



## Me Peter O'Brien sps Community Award 2020

Since 1993, St. Patrick's Society of Montreal has selected a Community Award recipient. Two distinct goals underpin the decision of the selection committee:

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.

Over the last twenty-five years, many worthy people have received community recognition for their work in the community. You can find the full list on our [website](#).

This year, the Community Award Selection Committee met on January 28<sup>th</sup> to review and discuss the candidacies of five worthy nominees. After some great discussion, the committee



unanimously selected Me Peter O'Brien as the 2020 recipient of our Society's Community Award. You will have ample opportunity to meet Mr. O'Brien on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the annual Luncheon.

Mr. O'Brien has extensive experience and a most impressive resume to support our selection. Of Irish descent, this

successful lawyer has been and continues to be a pillar, leader and mentor in the Montreal community. Since the late 1980s, he has held various volunteer governance positions within and beyond the Irish community, in education, health care, animal welfare, faith-related and other not-for-profit endeavours.

What is most pertinent, in my opinion, but certainly not the only factor, is Mr. O'Brien's involvement with the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. In 1996, Peter O'Brien assumed the position of founding Chair of the [Canadian Irish Studies Foundation](#), which was created under his volunteer leadership, to raise awareness of and fundraise towards a program of Canadian-

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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT, CHRISTIE BROWN, FEB. 2020

Dear Community Members,

I would like to begin this first edition of Nuacht in 2020 by congratulating our Board Members who were elected into office in December at our Annual General Meeting. A warm welcome to new Board Members: [Kevin Callahan](#) and [Jim Kearney](#) who have rounded out our Board of 25 members. My thanks to all who attended the evening, and especially to the Administrative Assistant, Robin Brodrick, who helped prepare and organize the event. I sincerely thank all Board members for their continuous volunteerism to our Society (and many other organizations) throughout the year.

I invite you to read about an important meeting that took place between the Mayor of Montreal, Mme. Valérie Plante, and some members of the Irish Community on page 19 of this edition. At the invitation of the Mayor, we were asked to attend this meeting in order to discuss issues of importance to the Irish community. Though there were many worthy items to discuss, the discussion focused primarily on the controversial (and yet to be named) REM station in Montreal's historic Griffintown. It is not lost on us that the REM recently published a press release regarding official station names, and now, no longer refers to a Griffintown station. Rather, it refers to the "Peel Basin – official announcement to follow". That said, the meeting left me with hope of continued collaboration and that our voices were heard, though knowing full well that nothing was promised. May I suggest that there are a number of upcoming events in the weeks ahead where we could all use some good news?

We are already a few weeks into the start of the Irish season, and we are all looking forward to many more wonderful events to celebrate our heritage between now and April. Our annual [GREEN SEASON](#) provides us with many great opportunities to celebrate and recognize several members of our community who make such a difference for so many. This year, we will celebrate despite some very recent news that has made us all in the community, quite sad.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, we learned of the passing of Mr. [Andrew Fogarty](#), at the age of 100. He was larger than life in the Montreal Irish Community for the past several decades. Mr. Fogarty, or Andy as he was known by all, was one of those people who you couldn't imagine the world without. Indeed, a year ago, I thought that he could live forever. When I took over as President, Andy gave me such wonderful advice, which I have used many times in the last 14 months. I am so appreciative to him for his advice, and all that he did as for St. Patrick's Society over numerous years. In particular, during his Presidency (1983 to 1985), Andrew brought about a fundamental

change to St. Patrick's by allowing women to join the Society in 1984. It is still hard for me to process that up until that time, women were not accepted as members. Andrew understood that St. Patrick's had to change, and for his vision, I am extremely thankful. It took another 14 years before Lynn Loneragan Doyle was to become the first female President of our Society, followed by Mary McDaid as the second female President in 2006. I am but the third female President in our history. Thank you Andy for so many things, but especially for being kind and generous with your delightful spirit. You will be dearly missed and I'm sure we all have an "Andy story" to share during the season. My deepest condolences to his family, of whom he was so proud. A few years ago, after learning I was an administrator at Macdonald High School, Andrew told me in great detail of the academic records his grandchildren achieved while students there. We will surely raise a glass in his honour many times in the coming weeks. May he Rest In Peace. Details of his funeral are available further in this edition of Nuacht.

I have had the pleasure of attending several events in the last few weeks, many of which feature in this edition. There is nothing like being invited to a "2 months to St. Patrick's Day Ceiligh" to get oneself back into the green season mindset! Many thanks to [Helen Brodrick](#), President of Innisfail, for the invitation to sit with those being celebrated this season.

A week later, many of us attended [The Lost Children of the Carricks](#), a moving documentary. My congratulations to Concordia's School of Irish Studies on the sell-out showing that was held in January. I know many who are

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Deadline for submissions for May. issue: **May 15, 2020**

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT cont. from page 2

looking forward to the next showing.

Next was the UIS Queen and her Court Selection Evening. I am so impressed by all the young women who put themselves forward this year, each of whom is so accomplished at such a young age. Congratulations to those who were selected with great care to represent the UIS this year. *Orla Mahon*, you will make a tremendous Queen, and your Princesses *Julia Barnwell*, *Aveen Mahon*, *Rebecca McAuley*, and *Meg Sweeney* make such a powerful and inspiring Court. During the evening, we were also introduced to this year's parade dignitaries: *Grand Marshal, Shawn O'Donnell*, and *Chief Reviewing Officer, Steve Garnett*.

A most deserving person, *Mr. Joseph Quinn* (father of SPS Vice President, *Ken Quinn*), was named as the *Erin Sports Association's Irishman of the Year*. Though a powerful snow storm forced the postponement of the Pre-Sashing scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup>, the organization regrouped quickly and held the event a few days later. *Mr. Quinn* is a tireless and enthusiastic community volunteer who cares deeply about making a difference, and he is so worthy of this honour.

As we move closer to our own SPS events, I hope you will all join us to recognize members of our community. As mentioned in the last issue, we will be recognizing the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the School of Irish Studies, with *Dr. Graham Carr*, newly named President of Concordia University, as our Guest of Honour at the Ball on March 6, 2020.

The new location of the ball is *Le Windsor*, which was historically the location of our annual luncheon. There are 2 photos which hang in the Society's office which depict the black-tie luncheon at the Windsor and it's hard not to miss the fact that every single person in the audience is male. This will be an opportunity to recreate the past

while looking forward to the future. I'm looking forward to getting a more "2020" photo of our guests which we will hang on the wall of the Society office.

Continuing the celebrations a couple of weeks later, *Sean Finn*, Executive Vice-President, Corporate Services and Chief Legal Officer of CN, will be our Guest Speaker at the Annual Luncheon on March 17, 2020. On that day, we will help Sean to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CN Railway as he leads us in the festivities. In addition at the luncheon, we will recognize our 2020 Community Award Winner, *Me. Peter O'Brien*. *Me O'Brien* was selected as this year's recipient out of a pool of very well deserving candidates. Thank you to *Vice President Ken Quinn* and his committee for making the difficult selection. The luncheon will be held at the Sheraton Centre downtown and should not be missed.

We are also calling all members to walk in the St. Patrick's Parade on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bring your friends and family with you. There are more details further in this edition of *Nuacht*, but this is definitely one of my favourite walks of the year. Come be a part of this tradition – you won't regret it. We just may have a parting gift for those members in attendance (let the guesses begin!)

Finally, I would like to thank *Martina Branagan*, *Dave Dubeau*, *Geoff Kelley*, *Maureen McCormick*, and *Ken Quinn* for taking the time to once again produce this edition of *Nuacht*. I so appreciate your efforts to put together all that the Irish Community does so that we may recognize achievements. Make sure to follow us on Facebook, dear readers, to stay up-to-date with all the goings-on this season.

I hope that I will see all of you over the coming weeks many times.

