



SPS MOST SENIOR PAST PRESIDENT

Rest in peace, Bill.

We are saddened to learn that our most senior past president, William Howard Wilson, passed on June 9, 2022, at the age of ninety.

Mr. Wilson was born on March 11, 1932 the son of William (Bill) Henry Wilson and Ellen Cecilia Carlin and was baptized at Notre Dame des Neiges Church March 27 of that year.

School mates fondly remember him from their days at Lajoie School in Outremont in the 1940's.

On April 30, 1955 Mr. Wilson married Margaret Dolores McMullan at St. Ignatius Loyola Church in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and honeymooned in Bermuda. Details of their wedding even made it to the Montreal Gazette social page, with [photo](#)!

Together, Dolores and Bill raised their family - 7 children, 19 grandchildren, and soon to be 12 great-grandchildren. Sadly, Dolores passed away in 2019 after 64 years of marriage. Bill was the proud father of the late Lyn (Kevin), Debbie (Chris), Laurie (Gordon), Dolores, Honor (Ewan), Heather (Rob) and Andrea (Reid). He was predeceased by his parents, his sisters Carlina and Audrey as well as his brother Arthur.

In his professional life, Mr. Wilson was passionate about growing his commercial insulation business as President of Asbestos Covering Company Ltd.



Bill Wilson

Mr. Wilson presided over St. Patrick's Society from 1985 to 1987, succeeding his friend Andrew Fogarty and immediately prior to Edward W. Tinmouth. In addition to being the most senior past president, Mr. Wilson also appears to have been the current Society member with the longest service, having been a member since 1971, over fifty years. Additionally, he was a Society Life Member.

"I only had the pleasure to be in Mr. Wilson's company on several occasions. However, what impresses me most is that a person of his age embraced technology and joined his fellow past presidents to record a group virtual greeting for the 2021 Virtual Annual Luncheon, as well as participating in a meeting of the past presidents with me, held virtually in June 2021," said Ken Quinn, current President of SPS.

He was involved in a number of other Irish and/or Catholic community

organizations over the years - likely some of the same organizations that his friend Andrew Fogarty was involved in. He is remembered as a kind and generous man of deep faith, and a welcoming smile.

Mr. Wilson attended our SPS annual meeting in 2018 at the Montreal West Curling Club as well as in 2019, where he received his Past President's sash. With his passing, the honour of being the Society's most senior past president passes to Dr. Michael Kenneally, who presided from 1993-1996. The member with the most years of service is now Peter Shea, who has been a member since 1974 and who presided over the Society from 2000-2002.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Collins Clarke MacGillivray White Funeral Home, 222, Autoroute 20, Pointe-Claire, Quebec.

The Funeral Mass took place at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at Saint Edmund of Canterbury Catholic Church, 105 Beaconsfield Blvd. Beaconsfield, Quebec.

Condolences may be left for the family at William Wilson Obituary - Pointe-Claire, Quebec (dignitymemorial.com).

We ask you to please keep the Wilson family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KEN QUINN

Summer is just around the corner and things are getting back to normal. I was most pleased to walk in the St. Patrick's Parade with some members as your president in March.

More than that, I am extremely proud of the work Pamela McGovern and her team did in producing the Luncheon in a virtual format. In a twist, the Luncheon was screened upstairs at Hurley's and at the Erin Sports Association clubhouse, where several dozen Erin members joined Tim Furlong as he formally received the Community Award.

We certainly prefer to hold "in person" events and, with that in mind, we are currently doing the groundwork to be able to hold the Charity Ball and the Luncheon in 2023 in a way befitting our Society and the community, raising money and enjoying everyone's company.

The Golf Committee is working diligently on the Charity Tournament, which will be held September 16, 2022 at Belle Vue Golf course in Léry. You will find further information in the pages of this edition.

The St. Patrick's Society Annual Lecture at the School of Irish Studies will resume this Fall. We will have further information to share with the membership shortly, as well as with the greater community, in the hopes as many people interested in the lecture may attend. Other than the golf tournaments, it will be nice to again gather at a St. Patrick's Society sponsored activity, this one indoors.

I was pleased to learn recently of the awarding of the 2021-2022 St. Patrick's Society Scholarship at the School of Irish Studies to Mr. Dean Farrell. Please read further into this edition of Nuacht to learn more about Mr. Farrell. Promoting and supporting the School of Irish Studies falls within the Society's mandate of supporting cultural, charitable, and educational endeavours.

Your attendance at our activities such as the Ball, Luncheon, and golf tournament help raise funds that ultimately return to our community. Should attendance at our events not be possible, know that a direct charitable donation is very much appreciated and that a charitable receipt will be issued to you. Please consider a [donation](#) to St. Patrick's Society.

On Sunday May 29, 2022 the Ancient Order of Hibernians held its annual **Walk to the Stone**, starting at St. Charles Church adjacent to St. Gabriel's Church, the first such walk since 2019 though commemorations were held in 2020 and 2021. It was my honour to lay a wreath on behalf of St. Patrick's Society along with Martina Branagan.

