cultural identity.

To read more, visit: “[Global Ireland: Ireland’s Diaspora Strategy 2020–2025](#)”.

“
Our diaspora is one of Ireland’s greatest resources: through the contribution our people make to the nations they migrate to; through the bonds they forge with the peoples of those countries, our migrants have allowed Ireland to have global connections far beyond our size.
”
President Michael D. Higgins

THE IRISH DANCING RESPONSE TO COVID-19

By PAT SHORT

YOUNG ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE (QUEBEC)



The Young Academy dancers had the pleasure of taking part in two trial online dance competitions. The teacher Janice Young is a member of an International Work Group which has been meeting weekly to try and come up with solutions to help the Irish Dance world. They were very excited to be given permission to run a trial feis with schools from all over the world! The hard work paid off and for the first time ever they have been given the go-ahead to run a competition in each region of the world!

This is a huge opportunity for all the dancers who are used to traveling and competing all year long. Their perseverance is a testament to how strong and dedicated Irish dancers are and of course it shows their love for the sport!

Here is their website so you can check them out:

www.youngacademyirishdance.com

Email: youngirishdance@hotmail.com



Janice Young School Dancers

BERNADETTE SHORT SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING



In preparation for this article, I had a look back over the past November editions where I wrote about Irish dancing schools in the greater Montreal area. They were full of excitement for the dancers heading to Toronto for our Regional Oireachtas, where they hoped to place high enough in their competition to qualify for the World Championships. Alas this year no such excitement.

Covid-19 has played havoc with the hopes and aspirations of the dancing communities. The Oireachtas which was supposed to be held over the weekend of December 4, 5 & 6 was cancelled by changes in Ontario rules regarding gatherings. Even at that the World Championships planned for Easter week 2021, in Dublin, has been postponed to last week of July, fingers crossed on that one. Changes brought disappointments to the girls and boys who are at a vulnerable age and who trained so hard to achieve their goals. Ciara B says: "my goal was to break into the top ten this year." Elizabeth K wanted "a recall", That is enough marks in her first two dances to be invited back to perform her hard-shoe set dance.

To help the dancers, overcome the mental challenges and disappointments, we held eight seminars on sports therapy problem solving. These sessions with a PhD were funded by a generous grant from the D.F.A. of the Government of Ireland and were a huge success for dancers and parents alike.

Classes continued on ZOOM for members in outlying areas. Church halls and school facilities continue to be unavailable and the school has located new facilities in NDG, Chateauguay, Shannon, and Plattsburgh.

Enquiries: Bernadette@shortschoolirishdance.com 514-977-7870

THE MORAN ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE



Classes have not recommenced in the Deux Montagnes area.

moran.irish.dancers@gmail.com

MARIE-CLAUDE ROUSSEAU



Classes take place in Quebec on Saturdays and in Verdun on Wednesdays.

Enquiries: M.c.rousseau@videotron.ca



Oireachtas 2019, Bernadette Short School

"Dancers chilling out"



JOYCE FANS MOBILISE TO SAVE HOUSE OF THE DEAD

By KEVIN CALLAHAN

15 Usher's Island in central Dublin, once owned by the grandaunts of James Joyce, was used by the renowned Irish author as the setting for his most famous short story, *The Dead*. Now the building, which remains largely unchanged from Joyce's day, is under threat to be transformed into a 56-bed tourist hostel.

When the renovation proposal was first mooted last year, a petition opposing the destruction of the literary landmark was launched by Irish author, Colm Tóibín and Joyce scholar, John McCourt. (The Montreal Irish community will remember Professor McCourt as the 2019 visiting scholar at the Concordia School of Irish Studies.) The petition drew widespread support from the international artistic community, with writers Salman Rushdie, Edna O'Brien, and Ian McEwan among the signatories.

Nonetheless, last October, planning permission was granted for the development. Dublin is sadly notorious for tearing down heritage buildings in the interests of short-term profits, with the destruction of the house of 'the O'Rahilly', one of the sixteen men executed by the British after the 1916 Rising, being the most recent example.

Opponents of the hostel proposal call for the building to be turned into a Joyce museum to commemorate Joyce's work and his profound relationship with the city of Dublin. Such a project would become an attraction for tourists and Joyce lovers as well as be of economic benefit to the neighbourhood around it.