**Sláinte!**

## SPS Committee and Event Chairs

Charity Ball	Brian Marcil
Charity Luncheon	Pamela McGovern
Governance and protocol	Christopher Deehy
Investment Committee	Paul Doyle
Golf Committee	Dave Dubeau
Charitable Giving & Sponsorship Committee	Andrea Bobkowicz
Membership Committee	Ken Quinn
Nominating Committee	Scott Phelan
Strategic Planning	Vacant
Youth Wing	Caitlin Moynan

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

## Advertising Rates for Nuacht

Size	One issue	Four issues	Saving
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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](mailto:nuacht@spsmtl.com)

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

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.



# LE WINDSOR HOTEL FOR THE SEASON'S BALL

By Brian Marcil

I am pleased to invite you to attend the St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Ball to be held on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 at the beautiful Le Windsor Hotel in the heart of downtown Montreal.

The Ball is one of Montreal's longest running social events and is an opportunity for Irish Montrealers and their friends to come together to celebrate the official opening of "The Irish Season".

The St. Patrick's Society of Montreal was founded in 1834 and is one of the oldest cultural and charitable organizations in Canada. A chief purpose of the Society is to provide financial support for Montreal's Irish community via charitable, cultural and educational endeavours.

The St. Patrick's Society is unique in that the monies raised at the Ball and our other events are returned to the community for the charitable, cultural and educational purposes mentioned above. One of the instruments used to raise these monies is the Patron's Fund. Please consider donating to the Ball's Patrons' Fund as donations of all sizes are welcome. As the Society is a registered charity, an official tax receipt will be issued to you for the full amount. Lastly all donors are recognized as "Patrons" of the event in our printed program for the evening plus all donors attending the Ball are invited to a special VIP pre-dinner cocktail reception. We understand you may not be able to attend the Ball. As a show of support for the Society's good work, please give generously to the Patrons' Fund by making donations online at the Society's web site <https://spsmtl.com/charitable-giving/donate/> where you may also buy tickets to the Ball <https://spsmtl.com/membership/transactions/> or by sending a cheque payable to St. Patrick's Society of Montreal to 6767 Côte St. Luc Road, #1, Montreal, QC H4V 2Z6.



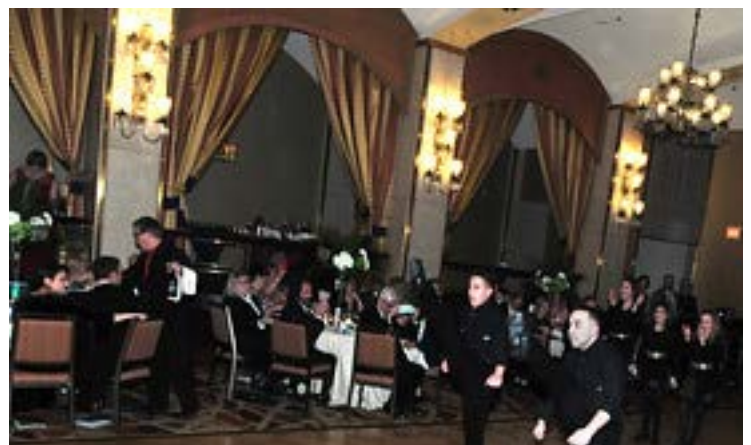
We are absolutely thrilled to have as our Guest of Honour this year Dr. Graham Carr, President and Vice-Chancellor of Concordia University. We are also pleased to announce this year's Honourary Patron will be Mr. Jim Barriere C.M., President of BGL Brokerage, and Member of the Order of Canada.

Tickets to the Ball are \$250, and \$175 for youth (under 30 years old). The price includes an open bar cocktail reception before dinner with a variety of appetizers, a sumptuous three course dinner, wine throughout dinner, a full orchestra in the ballroom and then following the dinner, adjacent to the ballroom, retire for a pint at an Irish Pub with authentic Irish entertainment and dancing till the wee hours, sponsored by Hurley's Irish Pub.

Please note that the dress code for this event is black tie; this includes full length gowns and tuxedos.

For more information please visit <https://spsmtl.com/project/annual-charity-ball>.

For any other questions please contact Robin Brodrick at the Society's office at (514) 481-1346 or [office@spsmtl.com](mailto:office@spsmtl.com) or myself at [bmarcil@srescorp.com](mailto:bmarcil@srescorp.com).



# PATRONS' FUND

On behalf of the 2020 Patron Chair, Mr. James Barriere,  
we invite you to read this special note.



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Dear Members:

I am pleased to invite you to mark your calendars for the 2020 St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Ball, which will take place on Friday, March 6 at the elegant Le Windsor on Peel Street. The Ball is a celebration of the camaraderie that the Irish and our friends in the Montreal community have enjoyed for over two centuries, and we expect that the Ball will be attended by a capacity crowd of 250 guests.

The purpose of the Ball – which is one of the oldest events on the Montreal social calendar – is to celebrate Irish heritage and to provide important financial support to the Society and its charitable endeavours.

Founded in 1834 and one of the oldest cultural and charitable organizations in Canada, the purpose of the Society is to provide support for Montreal's Irish community via non-sectarian charitable, cultural and educational endeavours. Each year, the Society organizes and sponsors a large number of cultural and educational activities that are open to all and makes dozens of much-needed donations to other Montreal charities and not-for-profit organizations that serve the less fortunate, homeless, children, families and elderly of our city.

The bulk of the funds raised in connection with the Ball comes from donations to the Patrons' Fund by individuals and companies. All such donations, in addition to the funds raised at a silent auction that will be held during the Ball, will support the Society, its activities and its good endeavours.

The suggested size of a donation to the Patrons' Fund is in the range of \$100 to \$500, but, in any case, we hope that you will be able to make a gift of any size, higher or lower, according to your means. Because the Society is a registered charity, an official tax receipt will be issued to you for the full amount of your gift. We hope you will give as generously as possible so that we may reach this year's Patrons' Fund goal of \$30,000.

All Patrons will be acknowledged as such in the Ball programme (unless, of course, you wish to remain anonymous) and invited to attend a special cocktail reception that will take place immediately prior to the Ball in a separate area of Le Windsor.

Please give generously to the Patrons' Fund by making donation online at the Society's web site ([www.spsmtl.com](http://www.spsmtl.com), at which site you may also buy tickets to the Ball) or by sending a cheque payable to St. Patrick's Society of Montreal to 6767 Côte St. Luc Road, #1, Montreal, QC H4V 2Z6. For any other questions please contact Robin Brodrick at the Society's office at 514-481-1346 or [office@spsmtl.com](mailto:office@spsmtl.com).

Sincerely,

Jim Barriere, C.M.  
Honorary Patrons' Chair

Siège social:

Head Office: 200-715 Square-Victoria, Montréal, Québec H2Y 2H7 Tél. : (514) 288-8111 Fax (514) 288-6226

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# 187<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY LUNCHEON

By Pamela McGovern

We are pleased to advise you that the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Society Luncheon will be held at Le Centre Sheraton Montréal Hôtel Ballroom (1201 boulevard René-Lévesque Ouest), on Tuesday March 17, 2020.

We are especially honoured this year to announce that **SEAN FINN**, the Executive Vice-President, Corporate Services and Chief Legal Officer of CN, will be our Guest Speaker. Mr. Finn is responsible for a wide array of legal, government, regulatory, public affairs and security matters for CN. He is also involved in the Montreal community as a board member of the YMCA Foundation of Greater Montreal, the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation and Swimming Canada.



CN is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Mr. Finn will be discussing the pivotal role that the Irish community played over the course of the years with CN.

During the Luncheon, the 2020 St. Patrick Society's Community Award will be presented to **MR. PETER O'BRIEN**, a longtime community advocate. Please join us on March 17 as we celebrate his good works.

The Luncheon will begin at noon and end at approximately 2:00 p.m. There is a cash bar reception which starts at 11:00 a.m.