Please be sure to pay your [membership](#) dues now if you are delinquent or, should you not be, please pay promptly after you receive notice from the office in July.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful and safe summer amongst family and friends.

president@spsmtl.com

NUACHT

Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

Production:

Martina Branagan (Editor),
Dave Dubeau, Maureen McCormick
Geoffrey Kelley, Christie Brown,
Kevin Callahan & Ken Quinn. (Editorial Board)
Email: nuacht@spsmtl.com
Advertising: office@spsmtl.com

Printing:

Centre de copie commerciale,
460 St. Catherine Street West,
Montreal, QC H3B 1A7
Tel.: (514) 842-2545

Please address all contributions to the Editor
at the Society Office.

Tel.: (514) 481-1346 Fax: (514) 481-9048
E-mail: office@spsmtl.com

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal,
St. Patrick Square,
6767, Côte St. Luc Road, #1
Montreal, QC H4V 2Z6
www.spsmtl.com

Submissions for Fall edition: Sept. 3, 2022

PHOTO ALBUM OF THE IRISH, CANADA EDITION

Gallery of Photography Ireland initiated the Photo Album of the Irish project in 2014, to record and celebrate the ordinary and extraordinary histories of people with Irish heritage reflected in family photograph albums.

It is believed that the process of digitally collecting material enables Gallery of Photography Ireland to collect and preserve important individual histories that would not ordinarily be included in institutional archives. The making of family photographs is often a conscious act of remembering a moment in time, mindful that a record is being created for the future. They were interested to reveal the many ways in which photography reflects our past and records our present, including providing insight into all aspects of daily life at all levels.

From the beginning, Gallery of Photography Ireland actively seeks to include families from diverse backgrounds all over the island of Ireland, with a variety of stories to tell. Work is shared through publications, exhibitions and a dedicated website.

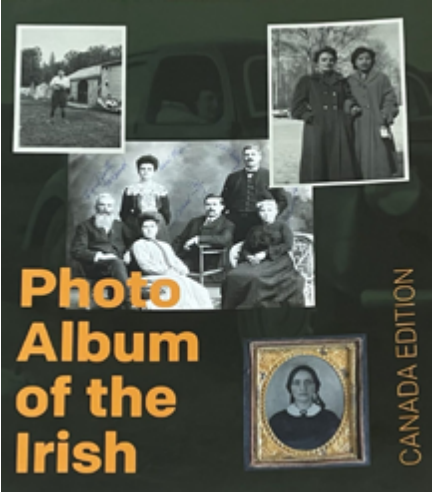
In 2019, Gallery of Ireland Photography extended the scope of the project to work with the Irish diaspora in America. With support from the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Programme, this iteration of the project reflects on the diverse and varied experience of Canada's Irish diaspora, as seen through their own family albums.

Photo Album of the Irish, Canada Edition reflects the deep, enduring connections between Ireland and Canada. This publication includes images from the 1860s right up to the present, giving an authentic view of diverse Irish

emigrant experiences across Canada. Collectively, the photographs reveal the stories people chose to remember and celebrate in their own lives.

Dr. Eamonn McKee, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada, provided a foreword for the book. Also featured is a contributed text from Dr. Orla Fitzpatrick, one of Ireland's leading photographic historians.

The overall archive demonstrates the evolution of photography from slow and cumbersome early processes to the ease and immediacy with which we can now share images. As the Photo Album of the Irish archive grows, it will become an important national and international resource, giving a unique insight into the history of the people from the island of Ireland across the world. It is fitting that, as we approach the centenary of the establishment of the independent Irish Free State and the State of Northern Ireland, this latest edition of the project builds towards 100 family histories, embracing and reflecting a broad spectrum of cultural identities.



SPS COMMITTEE AND EVENT CHAIRS

Charity Luncheon	Pamela McGovern
Communications	Carol McCormick
Community Award	Martina Branagan
Governance and Protocol	Christopher Deehy
Investment Committee	Paul Doyle
Golf Committee	Dave Dubeau
Charitable Giving & Sponsorship Committee	Christopher Deehy
Membership Committee	Martina Branagan
Nominating Committee	Christie Brown
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	1 issue	4 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 3rd, 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.

A HEART-WARMING LUNCHEON

BY PAMELA M^CGOVERN

The 2022 St. Patrick's Society Annual luncheon took place virtually again this year during the first official Irish Heritage Month across Canada. The committee worked hard to present an interesting program and are confident that this goal was attained thanks in large part to our speaker Dr. Jane McGaughey, the Johnson Chair at the School of Irish Studies



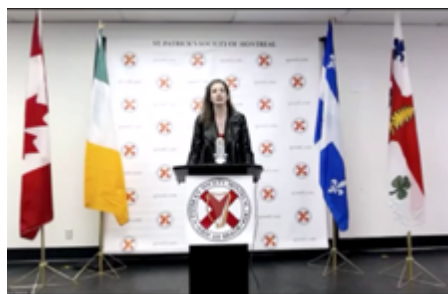
of Concordia University, the music of Solstice, dancing from students from the **Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing** and of course, the presentation from IDanceDuo. The video recording of the

luncheon is available: [2022 St. Patrick's Society Annual Luncheon - YouTube](#).