In a recent article in *The Irish Times*, Professor McCourt said, "It is time for those who govern the city and the country to catch on and catch up." The fight to preserve the literary landmark continues and appeals may be made to An Bórd Pleanála, the Irish planning board. The petition to save the house of 'The Dead' is accessible at:

<https://www.change.org/p/an-bord-plean%C3%A1la-save-james-joyce-s-house-of-the-dead-usher-s-island-from-becoming-a-tourist-hostel>



*"His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow
falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling,
like the descent of their last end,
upon all the living and the dead."*

James Joyce, "The Dead"



FESTIVAL BLOOMSDAY MONTREAL: JANUARY 6, 2021

BY KEVIN WRIGHT, PRESIDENT, FESTIVAL BLOOMSDAY MONTREAL

On November 26, 2020, Festival Bloomsday Montreal held its annual general meeting. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, it was held via Zoom which allowed everyone to maintain the appropriate distancing.

The new executive and board of directors will consist of the following people: Kevin Wright, president; David Schurman, past-president; Robert Graham, vice-president; Judith Schurman, secretary; Louise Cauchon, treasurer. Board members are Miles Murphy, Marlene Chan, Kerry McElroy.

Kathleen Fee will be the manager and artistic director of the festival. Jordan Gerow will be the content manager of our social media platforms, while Edmund Nash will be the tech person.

Events already on the horizon for 2021 include the following: on January 6, also known as **Nollaig na mBan**, a dramatized version of **The Midnight Court** by Brian Merriman will be presented. Rehearsals are already underway with Kathleen Fee, Kathleen McAuliffe, Julian Casey, directed by Elsa Bolam. The master of ceremonies for this event will be Dennis Trudeau.

We are also planning to celebrate James Joyce's birthday on February 2, 2021.

More details will be forthcoming at bloomsdaymontreal.com as things materialize. In the meantime, from the Bloomsday Montreal family to your family, wishes of peace, happiness and health at Christmas, and a Covid-free New Year in 2021!

Nollaig Shona!



Kathleen Fee, artistic director of the festival

Suggestion from the editor:

Did you know that the English translation of Brian Merriman's **aisling** (vision) "**The Mightnight Court**" was banned in the twentieth century?

Addressing subjects such as the scarcity of husbands for young women, clerical celibacy, and marriage to an old man, we suggest that you listen to the bilingual Irish radio documentary "The Appeal of the Midnight Court", made by Cathal Póirtéir for RTÉ Radio 1 to mark the 200th anniversary of the death of the poet Brian Merriman. It looks at the reasons for the ban, the composition of the circa 1,000 line-long poem and its continuing popularity today. The documentary features readings from the original poem by some of those who performed and discussed the "Cúirt" (as its known) at one of the all-Irish Merriman Winter Schools in Co Clare.

Here is the link: https://www.rte.ie/static/radio1/player_revisited/player

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

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Kevin Callahan
Janice Young
Marion Mulvenna
Tom Ireland

Carol McCormick
Martina McLean
Kevin Wright
Laurie McKeown-Thomassin

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

KELLY NORAH DRUKKER PUBLISHED IN CARTE BLANCHE



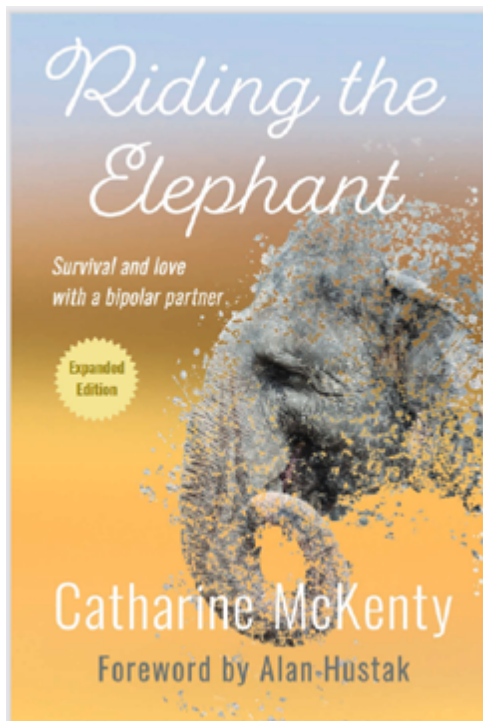
Congratulations to Montreal-based writer and Irish Studies/Humanities PhD student Kelly Norah Drukker on the publication of her creative non-fiction essay "Thin", in [carte blanche](#) magazine.

Set on Cill Mhuirbhigh, Inis Mór, Aran Islands, Ireland, it includes an afterward written during the pandemic. Together, the two pieces reflect on the themes of pilgrimage, travel, mobility, loss, and the distance between 'then' and 'now.'"