The Annual Luncheon is the cornerstone of our fundraising efforts for charitable, cultural and educational purposes. This event is attended by over five hundred business leaders and representatives from the Montreal community.

Please visit our website [www.spsmtl.com](http://www.spsmtl.com) to purchase tickets or you may contact Ms. Robin Brodrick, SPS Administrative Assistant at (514)481-1346 or by email at [office@spsmtl.com](mailto:office@spsmtl.com)





# TERESA DELLAR HONOURED

By Geoff Kelley Photos: Nicholas Belliveau Photography

Every year, the West Island Palliative Care Residence holds a big fundraising Gala for Valentine's Day. It is their flagship event in their annual quest to raise the necessary funds to deliver dignified and exceptional care to the patients and their families.

This year's edition was charged with emotions because the absence of the Residence's co-founder and guardian angel, Teresa Dellar, was keenly felt. Teresa died last August after a long and painful struggle with cancer. She was only 58 years old. Her vision and tireless energy inspire all of the people connected with the Residence.

A magnificent video was shown recapping Teresa's life, achievements and contribution to palliative care. Then followed a most solemn moment, when the co-founder of the Residence, Russell Williams, announced that a name change would take place, and the Residence will be now known as "*The Teresa Dellar Palliative Care Residence*". This news was warmly received by the 500 people in the room. Teresa's husband, Gavin Fernandes, accompanied by his sons Nicholas and Jonathan, then addressed the crowd, thanking everyone for their support and their commitment to keep Teresa's dream alive. Teresa's mother, brothers and sisters were in attendance

and they joined in the enthusiasm knowing that Teresa's name and contributions will be permanently recognized.

Living proof of the quality of the care given was then provided by Lynne McVey, the head of the local CIUSSS (health board). Lynne gave a moving tribute to the Residence and its staff and volunteers who cared for her father, Vaughan, in his final days. He passed away just days after Teresa and Lynne was touched by the compassionate care given at the Residence while the staff coped with its own grief following the loss of Teresa.

NUACHT



Gavin Fernandes, Teresa Dellar's husband



Board Chairman Allan Vanderwee, Executive Director Dale Weil, and Foundation Chair Rob Havill

The evening ended on two high notes. The new Executive Director, Dale Weil, made her first speech since taking over in early January. She shared her experiences as a business leader and as a member of a family deeply touched by the Residence. A few years ago, her younger brother Drew died there and she will build on these experiences as she leads the Residence forward.

Finally, the Foundation Board Chair Rob Havill announced that the event was a great success, raising a record net profit of \$640,000 to help carry on the precious work that Teresa Dellar started.

# CHARITABLE GIVING AND SPONSORSHIP

By Andrea T. Bobkowicz



Helping our community remain relevant, vibrant and to grow continually are the fundamental reasons your Board of Directors volunteer their time and energy. We are delighted every year to see the success of our fundraising efforts so that we can provide charitable giving and sponsorship to our community.

In order to provide more transparency and efficiency, we have now established a year-long application process, with **two** distinct deadlines.

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

November 8

April 1

## BOARD APPROVAL

November

April

## CHEQUE DISBURSEMENT

December

May

The next deadline is **APRIL 1, 2020**

Organizations must submit their requests through Saint Patrick's Society website: [www.spsmtl.com/apply-for-a-grant-or-sponsorship/](http://www.spsmtl.com/apply-for-a-grant-or-sponsorship/). Further, we will commit to communicate back to the community organizations after the "Board Approval" month to advise them of the outcome.

All those approved for charitable giving or sponsorship will be required to share an article about their event or activity which will be published in **NUAcht**. Photos would be appreciated as well. Our goal is to help demonstrate where the funds are being spent.

For a description of what constitutes a qualified donee, please visit [Qualified donees](https://www.canada.ca/en/government/geninfo/faq/genfaq.asp?id=11), Government of Canada. For sponsorship requests, please indicate the potential visibility for the Society.

The following documents must be enclosed with your charitable giving or sponsorship submission:

- The financial statements of the applicant (and auditor's reports, if such financial statements are audited) from the preceding two years, immediately prior to your submission.
- The budget of the applicant for the current year.

You must send these documents directly to SPS by mail, or by email: [office@spsmtl.com](mailto:office@spsmtl.com)

## ONE SMALL CHANGE FOR THE PLANET

By Martina McLean



Cappabue National School in West Cork released their song **One Small Change** on Jan. 30, 2020, and already the video has over 85,000 views on YouTube. Written by the pupils as part of a music workshop with rapper Garry McCarthy, the lyrics call on people to make small changes in their daily lives, like turning off the tap while brushing teeth or carpooling to save the planet.

Norma Healy, the school's principal, said that students have been participating in the fight against climate change since May 2019, when they took part in an environmental competition for local schools. The competition involved research as well as a clean-up of local beaches. They won the competition for their 3D

art installation of a whale using discarded sea litter. The school definitely walks the talk: single-use plastic bottles are banned at the school, and students bring steel drinks containers instead. The two-teacher school uses a filtered water cooler system with the water supplied from its own well.

Have a listen to the song - out of the mouths of babes...!



# IRELAND PLANS IN PLACE FOR COVID-19

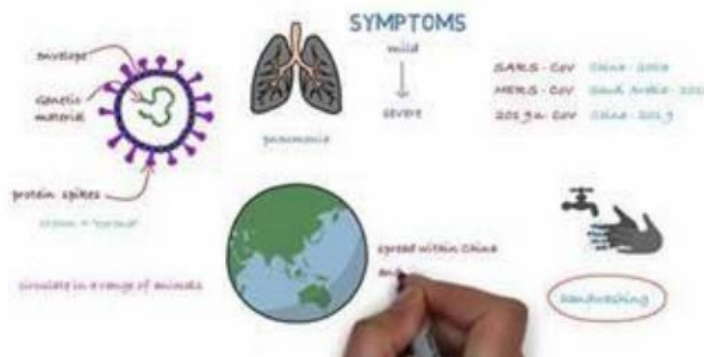
By Martina McLean

As of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2020, 78,950 cases of COVID-19 have been detected in 29 countries including China (77,041), Thailand (35), Japan (132), Singapore (89), Republic of Korea (602), Germany (16), France (12), Italy (144), the U.K. (9), the U.S.A. (35), Canada (9), Spain (2) and Australia (22). Although some 78 people have been tested for the virus in Ireland, there are no confirmed cases there and the risk is believed to be low. The

Government of Ireland website says that "Ireland has comprehensive Public Health and Emergency Plans in place for responding to public health issues including those related to new infectious agents such as Covid-19 (Coronavirus)." The HSE High Consequences Infectious Diseases Planning and Coordination Group (HCID) has been meeting three times every week since January and will adjust this schedule as appropriate.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), COVID-19 has been fatal in two per cent (2%) of reported cases, with the elderly and the ill the most vulnerable. That figure is "about 20 times higher than seasonal influenza," according to Dr Cillian de Gascun, Director

## 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS



Courtesy of the WHO:

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

of the National Virus Reference Laboratory at UCD and chair of the Coronavirus Expert Advisory Group at the Department of Health's National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE). Although the exact cause of the virus is yet to be identified, scientists examining the genome sequence have determined its likely source as a

species of bat, according to Dr. de Gascun.

While the WHO is now concerned by the detection of infections that are not clearly linked to China, it has not recommended any travel or trade restrictions as of yet. The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs' Security Status rating for China, however, is currently "Avoid All Non-essential Travel, and not to travel to the Province of Hubei".

To prevent infection spreading, the WHO recommendations include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing as well as thoroughly cooking meat and eggs.

## Me Peter O'Brien, SPS Community Award 2020



Cont. from page 1

Irish Studies at Concordia University. During his time as Chair, from 1996 to 2001, over \$3,000,000 was raised, principally endowment funds to support what is now the School of Irish Studies at Concordia. At the conclusion of his term, the University created a "Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar" program in Canadian-Irish studies in his honour.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. O'Brien at the Luncheon on March 17<sup>th</sup> for his long history of community involvement. He is a true man for others.