IDanceDuo created a special dance project and chose to honour St. Patrick's Basilica which is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year. The dance video has been made available

by Lucas Lawton and Natasha Woytiuk and can be found on IDanceDuo's Facebook page as well as on the video recording of the luncheon.

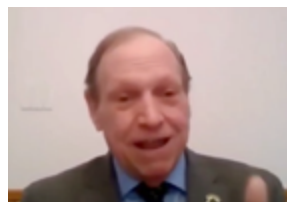


Our guest speaker, **Dr. McGaughey**, covered several interesting points in her talk which was inspired by Mark Twain's quote "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often

rhymes". She presented a few scenarios from Irish Montreal, rhyming a few moments between the present and the past including the trucker protest of earlier this year and the 1837 Lower Canadian Rebellion which was led by Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan.

She also discussed the 1849 burning of the Parliament which was then located in Montreal and the involvement of the Irish, on both sides. Dr. McGaughey spoke about her current project Gender, Migration & Madness – which explores a less well-known aspect of the Famine era, looking at how Irish women and men were treated at that time in Canadian colonial lunatic asylums. Reference was made to the notorious Mary Gallagher, "The Ghost of Griffintown," and Susan Kennedy. Lastly, Dr. McGaughey made a comparison between the present COVID-19 pandemic and the cholera outbreak in

Montreal in the 1830's. Discrimination was rampant at that time given that rumours circulated to the effect that Irish immigrants had been used to bring a kind of biological warfare to the province.

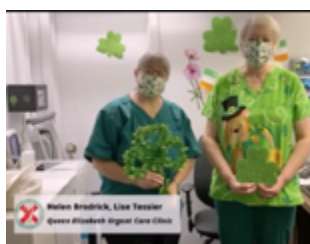


The St Patrick's Society of Montreal Community award was given to **Tim Furlong** in acknowledgement of all of his work in the Irish Community over the years. The presentation was made by Martina Branagan and

Tim accepted the award by video.

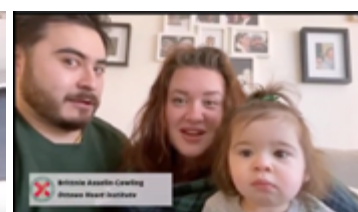
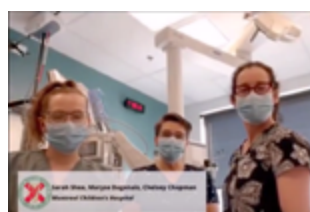
The Luncheon committee is delighted to report that the sale of tickets was the same as in 2021 with even more sponsorships. This generosity is heart-warming during these trying times.

Several health care workers sent us videos to wish us all a Happy St. Patrick's Day and were thanked for their hard work during this time through complimentary links to the luncheon.



We would like to thank our sponsors including our Emerald sponsor CN as well as Harp sponsors: Trustees from the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation (which supports the School of Irish Studies at Concordia), Golden Homecare, Hurley's Irish Pub, Lapointe Rosenstein Marchand Melançon and Square Victoria Immobilier Inc. We also appreciate the support from our Shamrock and Friends of St Patrick's sponsors.

The committee was comprised of Chair Pamela McGovern and President Ken Quinn, Past President Christie Brown, Robin Brodrick, Mark Gallagher, Carol McCormick, Maureen McCormick, Laurie McKeown-Thomassin, Patrick Short and Kim Sullivan.



A WALK FOR ST. PATRICK'S PARADE

BY MARTINA M^CLEAN

2022 PARADE ROUTE



Under the direction of The United Irish Societies of Montreal, Inc., the 197th St. Patrick's Parade finally went ahead in person this year, on Sunday, March 20th, 2022. It was very different in so many ways.

While it was a much smaller and shorter event than usual, everyone who lined the streets or walked in procession along the predetermined route, wore smiles as wide as the St. Lawrence river. People appeared to be just so delighted that they thanked us all along the way for bringing back the long-awaited "parade". It was very moving. It felt like a rite of spring and the return of an old friend after a long sojourn away, along with the joy of things getting *back to normal*. Yet, there were no floats, no marketing, no giveaways that I could see.



The procession finished for some of us in front of St. Patrick's Basilica where Msgr Francis Coyle was waiting to welcome us. Inside the Basilica, beautifully decorated for the occasion, the harp lilted Irish melodies in advance of the regular Sunday Mass at 11 AM.



We were blessed with beautiful weather, great services by the City, and a very good-natured, fun-loving **Valérie Plante**, Mayor of Montreal, for company.

Many of St. Patrick's Society's small contingent wore ribbons in support of the Ukrainian refugees.