Drukker's poetry collection "Small Fires" won the A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry and the Concordia University First Book Prize, and was a finalist for the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal (2016). "Petits feux", a French-language translation, was published in 2018. Kelly's poetry and nonfiction have appeared in journals in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland. She is currently pursuing a

doctorate in interdisciplinary Humanities at Concordia University.

COMHGHAIRDEAS LIBH!



A stalwart member of the Montreal Irish community, 90 year-old **CATHARINE MCKENTY** wishes to share, free of charge, this pdf expanded edition of her memoir [Riding the Elephant: Survival and Love with a Bipolar Partner](#). Download the PDF [here](#). Many of you will remember that she formed part of the powerhouse duo along with her husband, Neil McKenty, CJAD Montreal radio broadcaster of the famous line 'the lines are blazing'.



Catharine McKenty at the launch of her book in October 2019 with Andreas Kessaris of Paragraphe Books and editor Jeri Pitzel

Ms. McKenty is a longstanding supporter of the School of Irish Studies, including the creation of the McKenty Scholarship for deserving Irish Studies students. In addition to Catharine's generous gesture of the free pdf version, she is also offering a limited number of the published edition FREE (shipping extra) which you may request at riding.the.elephant2019@gmail.com. Copies are also available on Amazon.

As Catharine says of her latest book 'My biggest wish is for our story to bring hope, encouragement and laughter to as many people as possible.'

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



BEST WISHES TO BISHOP TOM FROM THE SOCIETY

On October 22, 2020, His Holiness Pope Francis appointed the Most Reverend Thomas Dowd Bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste-Marie where he will assume the pastoral governance of the diocese.

Bishop Dowd was born in Montréal on 11 September 1970. He obtained a bachelor's degree in commerce from Concordia University prior to entering the Grand Séminaire de Montréal to pursue his theological studies and was ordained to the priesthood on 7 December 2001. Following his ordination, he served in pastoral ministry for the Archdiocese of Montréal in various parishes from 2001 to 2005. In this same period, Bishop Dowd furthered his studies, obtaining a Master's of Divinity from the Grand Séminaire de Montréal (2002), a Licentiate in Theology from the University of Montréal (2002) and later a licentiate in canon law from the Institut de droit canonique at the Université de Strasbourg (2014). He likewise served as a course lecturer in various subject areas at Concordia University, the Grand Séminaire de Montréal and McGill University. From 2006 to 2011, he served as the Associate Director of the Office of Pastoral Personnel for the Archdiocese. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Montréal on 11 July 2011 and ordained Bishop at Montréal on 10 September 2011. As Auxiliary Bishop, he served as the Episcopal Vicar for the English-speaking faithful and the Director of the Office for English Pastoral Services.

As a member of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), Bishop Dowd serves as a member of the Orthodox-Catholic Bishops' Dialogue, as the Bishop Promoter for the Maritime Ministry, formerly known as the Apostleship of the Sea Canada (Stella Maris) and also as a member of the CCCB Ad hoc Committee on Maritime Ministry. He was appointed as a member of the Standing Committee on Canon Law in 2017, and since 2019 has served as its Chairman. He was previously a member of the then Standing Committee for Communications (2014-2016). In October 2018, Bishop Dowd was an English Sector Delegate for the CCCB to the 15th Ordinary Synod of Bishops on "Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment".

The Diocese of Sault Ste-Marie has 92 parishes and missions, with a Catholic population of 129,266 served by 67 diocesan priests, 21 priests and 108 sisters who are members of institutes of consecrated life, as well as 56 permanent deacons.

Bishop Thomas' Installation will take place during a Eucharistic Celebration on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 2.00 p.m. [Salt and Light TV](#) will broadcast live from the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption in North Bay, Ontario.

SAVE THE DATE, JUNE 15, 2021 - SPS GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Dave Dubeau



Despite the impending winter weather and the pandemic, more positive times are in the future. With that thought, another reminder to save the date of June 15, 2021 for the 25th anniversary of St. Patrick's Society Annual Golf Tournament.

It will be the first in-person event for the Society in more than a year. Take the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. Rest assured the tournament will be held in as safe an environment as possible. More specific information will follow in subsequent issues.

If anyone has questions, concerns or suggestions, feel free to contact me: ddubeau7@gmail.com

So all the best for the holiday season, stay safe, be well and mark your calendars for June 15, 2021.





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