Ken Quinn,  
Vice President, SPS

Photo left: Courtesy of School of Irish Studies  
Peter O'Brien with John McCourt,  
current Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar

# SNEAK PEAK AT BLOOMSDAY 2020

By Lesley Kelley-R gnier

Photos: Jordan Gerow



L-R: Dave Schurman & Miles Murphy

Bloomsday enters a new season as founder and long-time president of Festival Bloomsday Montreal, David Schurman, steps down and hands over the presidency to Kevin Wright. Kathleen Fee (Molly, as we warmly call her sometimes after her many years as reader for the last few pages of Ulysses concluding our annual Festival) has agreed to take on the vice-presidency. Colossal thanks must be extended to David, who has made the

Montreal celebration of Ulysses second only to the Dublin festival.



Kevin Wright

Judith Schurman will continue as secretary of Festival Bloomsday, and Louise Cauchon, the treasurer. Two new faces are Jordan Gerow (information technology and web master) and Darragh Kilkenny-Mondoux (the newsletter, Joycity, and social media). The team is now busy planning the 2020 Festival, already the ninth!



Peggy Curran

Plans to date include another of the popular Donovan King walks to visit another part of Irish Montreal, the Concordia Irish Studies day of discussions about Irish literature and culture, and the staged readings from Ulysses at Westmount Library. An interesting addition this year is a collaboration with the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network to have presentation by Danny Doyle of the University of Toronto about the survival of the Irish language for longer than one would have guessed in several areas of Quebec. This will be held at the Atwater Library. Other events will be announced as they are finalized. Please visit the festival website, [bloomsdaymontreal.com](http://bloomsdaymontreal.com), for more details in the weeks to come.

While you wait for updates, you should know that every third Wednesday of each month, a Finnegans Wake reading group meets at 7:00 p.m., also at the Westmount Library. Joyce once said that he had put enough enigmas and puzzles into his works to keep people guessing for a thousand years. It seems that, so far, he has been right! We are still on page 27 after two years!

February 2 is James Joyce's birthday and did he ever love his birthdays! So this year again we respected his wish to celebrate the day and organized a birthday party for him at the Westmount Public Library featuring members of the Irish community reading tearful or hilarious Joycean texts. Jim would have loved it!





# PRE-SASHING OF IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR

By Ken Quinn

Most years it seems Mother Nature is not very cooperative with our friends in the Erin Sports Association. Either there is excessive snow on the ground, making parking in the area of their clubhouse difficult at best. Or the temperature is subarctic and venturing outside runs one the risk of getting frostbite in two seconds flat. This year Mother Nature graciously gave Montreal an obscene amount of snow on February 7<sup>th</sup>, the date originally planned for the Erin Sports Pre Sashing Social.



and 2003 Irishman of the Year Terry Clahane entertained the members and guests as they mingled. When the formalities began, the ageless Francis Baddeley sang the national anthems with the customary enthusiasm. President Tim Furlong spoke to his guests before Breakfast Committee Chairman Ronnie James introduced the Male Amateur Athlete of the year, 16 year



Erin Sports President Tim Furlong made the difficult decision mid afternoon that day to call off the Social. We were in the midst of some

old Kuper Academy Juvenile hockey defenseman drafted into the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League with the Rimouski Oceanic. A well spoken young man for his age, you will learn more about him, as well as the Female Amateur Athlete of the Year, at the Irishman of the Year Breakfast.



serious and extreme wintery conditions and everyone's safety was paramount. To my surprise, the next day the Social was rescheduled for the following Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. I might add that parking on Hickson Street seemed to be fairly painless.

A rescheduled event normally means a community's elected representatives cannot attend, owing to their jam packed schedules. It appears the schedules of LaSalle-Émard-Verdun MP Hon. David Lametti, Verdun Borough Mayor Jean-François Parenteau, Councillor (and Montreal Deputy Mayor) Sterling Downey, Councillor Marie-Josée Parent, and Borough Councillor Marie-Andrée Mauger permitted them to attend or they made sure their schedules permitted them to attend, a testament to the good work **IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR, JOSEPH QUINN** voluntarily performs for the less fortunate in the Verdun community. Notable by his absence was the Member from the other part of Verdun, Hon. Marc Miller MP for Ville-Marie - Le Sud-Ouest - Île-des-Soeurs, owing to the urgent national matters before him in his portfolio as Minister of Indigenous Services.

The evening unfolded as it does each year. Lisa Forget

Following the introduction of Spencer Gallant, former Irishmen of the Year were invited to join Ronnie James at the front of the hall. This is one of the rituals I love to be present for, former honourees welcoming the new guy into the fold. Although a smaller contingent than usual, Society Director Paul Doyle (2018), Jim Hindley (2015), Grand Verdunois Walter Gregory (2010), David O'Neill (2004), Terry Clahane (2003), and Former Society president Peter Shea (2001) waited patiently for Joseph Quinn to be sashed by Erin Sports President Tim Furlong. Upon sashing Joseph, who I normally refer to as Dad, spoke briefly. During this short address he spoke of his humility at being selected, his service to the Verdun and Irish communities, and of his love for his wife Heather. He ended his address by recalling that his father instilled in him the importance of giving back to the community, something he is especially happy to see his son Ken and grandson Patrick continue to do.

The Erin Sports Association's Irishman of the Year Breakfast takes place Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at the EVO Centreville on boul. Robert-Bourassa. To secure tickets, contact President Tim Furlong via e-mail [timber32@sympatico.ca](mailto:timber32@sympatico.ca) or the old fashioned way at (514) 713-3207.

CINÉ GAEL MONTRÉAL 28<sup>TH</sup> SEASON HAS BEGUN!

By Ken Wilson

One of Montreal's best little secrets has suddenly been thrust into the limelight. Ciné Gael Montreal began its twenty-eighth season on January 24 with an extraordinary kickoff: a collaboration with Concordia's School of Irish Studies and a superlative promotional effort resulted in a sold-out performance in the larger D.B. Clarke Theater at Concordia University. The reason for the opening night sell-out was the premiere of the film, **LOST CHILDREN OF THE CARRICKS**.

Similar to last season's opening film, *Black '47*, we were proud to once again present a film on the topic of the infamous Irish Famine. In all, there were approximately 300,000 Irish refugees that landed on the shores of Canada between 1845 and 1852. Several thousand lost their lives either in transit or in quarantine upon arrival due to a typhus epidemic and dysentery. The film, *Lost Children of the Carricks*, is a powerful documentary that put a human face on the immense tragedy. This film is about one of those "coffin ships" that sailed the 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean carrying the dreams of a new life for 173 passengers. All but 48 perished as the vessel struck a reef off the frozen Gaspé peninsula and sank. For some of the descendants of those 48 survivors, this film was a sort of homecoming.

We were both honoured and delighted that the director of the film, **Dr. Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin**, was present and spoke before the film was shown. Dr. Ó hAllmhuráin, Johnson Chair of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University's School of Irish Studies, described in poignant terms what an achievement it was to bring this story to a wide audience and the impact on those descendants directly affected.



The film series was to continue two weeks later on February 7 with a presentation of **ROSIE**, a jarring dramatization of a family suddenly made homeless through no fault of their own. However, due to a snow storm, we postponed the showing. We're delighted to announce the new date of **Wednesday, April 22**.

The film's direction successfully conveys the panic situation of parents searching for a new place to call home whilst attempting to normalize the routine of school attendance for their four young children and shield them from the painful impact. The mother played by Sarah Greene, puts in a performance that is a force of nature and drives home the fear inherent in this situation. Peter Bradshaw wrote in *The Guardian*, "The potency of the film lies in showing us that the "homeless" are not a caste or tribe whose condition has been ordained at birth, and their situation is not a cosmic punishment for laziness – they are people like everyone else whose situation has been created by economic forces.