Thank you to the members who walked with us, and hoping to see more of you next year when, we expect, we really will return to a pre-pandemic style parade.



St. Patrick's relic at the Basilica



DIDGERIDOO LOVESICK BLUES

BY JIM McDERMOTT

SHORT STORY

The South African sunset was still in dazzling mode from where I was standing. Cape Town's cloudless skies turned orange as I breathed a deep sigh and thought back to my childhood when I only dreamed of visiting this amazing part of the world whose landscape now shimmered before my eyes. This scene brought back memories when Irish missionaries would sometimes visit my primary school in North Belfast. They were warmly welcomed, and their enlightening presentations on the importance of humility were very impressive. However, their startling stories were not always dark and gloomy. Sometimes these dedicated men of the cloth would tell wonderful stories about the phenomenal wildlife that roamed the landscape of their worlds with amusement and intriguing detail. I vividly remember being so fascinated by their way of life that I was completely drawn to the missionary calling and felt deeply influenced by their teachings. I was inspired by the burning ambition to one day follow their religious order. I wanted to help teach the poor black children in South Africa, and above all, to fight the good fight against the discrimination caused by apartheid.

However, everything changed when I reached my teens and all my pious notions started to wane simply because I started enjoying the company of pretty girls at the local dancing halls. I think that could have been the reason why I became a sailor rather than a priest.

The beautiful silhouette of Table Mountain began to fade as we steamed out into the Indian Ocean. The date was April 23, 1972. I felt immensely blessed to be lucky enough to land a job aboard the SS Oronsay, a Pacific and Orient luxury passenger liner.

A few weeks before, we had departed from Southampton, England and traveled to several Mediterranean ports which marked the start of a world cruise.

I particularly enjoyed the crossing to Australia and how wonderful it was to enjoy the warm breezes. Each evening after work I ventured onto the wind-swept stern deck where I contemplated all the beauty that surrounded me. Leaning on the smooth edge of the taff rails, I stared spellbound at the ship's choppy wake that resembled an endless winding canal and listened to the ship's propellers beat furiously as the sun began to dim beneath a canopy of shining stars. During these moments of happiness and gratitude, I whispered to myself "Ah, what a life, to be well-fed and paid to see the world!" It just didn't get better, but little did I know then that this world cruise would turn into a voyage that I would never quite complete.

From a distance, the Oronsay gleamed like a shining planet. She was skillfully rigged from stem to stern and festooned with multicolored pennants fluttering from the dizzying heights of the foremast and across to the after mast where it met an emblazoned Red Ensign. This grand old lady of the sea looked majestic in her embellishments. Her white-painted hull shimmered in the moonlight as she swiftly sailed over the ocean at a speed of 28 knots.



R.M.S. Oronsay - artist unknown

After an eleven-day cruise, we reached the Port of Melbourne and unexpectedly, the ship's engine developed a severe rupture in the main crankcase. Repairs would take at least seven days. A shipmate of mine, whose name was Willie Murphy, a burly "Scouser" from Bootle, was gifted with a great singing voice, and liked to lead a chorus of sea shanties in the crew's bar known as the Pig and Whistle. The lucky Liverpool lad sang with shrill joy at the prospect of a longer stay in port with his girlfriend, Michelle, a beautiful "dolly bird" from New Zealand, who had recently moved to Melbourne. I was introduced to one of Michelle's friends, an Australian "Sheila", named Jill Van Dink. On the unforgettable day, when our eyes first met, she called out to me and said "Gid-day mate, ow ya goin?" For me, it was love at first sight. I was particularly mesmerized by her beauty and her distinct Australian accent. Although our time together was extremely limited, however, it turned into a seven-day courtship. The spirit of that era was to "seize the moment", and we did, managing to meet every night. No doubt this happy relationship was blossoming by the hour. And when the very last night in port passed, she and I got slightly intoxicated with several pints of Foster's beer to ease the pain of our soon-to-be goodbye.

I started to feel a certain pull that tugged at my heart strings and a melody in my head was calling me and saying the words "should I go?... or should I stay?" which haunted me in a deep way and started to weigh heavily on my mind. For better or worse, being born with an adventurous personality, I was more than willing to take a risk. Just as Bob Dylan said in one of his famous songs, "When You Ain't Got Nothing You Got Nothing To Lose", on departure day, when the ship's ceremonial whistles and horns tuned in for a grand farewell, my decision was made. I clenched my teeth and bit my lips. Then, five minutes before departure, I pulled my cap over my ears and smiled shyly so as not to be recognized by the officer on gangway duty. Then, I quickly slipped ashore with the stealth of a cat on the prowl. I jumped my ship in a blind leap of faith.

Instead of landing in the arms of my beloved Jill, I was intercepted by a harbour policeman who stared at me in bewilderment and said, "Crikey mate, where the bloody hell

SPS SCHOLARSHIP 2021/22 WINNER

BY DEAN FARRELL

7 Aibreán 2022

A chairde,

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Saint Patrick's Society of Montreal for its generous funding for my doctoral studies. My name is Dean Farrell. I grew up in Tallaght (West Dublin) and in Kildare. I completed my BA at University College Dublin: a joint honours degree in Modern Irish and French and Francophone Studies. Following this, I was awarded the Mary-Kate O'Kelly Scholarship, which funded my MA in Modern Irish, also at UCD. My MA research focused on Máirtín Ó Cadhain's *Cré na Cille* (the most renowned Irish language novel of the twentieth century). My findings were presented at conferences in Ireland, the UK, the US and Canada. I was subsequently awarded an Ireland Canada University Foundation Scholarship that allowed me to go to Canada in 2018 where I taught the Irish language at St. Thomas University in Fredericton and organized cultural events across the country from Halifax to Vancouver. I collaborated with various Irish cultural organisations, including Irish Cultural Association of New Brunswick, the Irish Consulate in Vancouver, Gleann na Gaeilge, Harp of Tara, and the Irish Embassy in Ottawa. I am now pleased to have a link to the Saint Patrick's Society of Montreal.



This prestigious scholarship allowed me to begin my PhD through Concordia's Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture and the School of Irish Studies in September 2021. I consider myself lucky to be a student at a school that fosters a proactive sense of community among staff, faculty and students, as well as creating a climate of scholarship that thrives on excellence. I elected to pursue my doctorate at Concordia because of the School of Irish Studies' international reputation, as well as the reputation of my supervisor, Dr Máirtín Coilféir, with whom I am privileged to work closely. This funding will cover my living expenses and tuition fees. Without it, I would not be able to pursue research in Montreal. I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity afforded by this scholarship, as it will allow me to commit my time and energy to my PhD project exclusively - without having to work full-time.

By the end of July 2022, I will have completed all my required coursework (6 PhD level courses which have research components). As part of these courses thus far, I have produced scholarly articles on the following topics: Translation and Irish Language publishing in the Free State (1926-1931), Translation Methods, Editing and (Re)Standardisation of the Irish Language, Irish Folklore as an Anticolonial Research Method, and, Ekphrastic Poetry and Ireland in a Global (Anti)war Context. These are currently being prepared for publication and I expect to have them copy ready this summer. I will begin my final course on May 1 - a research project in Dublin with Dr Seán Mac Risteaird at Fiontar agus Scoil na Gaeilge at Dublin City University (DCU). The project was proposed and designed by me and approved by the Scholarships and Awards Committee at the School of Irish Studies. Hopefully, this will lead to further collaboration between Fiontar DCU and Concordia's School of Irish Studies.

Again, my sincerest thanks to the Saint Patrick's Society of Montreal for this generous scholarship.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Dean Farrell.

IRISH STUDIES BEALTAINÉ

BY DARRAGH KILKENNY-MONDOUX

In place of their grateful participation in the annual St. Patrick's Society Charity Ball, as in past years, the students of the Concordia School of Irish Studies celebrated the Celtic springtime festival of Bealtaine with a ball on Wednesday, May 11, 2022!

Reggie's, the downtown campus pub, was festooned with flowers, a tapestry (pictured right) and a maypole. Attendees danced to the music of award-winning Irish musical troupe, Trilangue. What began as an end-of-semester tonic for students missing out on the Society's legendary St. Patrick's Annual Ball is hoped to now become an annual May tradition.

From left to right, the three organizers, Esme Cavanagh, Samara O'Gorman, and Lily MacLean, with the outgoing principal, Dr. Michael Kenneally.



DIDGERIDOO LOVESICK BLUES CONT.

do you think you're going?"

I felt devastated to be caught red-handed and what made it even more painful was that my boat was gone! And there was no turning back.

I was a deserter and would not be allowed to return.

Unfortunately, during this embarrassing harbour scene, the lovely Miss Van Dink skedaddled. Only her voice echoed with parting words "Hooroo mate, see ya!"

Within thirty minutes of my arrest, I was transported to a detention center where I awaited deportation for eight long days. I felt like a destitute bandit preparing to be shunned like a criminal and sent back to Ireland, all because of a pretty "Sheila". And in my time of confession, I screamed that famous quote: "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

Epilogue in rhymes

*I was smitten in starry-eyed haste
Which really was a scandalous disgrace
Way down in Melbourne town
I fell for an elusive Australian Sheila
Whose name was Jill Van Dink
Her exquisite beauty caused my foolish heart to sink
But I hardly had time to think
I jumped ship all because of her enchanting wink
Which landed into the clink quicker than a blink
Then I was deported home like a disenchanted dink
From the land where the kangaroos and wallabies are
prone to slink
And where the haunting drone of the didgeridoos send me
prancing, in my walking shoes
Which left no cure for those Didgeridoo lovesick blues....*

We wish to thank the following who contributed articles, photos and ideas to this issue of NUACHT:

Ken Quinn
Lynn Doyle
Marion Mulvenna
Robert Mondoux

Kevin Callahan
Kevin Wilson
Maureen McCormick
Laurie McKeown

Jim McDermott
Mike Burns
Westmountmag
Melissa Kate Wheeler

Pamela McGovern
G. Scott MacLeod
Darragh Kilkenny-Mondoux
Pat Short

CINÉ GAEL HOSTS TWO UNIQUE DOCUMENTARIES

BY BYRON TOBEN

This article is reprinted here with kind permission from Byron Toben and WestmountMag.ca where it was first published on April 28, 2022

The **Ciné Gael** Irish Film series continued its pandemic-abbreviated 2022 program on April 22 with the showing of two unique documentaries at **Concordia's Cinema de Sève**. They both featured the exquisitely drawn pencilled backdrops of Montreal buildings of olden days by **G. Scott MacLeod**.