After another two week pause, Ciné Gael Montreal returned to present its third film of the season, **SOONER OR LATER** on February 21. This heartwarming,

emotional tale of an elderly couple who conspire to free themselves of the nursing home and end their lives in unison is woven together with darkly comedic moments. The man's daughter whose suspicions of his lady-friend have only increased over the course of their six-month relationship is the perfect foil in their deception of driving to Kerry for a pleasant holiday.

The no-budget film by Luke Morgan stars a real-life husband and wife, Aeneas and Anna O'Donnell playing Irish characters that audiences will fall in love with. His cane-wielding Mick Jagger look contrasts beautifully with her neurotic Kathy Bates style.





# CINÉ GAEL MONTRÉAL 28<sup>TH</sup> SEASON HAS BEGUN!

cont. from page 12

Ciné Gael Montreal keeps the two week habit alive and presents, **THE MAN WHO WANTED TO FLY** on March 6. Sometimes truth can be stranger than fiction and this documentary is proof of that concept. Two brothers, Bobby and Ernie Cootes live by themselves next-door to each other and are octogenarians, probably requiring each other's help on a daily basis. Ernie enjoys talking on his CB radio in an era when young people would question its practicality or even what it is while Bobby fixes clocks and various timepieces as antique as himself. But Bobby has a dream to fly and he's saved his money to purchase a microlight aircraft. This film is a wonderful statement that it's never too late to learn and act.

On Saturday March 28, the Evening of Short Films will take place. No introduction is required for this special night which remains wildly popular after all these years.



NUACHT



Less than a week later on April 3, Ciné Gael Montreal is proud to present the award-winning documentary, **THE 34<sup>TH</sup>: THE STORY OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN IRELAND**. This film follows the principle characters in the drive for what became the 34<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Irish Constitution, the couple's right to marriage without distinction as to their sex.

There is another two week pause before the next film

on April 17 and, with this film, we return to a very familiar theme in Irish movies: music. In a time when the Internet has reshaped the musical landscape, it is perhaps surprising that the piano remains the most popular musical instrument to learn to play. **MAKING THE GRADE** is a documentary film that immerses us in the world of piano teachers and their pupils and shares the experience of the struggle and elation of earning the coveted Grade 8 level.



Our closing gala will be on May 1 and we are excited to present a film that took home two



awards from this past year's Galway Film Festival, **A BUMP ALONG THE WAY**. A forty-something single mom raising a teenage daughter enjoys her nights out fueled with alcohol far too regularly and after a one-night stand with a younger man, discovers to her chagrin that she is indeed pregnant after all these years. Her mortified, prudent daughter who is trying to carve out her own respectable identity is gobsmacked by the event that has taken place and the audience gets to witness the incredible performances of the actors as their relationship evolves during the pregnancy.

All of our presentations will be shown at the De Sève Theatre at Concordia University's Webster Library building starting at 7:15 p.m. The cost of attending is \$12 for each of the remaining films with the exception of the closing gala on May 1 which costs \$25 and includes a wine reception after the film. Please see <https://cinegaelmontreal.com/> for details.

# THE NEW GOLDEN AGE OF IRISH GENEALOGY

By Gary Schroder

During the course of my genealogical career I have been fortunate to lecture on [How to Find Your Irish Relatives in Canada](#) at Trinity College, Dublin and to also lecture on [How to Find Your Irish Ancestors](#) at McGill University, Montreal along with numerous places in Canada and the United States.



Cornelius Flynn 1787-1861 and  
his second wife Mary Lovett c1811

In my own genealogical research I discovered that my Irish ancestors have lived in Montreal since the famine years of the 1840's until now. I am of 50% Irish ancestry with my mother's family "Flynn" originating in the city of Cork in County Cork. My great great-great grandfather Cornelius Flynn (1787-1861) served in the Royal Navy for over twenty years and was on the HMS Agamemnon during the Battle of Trafalgar. I have various other Irish ancestors from Counties Clare, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Monaghan, Sligo, Waterford and Wexford.

There is a common myth that one can't do Irish family history research because of the destruction of the Irish Record Office on June 30, 1922 in the fighting between the pro-Treaty and anti-Treaty forces during the Civil War. Yes, there were important records destroyed like the early 19<sup>th</sup> Census Records, numerous wills and other documents but to give just one example, the Catholic parish registers were not stored in the Record Office.

With modern computer technology and the advances in digitization of archival and church records there is a "New Golden Age of Irish Genealogy". The Irish governmental authorities have been in the forefront of this movement and promoting the growth of Genealogical Tourism. If you can discover that your ancestors were from the town of Sligo in the County of Sligo then there is a good chance that your family may want to visit Sligo, stay in the local hotels, buy souvenirs, eat, drink and be merry along with the enjoyment of the beauty of the Irish countryside and the friendliness of

the Irish people.

The Irish government has been putting for free on the website [www.Irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.Irishgenealogy.ie) the Indexes to Civil Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths and the actual certificates themselves. As of January 20, 2020 here are the years covered:

- Births: 1864-1919 Indexes and Certificates
- Marriages: 1845-1944 Indexes and Certificates (Catholic Marriages begin 1864)
- Deaths: 1864-1969 Indexes 1878-1969 Certificates 1864-1877 coming this year

On the National Archives of Ireland website ([www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)), Census 1901 and 1911 are available. Various will indexes and a host of other databases are all free.

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland on their website [www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni) also has various databases, all free.

The Catholic parish registers are held at the National Library in Dublin and are available online at subscription websites like Ancestry and Findmypast.



# THE NEW GOLDEN AGE OF IRISH GENEALOGY

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NUACHT



Quebec Family History Society

When doing Irish genealogical research you use a combination of free and subscription websites. The research is not as simple as putting in an Irish surname as you see in the television commercials.

Land records are used a lot in Irish genealogical research. I did some research years ago for the late Omer Lavallee who was the Archivist for Canadian Pacific Railways. His mother was a Shaughnessy from County Clare. Using the Sir Richard Griffith's Primary Valuation of Land we were able to get to the exact location of his family's small landholding there.

The Quebec Family History Society is a federally registered non-profit charitable organization. In its Heritage Centre in Sainte Anne de Bellevue, members have access to over 20 billion records for all over the world, including the church records for Quebec, with the St. Patrick's parish registers beginning in 1859. There are millions of records for Irish research and most of the major subscription databases are available free at the library for members.

DNA is the newest genealogical tool that budding genealogists are using. I would recommend Ancestry's Autosomal Test for beginners. Yes, you will get your ethnic percentages but more important are your actual DNA matches. A gentleman in Buffalo has DNA matches with my Gormans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Ireland but he does not know where in Ireland his Gormans were living. I will be able to tell him where his family was living in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in or near the parish of Ballyphilip in County Down.

<p><b>McConomy Collard Eustace</b> INC.</p>	<p>FAMILY LAW <b>SOLUTIONS</b> EN DROIT DE LA FAMILLE</p>
<p>AVOCATS MÉDIATEURS COACHS</p> <p>ATTORNEYS MEDIATORS COACHES</p>	<p>mceavocats.com tel. 514.866.4666 fax 514.866.4667</p>

Irish Genealogical Research is a wonderful hobby, passion, and addiction!

Gary Schroder  
President  
Quebec Family History Society  
153 rue Sainte-Anne  
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue  
Quebec H9X 1M5 Canada  
(514) 695-1502



## AROUND TOWN

### UIS LECTURE - MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>



"Montreal's Irishman: Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan and the Rebellion of 1837"

**PROFESSOR JANE MCGAUGHEY**

Associate Professor of Diaspora Studies  
School of Irish Studies, Concordia University

Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 7 p.m.

McEntee Reading Room,  
Concordia's School of Irish Studies,  
1455, boul. de Maisonneuve West,  
10th floor, Room H-1001

\*\*\*\* Free and open to the public

### *Dervish* IN CONCERT

Sunday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.

Maison de la culture,  
441 de la Cour,  
Waterloo  
Eastern Townships, Québec

Tickets (Price includes taxes; no additional fees)

\$35 in advance OR \$45 at the door\* (if any left)

\* 1 hour prior, if available

By telephone: (450) 292-3456 ext. 227

Information: [www.celticharmonies.ca](http://www.celticharmonies.ca)

(450) 292-3456, ext. 228



### JUNE 16, 2020 - SPS GOLF



We would like to remind all readers of Nuacht and their friends that the long range forecast for June 16<sup>th</sup> is +25C and sunny. Now you have no excuse not to purchase your

tickets for the 25<sup>th</sup> annual St. Patrick's Golf Tournament.

The organizing committee has been hard at work to ensure this year's event will be the best ever. The venue is Bellevue Golf Club, 880 Boul de Lery, Lery, QC J6N 1B7 and the price remains the same - \$150. Even if you don't golf spread the word and come and join us for dinner.

Tickets can be purchased [online](#) or by calling the Society office. Please help the Society continue with its charitable donations. More info to follow in subsequent editions.



# CENTENARIAN PASSES ON ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

By Ken Quinn

On Friday February 14, St. Patrick's Society lost its most senior past president when Andrew Fogarty left this earth to be with his beloved Mary, who he missed every single day since September 10, 2011. He carried a photo of Mary with him wherever he went. So, it is not lost on me how appropriate it is that he rejoined his love on Valentine's Day.

On May 1, 2019 Andrew celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in hospital after a recent fall, something he never truly recovered from. Such a special man, both St. Patrick's Society and the UIS had been preparing to celebrate quietly with Andrew, something that became impossible due to the circumstances. During his convalescence various people visited Andrew. A giant card was circulated, signed and delivered to Andrew. He was not going to be forgotten, that was for sure.

Andrew was active in the community for well over sixty years. He was President or Board member of nearly every organization, including a Founding Director of the English Catholic Council, Director of St. Patrick's Square, Chair of St. Mary's Ball, served on the Foundation and Centre Boards of the Lindsay Hospital and Father Dowd Home, served as Past President of St. Patrick's Society and Foster Home Recruiting Centre and also a Trustee of Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation. During his St. Patrick's Society presidency between 1983 and 1985, he stewarded the organization into admitting women into its membership. After his presidency, Andrew remained active in the community. In 1987 he served as Chief Reviewing Officer of the annual Parade. In May 2011, Andrew received Gold Card (Life)



Andy at the 2019 Luncheon  
Photo by IPI



Andy was touched by the outpouring of affection as the room erupted with "Happy Birthday" at the 2019 Irishman of the Year Breakfast

Photo by Ken Quinn

membership in the UIS to go along with his Lifetime membership in the Society. It is an uncommon practice for someone of Andrew's age to be named Grand Marshal. Despite that, in 2013, at the age of 92, Andrew served as Grand Marshal of the annual Parade with great pride and humility, likely the oldest ever to be so honoured. In 2016 St. Patrick's Society recognized the totality of Andrew's community involvement when he was selected as the recipient of our Community Award. To complete the Parade honour trifecta, in 2017 the Erin Sports Association selected Andrew as its Irishman of the Year. While Andrew had a less than stellar centenary year in terms of health, there wasn't a gathering in the community where \*the\* question wasn't asked "How is Andrew?" Andrew's eloquence at meetings was unmatched. His influence within the

community was helpful to many organizations, including ours. I am going to miss his smile, enthusiasm, quick wit and friendship.

To Neill, Stephen, Loretta, his grandchildren and the entire Fogarty family, we extend our deepest condolences in the knowledge that Andrew is once again reunited with his beloved Mary, singing "Some Enchanted Evening" and dancing through the night.

# IRISH DANCING SCENE

By Pat Short

## MARIE-CLAUDE ROUSSEAU SCHOOL

Marie Claude continues to carry the mantle in Quebec City every Sunday and also in Verdun on Wednesdays.

For all enquiries: [M.c.rousseau@videotron.ca](mailto:M.c.rousseau@videotron.ca)

## THE YOUNG ACADEMY

The Young Academy of Irish Dance is already preparing for its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Blackout Competition on August 15, 2020 at John Abbott College. We look forward to welcoming dancers from across Canada and the United States. We are currently looking for sponsors for our event. If you are interested please email [youngirishdance@hotmail.com](mailto:youngirishdance@hotmail.com) If you are interested in joining our dance family here are our locations and days:

- Monday: Chateaugay
- Tuesday: NDG
- Wednesday: NDG
- Thursday: Ormstown
- Sunday: Westmount



## THE BERNADETTE SHORT SCHOOLS OF IRISH DANCING

held their annual Valentine's Day class competition at John Abbott College on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2020. This event includes a "Dance Off for Charity" competition and they raised \$1,000 for DANC LA RUE. This organization provides front line services to hundreds of Montreal's street and homeless people; troubled youth with substances abuse, mental illness and more.

Seven champions with the school travelled to Killarney, Ireland from February 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> for the All-Ireland Championships. This is a secondary qualifier for the World's in Dublin at Easter. Dancers who qualify here will augment 16 other Short school dancers who have already made the grade.

In order to offset the costs of travel to Dublin for the World's, the parental booster club is having another fun PUB NIGHT on Friday, March 13, 2020, 6:30 p.m. There will be dinner, dancing, and a silent auction. Tickets are available via [worldqualifiers@gmail.com](mailto:worldqualifiers@gmail.com).

The annual Post Parade Family Party will be held at the Dorval Legion, 9721 Chemin de la Côte-de-Liesse, Dorval, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.



Thomas Black, Max Przybylowski, Andrew Brown and Nolan Short

*Irish Dancing is not just for girls!*



# REM LIGHT RAIL STATION & GAA FIELDS

By Ken Quinn

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 on the first anniversary of former premier Bernard Landry's death, members of Montreal's Irish community were thrown a curveball when Mayor Valérie Plante tweeted her wish to see the new REM light rail station named "Griffintown-Bernard-Landry" to highlight Mr. Landry's important contribution to the development of the city.

Resistance in the community to Mayor Plante's proposal was immediate, swift and unrelenting. A petition was launched. People reacted passionately through social media and some reactions were vicious in response to Mayor Plante's proposal.

On December 11<sup>th</sup> Special Advisor to the Mayor, Jimmy Zoubris, invited some community leaders to a meeting called for January 15<sup>th</sup> at City Hall to discuss the issues which are important to the Irish Community. In attendance from the City were Zoubris, Councillors Craig Sauv , Sterling Downey and Peter McQueen along with a representative from the Sud Ouest Borough and Mayor Val rie Plante. Present from among the leaders from the community were Society President Christie Brown, UIS President Patricia Mulqueen, Erin Sports Association President Tim Furlong and Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation Directors Fergus Keyes and Victor Boyle.

The major issue discussed was the Mayor's wish to see the REM station named in honour of the late former premier. The Mayor heard unanimously from around the table that the new REM station at the Peel Basin should wholly reflect the important history of the Irish community. Participants reminded Mayor Plante that Griffintown was built by the Irish community, and that a shared, hyphenated name, would not be suitable. Community leaders around the table listened as Mayor Plante supported her wish. Frank and direct discussion ensued. Another issue of importance, raised by Honourary Consul General Dr. Michael Kenneally, was the lack of available fields for the GAA to properly conduct its summertime activities. The councillors and representative from the Sud Ouest were all aware of this ongoing and unresolved issue.

Though those present were optimistic that the Mayor would consider our arguments in this debate, she did not commit to a retraction of her desire to name the station in honour of Mr. Landry.

At the conclusion of the meeting there was a willingness to continue the dialogue between the Administration and community leaders.

Time will tell if our voices were truly heard.