The first, called **Griffintown: A People's History – Episode One**, is a reworking of the original 21 stories into a new four-part series, **Indigenous Lands, First Settlers and Irish Immigration**. It is narrated by **Dr. Matthew Barlow**, who appears live on-screen against the backdrops as he relates tales about the origins of the area where many **Irish famine** refugees were dumped and became cheap labour for the nearby industrial area created with the construction of the **Lachine Canal**...



From A People's History – Episode One, the building of the Lachine canal as depicted in a sketch by G. Scott MacLeod

In 2002, the late photographer and director **Richard Burman** produced an hour-long television documentary, **Ghosts of Griffintown**, supplemented by a book, **20th Century**

Griffintown in Pictures. I am fortunate to have a copy of the book and reread it the next day, inspired by this MacLeod/Barlow update.

In 1791, this land was controlled by **Thomas McCord** who had secured it on a 99-year lease from the nuns of **Hôtel Dieu**. In 1796, while he was attending to other business affairs in England, his business partners illegally sold the land lease to **Mrs. Mary Griffin**. It was she who registered the tract into streets and individual lots.

In 1805, McCord returned and eventually won a lawsuit to return the land to him. However, the name of **Griffintown** stuck on the parcel.

In 1825, the long-awaited **Lachine Canal** was finally built, and expanded in 1840.

In 1859, Irish labourers working on the **Victoria bridge** uncovered a mass grave of 6000 who had perished from "ship fever" in 1847-48 at **Windmill Point**, across the canal from Griffintown, and hauled up a **huge black rock** from the St-Lawrence river to place over that "cemetery" to preserve those remains from desecration.

The second documentary shown was **The Irishman – Child of the Gael**. Again, rich pencilled drawings by MacLeod and

again triggered by a canal, this one in Ontario, the Rideau canal, and written and narrated by former Montrealer **Mike Burns**, now living in Maine.

How wonderful for me to hear Mike's deep voice and Irish inflections. I was a regular at his monthly Sunday evening fireside telling of traditional Irish stories at Hurley's pub and even arranged for him and musician Toby to appear at one of the early Fringes held on the McGill campus. This documentary deals in part with exploited Irish immigrants building the Rideau canal and imbibing too much beer to soften their trials, sometimes having to "reconsider their relationship with the Perpendicular."



Sketch from The Irishman – Child of the Gael by G. Scott MacLeod

The **Irish Famine** (1845-1849), like the **Nazi Holocaust** (1939-1944) and the **Stalin-induced Ukrainian famine** (1932-33), was one of the great catastrophes of human history. Evicted from their farms, a third of the population was forced to leave the country. Many travelled on "coffin ships" to North America, acquiring typhus and cholera en route.

Large numbers were quarantined at **Grosse-Île** near Quebec City and died there. Others continued to Montreal. Between May and November of 1847, 75,000 Irish refugees landed in Montreal, which then had a population of only 50,000.

Thus, a preamble to the evening on the planned **Montreal Irish Monument Park** by activist and Ciné Gael regular **Fergus Keyes** was apt at this time. A bilingual pamphlet was available to all attendees.

The planned site, where the "black rock" now stands, has the cooperation of both the city of Montreal and Hydro Quebec. Toronto has a riverside park also commemorating the role of Irish immigrants – Montreal deserves one too.

Mr. Keyes stressed that the plight of the sick Irish deposited at Montreal's edge attracted aid from all levels of Montreal society, Catholics, Protestants and others, even at their own peril. In fact, the mayor at that time, **John Easton Mills**, also tended to the victims, contracted disease himself and died.

To help on this project, visit montrealirishmonument.com

SINN FÉIN TOPS THE POLL IN NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

The May 5th elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly caused a political earthquake as Sinn Féin became the largest party, and Sinn Féin vice-president Michelle O'Neill assumed the position of first minister. The party won 29% of first-preference votes and 27 seats compared with 21.3% and 25 seats for the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). The Alliance Party also did very well, more than doubling its number of seats to 17. In another first for Northern Ireland, over half of the elected Sinn Féin candidates are women.

To appreciate why the election results are historic, it is essential to understand that the state of Northern Ireland was created when Ireland was partitioned just over a century ago. It was set up to guarantee the permanent dominance of the Protestant/Unionist majority over the Catholic/Nationalist minority and so maintain the union with Britain. Nationalists were disenfranchised and discriminated against in terms of housing and employment. James Craig, Northern Ireland's first prime minister, summed up the ethos of the state when he said "I am an Orangeman first and a politician afterwards . . . All I boast is that we are a Protestant parliament and Protestant state." That a political party from the Nationalist community with a commitment to a united Ireland is now the largest party in the North represents a sea change in Irish politics. Indeed, even more change may be on the way as Sinn Féin currently holds a double-digit lead over the ruling Fianna Fáil/ Fine Gael coalition parties in polls on voting intentions for the next election in the Republic. It is quite probable that Sinn Féin will be in the next government of Ireland as well as being the largest party in the North.



Credit: [Twitter](#)

Sinn Féin's long-term goal is to hold a unity poll on the reunification of Ireland as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement. This is not to say that the North would simply be grafted onto the 26 counties as happened with German unification. There would need to be a series of discussions and forums on how to build a new inclusive Ireland, and there would be votes on both sides of the border. During the recent election campaign, however, Sinn Féin focused on bread-and-butter issues such as housing, healthcare, and cost of living. Michelle O'Neill presented herself as a candidate for all and in her victory speech, stated "*This is a defining moment for our politics and all of our people. It presents us all with an opportunity to re-imagine relationships in this society on the basis of fairness, equality and social justice.*"

The excitement following the election was quickly followed by disappointment as the Democratic Unionist Party refused to name ministers to the Assembly Executive. The Good Friday Agreement that brought peace to Northern Ireland stipulates that the two largest parties from the two communities must share power. The ostensible reason for the DUP's refusal to allow the Assembly to function is its demand for the British government to tear up the Northern Ireland Protocol. The Protocol is an

agreement that was negotiated and signed by Prime Minister Boris Johnson with the European Union at the end of 2020. The Protocol allowed the UK to leave the EU without violating the legally binding Good Friday Agreement. It literally created a border in the Irish Sea between Britain and Northern Ireland, and the DUP views this as a long-term encouragement towards a united Ireland. However, the reason the

Protocol was necessary in the first place is because the DUP undermined former British prime minister Theresa May and supported Boris Johnson in order to get the hardest Brexit possible. Some commentators say that the real agenda behind all these machinations is to undermine the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) and restore a hard border. The DUP was involved in the GFA negotiations but walked out and has never endorsed the agreement. Its hardline approach at the time allowed it to denounce the Official Unionist Party as weak and eventually become the largest party in the Unionist community by appearing as the staunchest defender of the link with Britain. In addition, the DUP leadership is uncomfortable with acting as a junior partner in government with Sinn Féin and so is happy to have an excuse to avoid this.

During the election campaign the DUP threatened to block the formation of the assembly executive but not the assembly itself. However, on Friday, May 13th DUP politicians showed up at Stormont to sign in and be able to receive their pay cheques and then departed, leaving a political vacuum behind. This radical action has been condemned by Sinn Féin, the SDLP, the Alliance Party, the Dublin government, and the EU. Michelle O'Neill accused the DUP of "punishing the electorate"

SAVE THE DATE: 26TH SPS GOLF TOURNAMENT

BY DAVE DUBEAU



The 26th Annual St. Patrick's Society Golf Tournament will take place Friday September 16th 2022 at The Bellevue Golf Course. The committee has decided to revert to the pre-COVID-19 format. There will be a full breakfast, a sit-down roast beef dinner, a Shotgun Start and of course, the world-famous Hurley's Hospitality Hole.

As everyone is aware, prices for everything have risen sharply in the past 6 months. Therefore, to cover our increased costs, we are raising the price to \$175 per participant. As in the past, you can register on the Society's [website](#). Like others, the past couple of years have been difficult for the Society's finances. Your participation helps ensure the Society can continue to support all the worthy organizations that rely on the Society for funding. Hope to see everyone on September 16th 2022.

SINN FÉIN TOPS THE POLL CONT.

while Alliance Party leader Naomi Long said it had been a “shameful day” for the DUP. The DUP boycott has also alarmed business leaders and many unionists who have called for pragmatic solutions to managing the Protocol. Ironically, despite the DUP's attack on the Protocol, many business leaders are happy with it because it allows unfettered access to the EU market.

On Thursday, May 12th, the Royal College of Nursing, the British Medical Association Northern Ireland, the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Royal College of Emergency Medicine and the Royal College of GPs warned that failure to form an executive would endanger patients' lives. A majority of voters chose parties that support the Protocol, but the DUP is now ignoring the democratic voice of the people of Northern Ireland and denying desperately needed services to the population in order to advance its political agenda.