## ST. PATRICK'S PARADE ORGANIZERS ADAPT

By Ken Quinn

The 197<sup>th</sup> consecutive St. Patrick's Parade in Montreal takes place on Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The organizers have been met with yet another challenge. The partial closure of boul. Ren -L vesque has forced the United Irish Societies of Montreal to use boul. de Maisonneuve as its staging area. Between moving the parade onto de Maisonneuve, moving back to Ste-Catherine Street to a shortened route, Parade Director Patty McCann and her team are used to adapting to the challenges. The Parade will still run eastward on Ste. Catherine Street, however in the next little while the organizers will be sending instructions to parade participants advising where to show up and when.

This year's Grand Marshal is familiar to the Society. Member SHAWN O'DONNELL, Head of School of The Sacred Heart School of Montreal, was selected by the United Irish Societies in October. He leads a team of over 40 faculty, staff and administrators for a 235 student school. He received his undergraduate degree at the University of New Brunswick and his MBA from Concordia's John Molson School of Business. Prior to his current position, he was Director, Senior School, at Selwyn House High School for boys and Principal of  cole Bilingue Notre Dame de Sion.

Filling the role of Chief Reviewing Officer is STEVE GARNETT, a community minded volunteer who gives back to the city through the Montreal Auxiliary Firefighters. He has been president for over fifteen years and the organization has been supporting the Montreal firefighters for over 75 years. The group responds to all major interventions with a rehab unit and first aid vehicle. They provide warm food and energy drinks to help the firefighters maintain their strength while battling the flames and provide first aid when necessary. Steve is also the director of the Montreal Firefighter's Museum and their fleet of 26 antique fire trucks.

The Erin Sports Association selected JOSEPH QUINN as its Irishman of the Year for 2020. Joseph's Irish heritage stems from numerous counties, including Wexford, Tipperary, and Kildare on his mother's side and Mayo, Tyrone, and Monaghan on his father's side. The community will gather to f te Joseph on March 14<sup>th</sup> at EVO Centreville at the annual Irishman of the Year Breakfast, organized by the Erin Sports Association.

As for the Parade, organizers will be unveiling details on March 13<sup>th</sup> at a press conference at Montreal's City Hall. Stay tuned!

# BREXIT BEGINS AS ELECTORAL EARTHQUAKE HITS IRELAND

By Kevin Callahan

To put it mildly, political events in both the United Kingdom and Ireland have been a momentous roller coaster ride since last autumn.

In October, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson reached an agreement with European negotiators to allow the UK to leave the European Community but was unable to get the necessary parliamentary support to pass the bill. This impasse led to a general election in December which gave Johnson's Conservative Party, running on the slogan of "Get Brexit Done!", a huge majority. The election results had special relevance for Northern Ireland, especially for the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). From 2017 to 2019, the Tory government of Theresa May needed the DUP's ten seats in order to govern, and the DUP used this influence to push for a hard Brexit. With his comfortable majority, Johnson no longer depends on the DUP and appears ready to toss his erstwhile allies under the proverbial bus.

In 2018, Johnson told a DUP conference that he would never support a trade border between Great Britain and the Irish Sea. However, when he replaced Theresa May as Prime Minister last fall, Johnson realized that the only way he could get a quick deal was to meet European Community demands to respect the Good Friday Agreement and avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic. Consequently, the deal he agreed to with the European Union essentially puts a trade border in the Irish Sea. The DUP is furious, but there is little it can do, given its loss of political influence in Westminster. To add insult to injury, the DUP also lost two of its parliamentary seats as voters punished the party for its hardline stand on Brexit. The loss of North Belfast to Sinn Féin's John Finucane was an especially bitter pill to swallow as that seat had been held by unionist parties since the creation of Northern Ireland in 1921.

The loss of influence in Westminster put additional pressure on the DUP to see the Northern Ireland Assembly up and running again after three years of deadlock over issues of a DUP subsidy scandal and recognition of the Irish language. After intense negotiations, the Assembly started up in January. Ironically, one of its first acts was for all parties to vote against Johnson's Brexit withdrawal deal. This unanimity, however, was based on different perspectives. Sinn Féin and the smaller parties were voting against the agreement because they want to remain in the EU while the DUP opposed it because it is seen as separating Northern Ireland from the UK. Regardless, the Assembly vote against the Brexit bill is only symbolic and has no force in law.

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, the UK formally left the European Union. While Brexit is "done" in that it has officially happened, it is just the beginning of complex negotiations to work out the relationship between the UK and the EU. There is an 11<sup>th</sup> month transition period in which Britain will adhere to EU regulations and standards. In his inimitable style, Johnson has already made several aggressive statements and unfounded assertions about the negotiations. He cited the trade deal between the EU and Australia as a possible model for the UK. However, Australia does not currently have a formal trade agreement with the European Community. More recently, he has threatened to break off trade talks with the EU if Brussels pressures the UK to follow the bloc's rules after the transition ends next year. He maintains he will seek a Canada-style free trade agreement although Treasury officials have warned it would leave the British economy 4.9% worse off by 2035. In a typically grandiose move, Johnson is also making noises about building a bridge between Scotland and Northern Ireland as a sop to Unionists. 'Bonkers' has been one of the kinder responses to this idea. Given Johnson's mercurial personality and lack of consistency, the next months and indeed years promise to be turbulent. Already he has unexpectedly sacked the competent Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Julian Smith who was credited with getting the Assembly up and running and had won respect from all the parties. Nevertheless, the critical importance of respecting the Good Friday Agreement and avoiding a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic remain key elements to any future resolution.

Meanwhile, the Republic of Ireland held an election on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and the results were a shock to the pundits and the establishment. Since the founding of the Irish Free State in 1922, Ireland has been a duopoly, with government alternating between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael (although the two centre-right parties sometimes had to depend on smaller parties such as Labour). To the astonishment of all, Sinn Féin had the largest popular vote (24.5%) and won as many seats (37) as Fianna Fáil. The governing Fine Gael party was reduced to 35 seats. Despite its Republican credentials, the election was not about Irish unity or Brexit. Sinn Féin focused on bread-and-butter issues such as dealing with the housing crisis, soaring rents, and the ailing health care system. Its message resonated particularly with young people who voted overwhelmingly for Sinn Féin and its message of change.



# BREXIT BEGINS AS ELECTORAL EARTHQUAKE HITS IRELAND

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This leaves Ireland in a complex situation, and it will take some weeks to resolve itself. Sinn Féin has a mandate to try to form a government and has approached the smaller left parties to see if a coalition is feasible. Fianna Fáil at first said it would be willing to talk to Sinn Féin but has now ruled out negotiations. Fine Gael has rejected any coalition with Sinn Féin, but it is unlikely that Sinn Féin

would be interested in working with Fine Gael anyway. There is now talk of a Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil coalition to keep Sinn Féin out of government but given the clear statement that young people in Ireland want change and new priorities, such a move could prove politically risky. Whatever the outcome, politics in Ireland, in the words of W.B. Yeats, are "changed, changed utterly."



## Key Documents

Read the key Government documents setting out Ireland's priorities and approach in the Brexit negotiations.



## Article 50 negotiations with the UK

The EU's Chief Negotiator, Michel Barnier leads the Taskforce. Information on the Taskforce and its responsibilities, as well as key documents and news from the negotiations is available here.



## Frequently Asked Questions

Access a comprehensive FAQ section to learn more about Brexit and Negotiations.

## CAIFÉ GAELACH

Caifé Gaelach will resume on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Caifé Gaelach is the informal language learner meet-up organized by the School of Irish Studies at Concordia University, in association with Comhrá Montréal and Shaughnessy Café.

Come join us as we continue our language journey of friendship, conversation and fun (cairdeas, comhrá agus craic). Learners of all levels, especially beginners are most welcome. No previous experience is necessary. Sessions are led by Concordia's visiting Irish language scholar, **GEMMA LAMBE**.



**WHEN:** Every Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Shaughnessy Café - 1455 Rue Lambert Closse, Montréal, QC H3H 1Z5 (one block east of Atwater Metro)

**COST:** Nominal drop-in fee of \$5.00 to cover the cost of the space.

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

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Gary Schroder

Dave Dubeau

Marion Mulvenna

# LOST CHILDREN OF THE CARRICKS

By Marion Mulvenna, Irish Studies

The documentary **LOST CHILDREN OF THE CARRICKS** was presented in partnership with Ciné Gael as the opening film of their 2020 season. With strong interest, support and presence from Montreal's Irish societies, the Irish Embassy in Ottawa, Irish Studies students and members of the broader community, there was a full house of over 380 people in Concordia University's D.B. Clarke Theatre

on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> for the Official Premiere of *Lost Children of The Carricks | Defying the Great Irish Famine to create a Canadian Legacy*. The documentary is written and

One of nine coffin ships hired by Palmerston to transport 2000 of his surplus tenants to Canada, The Carricks would wreck off the frozen Gaspé coast on the Gulf of St. Lawrence in May 1847. Only 48 of the 173 passengers would reach the shore alive.

The film opens with a haunting sean nós lament and re-enacts an old tradition of leave-taking in the West of Ireland. Before departing home and clachán, emigrants brought their fire to the fire of a neighbour hoping that one day they would return home to reclaim it and, with it their place in the Old World. For Patrick Kaveney and Sarah MacDonald's family from Lord Palmerston's estate in south Sligo, those embers would flicker in waiting for 168 years.

## THE JOURNEY

Filmed on location in the Gaspé and in Ireland, *Lost Children of the Carricks* traces the extraordinary journey of Patrick Kaveney, Sarah MacDonald and their six children from their clachán in Cross, near Ballymote to Québec's Gaspé peninsula, and the remarkable return of their francophone descendants to Ireland five generations and 168 years later. The film follows Québécois-Irish historian Georges Kavanagh as he walks in the footsteps of his 'grandfather's grandfather'— through the landmarks and seamarks of The Carricks tragedy and finally down the narrow country road to his ancestral village to meet a community of cousins who had assumed that their relatives had all perished in the wreck of The Carricks.

## THE EXPERTS

This trilingual film is enriched by expert testimony from leading Irish historian Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh (National University of Ireland Galway) and Sligo historian Joe McGowan (Sligo Heritage), and rare archival footage of cultural life in rural Québec during the 1930s.

## THE SOUNDTRACK

Emotional soundtracks are performed by Canadian grand master Pierre Schryer, Inis Oírr flute player Mícheál Ó hAlmhain, Clare fiddler and composer Joan Hanrahan, Prince Edward Island violinist and composer Kate Bevan-Baker, award-winning Connemara singer Áine Meenaghan, and Clare concertina player and uilleann piper Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin.

Lynn Doyle, Ciné Gael

directed by Professor **Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin**, Johnson Chair in Québec and Canadian Irish Studies, School of Irish Studies, Concordia University, narrated by Irish poet and playwright Vincent Woods (Dublin, Ireland), produced by Celtic Crossings Productions (Montréal, Québec) with Executive Producer Cecilia McDonnell.

## THE LOST CHILDREN OF THE CARRICKS

A seventy minute documentary of exodus and reunion spanning 168 years, the film investigates:

- The mass clearances of Irish-speaking families from the Irish estates of British Foreign Secretary, Lord Palmerston at the height of the Great Famine
- The families' assisted emigration from Sligo aboard the ill-fated ship Carricks of Whitehaven and
- Their lasting legacy on Canadian shores.

Jim Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada

A 3,000 mile voyage to the far side of the Atlantic, Lord Palmerston's tenants departed a Gaelic world in rural Sligo for a Francophone world in rural Québec, carrying their music and folklore, language and religion to an emerging Canadian nation.



Christie Brown President SPS & Pamela McGovern, CISF



# MEET YOUR QUEEN AND HER COURT

By Ken Quinn

Photos courtesy of the UIS

On February 1, 2020 the community gathered at the EVO Centreville to witness fifteen women compete for a spot in the Royal Court at the 2020 Parade in March. In its sixty-fifth year and organized by the United Irish Societies of Montreal, a special touch was added this year when eleven former queens and twenty princesses were introduced and invited on stage.



Among them were former queens Erin Shannon (1958), Betty McGrory (1961), and Veronica (O'Shaughnessy) Batty (1966) along with 1994 Queen Colleen Murphy, who is in her 20<sup>th</sup> year chairing the event. Former princesses such as Maureen Powers and Terry Girouard (1982), Kerry O'Reilly (1991), Katie Irving (2001) and Kim Sullivan (2001 & 2002), who developed a career in broadcasting through people she met during her time as a princess and who did a wonderful job as the evening's master of ceremonies.

Guests were entertained throughout the evening with the fancy footwork of the Bernadette Short Irish Dancers, the beautiful voices of Francis Baddeley, Christine and Lisa Forget, True North, Shae O'Donnell and the Webster Sisters. Comedian Joey Elias had the room in stitches.



During the entire evening, judges Mairead Lavery, Hon. David Lametti, Mary Lynne Loftus, Liam Twomey, Lisa Forget, Fergus Keyes, and Dr. Aisling O'Gorman had to make some difficult decisions.

It isn't unusual to get stage fright and falter during a presentation. This year was different. Each woman was well prepared during each round. At the end of the evening, with Terry Clahane playing suspenseful background music, 24 year old **ORLA MAHON** won the trip to Ireland courtesy of Air Canada with Julia Barnwell, Aveen Mahon, Rebecca McAuley, and Meg Sweeney joining her as princesses.

The organizers are to be congratulated for their dedication to this wonderful event as are the sponsors such as CN, Ogivly Insurance, and the Sacred Heart School of Montreal. It certainly would be a greater challenge to organize without them.



Comhghairdeas libh!

# 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2020

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION
	Caifé Gaelach, Thurs 6:30-8:30 p.m. Shaughnessy Café, 1455 Rue Lambert Closse, Montreal, \$5	Every Thursday
Mar 5	UIS Lecture, 7 p.m., McEntee Reading Room, 1455, boul. de Maisonneuve W., 10 <sup>th</sup> floor	director@montrealirishparade.com
Mar 6	Ciné Gael Montréal, de Sève Cinema	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
Mar 6	SPS Annual Charity Ball, Le Windsor, 6:00 p.m.	office@spsmtl.com
Mar 13	Pub Night, 6:30 p.m. (fundraiser for World Qualifiers, Irish Dancing)	worldqualifiers@gmail.com
Mar 14	Irishman of the Year Breakfast, EVO Centreville, 9:00 a.m.	timber32@sympatico.ca
Mar 15	UIS Mass of Anticipation, St. Gabriel's Church, 11:30 a.m.	seniorvp@montrealirishparade.com
Mar 17	187 <sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon, Centre Sheraton, 11:00 a.m.	office@spsmtl.com
Mar 21	Hudson St. Patrick's Parade, 2020	soulangesirishsociety@gmail.com
Mar 22	GREEN MASS, St. Patrick's Basilica, 10 a.m.	office@spsmtl.com
Mar 22	197 <sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Parade, Downtown, 12:00 a.m.	director@montrealirishparade.com
Mar 28	Ciné Gael Montréal, (Saturday)	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
Mar 29	Chateaugay St. Patrick's Parade, Chateaugay, 1:00 p.m.	cviha@outlook.com
Apr 3	Ciné Gael Montréal, de Sève Cinema	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
Apr 4	UIS Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance, EVO Centreville, 6:00 p.m.	coach_shawn12@hotmail.com
Apr 17	Ciné Gael Montréal, de Sève Cinema	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
Apr 22	Ciné Gael Montréal, de Sève Cinema (Wednesday)	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
May 1	Ciné Gael Montréal, de Sève Cinema	info@cinegaelmontreal.com
Jun 16	SPS 25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, Club de Golf Bellevue, 880 Boul de Lery, Lery, QC J6N 1B7	office@spsmtl.com



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