The big question is what the British government will do in the face of the DUP's boycott. Boris Johnson's cabinet now consists almost solely of hard Brexiters, and The UK foreign secretary Liz Truss has said she may unilaterally scrap parts of the Protocol to please the DUP. However, David McAllister, a German centre-right MEP who chairs the

European parliament's UK coordination group, said the EU was united against renegotiating the protocol. “The protocol was signed and ratified by both sides. Nobody here in Brussels is interested in starting these new complicated discussions and political fights,” he said. EU officials also said that Britain's threat to act unilaterally risked undermining the international alliance against Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Tearing up the agreement with the EU would threaten Western unity at a critical moment, so the Irish question also has important international consequences. Meanwhile, a high-level US congressional delegation is flying to London to express its concern over the impasse. The Biden administration has made it clear that there will be no US trade deal with Britain if the Good Friday Agreement is in jeopardy. The British government has used the DUP as a bargaining chip with the EU in the past, but it is not clear that Boris Johnson will risk a trade war with the EU and hurt the UK's international standing by violating a treaty he negotiated and signed just to please the DUP. Indeed, as Johnson announced plans to fly to Belfast on May 16th, he also insisted he would not scrap the Brexit deal governing Northern Ireland and instead back reform that has “the broadest possible cross-community support. While this completely contradicts previous

declarations of his ministers, it suggests Johnson realizes the consequences of scrapping the Protocol. Unfortunately, in the meantime, both the democratic institutions and the people of Northern Ireland are paying the price for these cynical manoeuvres.

If the DUP refuses to allow the Northern Ireland Assembly to function in Northern Ireland, it is inadvertently making the case for alternatives to the dysfunctional state. There clearly needs to be imaginative discussion and dialogue about how to move forward for the benefit of all the people and not one party. The months ahead are likely to be turbulent, but the results of the May 5th election represent a turning point in Irish history. As Irish commentator Fintan O'Toole (see link below) said “The long and the short movements of history are coming together to create the sense of an ending. There is an urgent need to talk, in the most generous, open, and imaginative way about what Northern Ireland's afterlife might look like and how everyone can find a place in it. “

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/may/09/sinn-fein-victory-ending-northern-ireland-brexiteer-unionist-boris-johnson-united>

IRISH STUDIES COURSES - 2022/23

FALL 2021

**Introduction to Irish Studies
Highlights of Irish Literature
The Irish in Canada
History of Ireland
Celtic Christianity
Irish Mythology and Folklore
The Irish Revolution, 1913-23
Classics of Irish Theatre
Contemporary Irish Literature
Irish Ecocritical Writing
Irish Film Studies**

FALL/WINTER 2021/22

Introduction to Spoken Irish

WINTER 2022

**The Irish in Montreal
'What's that tune?' Irish Traditional Music Appreciation
Contemporary Irish Theatre
Irish Traditional Music in Canada
The Irish in Latin America
Indigenous Language and National Literature in Ireland
Irish Women in Quebec
Intercultural Ireland: Film, Theatre and TV
Early Ireland
Rebellions in Ireland and the Canadas**



PEOPLE



ROONEY, Doris Mary (Née Hille)
February 11, 1941 - April 6, 2022
Born: Nixdorf, Czechoslovakia

It is with great sadness that our family announces the passing of our Doris. Wife and mother, she was known for her love of books, gardens and rearing of her family. Doris is survived by her husband Frank (for 56 years), her daughters Brenda Ann (Gary) and Erin Elizabeth. She will be missed by her grandchildren Fiona and Leo of Nelson BC, and her much loved niece Anne Rooney, Vancouver BC.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to the staff at Father Dowd Long Care Home; especially Ruby, Babita; PAB's Angie and Tina; and the full team on the 5th floor.

A graduate of Bishops University (Thomas More Institute), she was a long time Group Leader (35 years). Doris enjoyed her executive duties at St. Patricks' Society of Montreal.

A Requiem Mass will be celebrated at a future date. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Thomas More Institute (514-935-9585) would be appreciated.



Trilangue, Montréal-based master ensemble will be on an Ireland tour, presenting traditional music, song and dance from Québec, Ireland and Scotland during the month of July 2022. Select performances will also feature a screening of Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin's documentary [Lost Children of the Carricks](#) (2021, Celtic Crossings Productions, 55 minutes). [WATCH trailer.](#)

DANCERS: MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR CONT.



Lucas Lawton, a member of the teaching staff at the Bernadette Short School is living the dream, touring Europe with the 25th anniversary tour of Michael Flatley's, "LORD OF THE DANCE", while **Natasha Woytiuk** returns to the next tour of "CELTIC ILLUSION". We were all delighted to see Natasha in the leading role when the show played Place des Arts in May.

EVERYONE HAS A HISTORY: YOUR HERITAGE AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

BY LAURIE MCKEOWN

Where do you come from? Why did your ancestors move and why did they choose that particular place to live? How and when did they get there? So many questions but too few answers.

In 1825, James Skelly of County Westmeath was offered a land grant in the Seigneurie of Lake of Two Mountains from Father Jackson of the Sulpician Order of Montreal. Like many of his fellow countrymen, Skelly and his family suffered from severe poverty at this time in Ireland. Deciding to stay put in his homeland, Skelly's three sons accepted the land grant and left for a better life in Quebec. A few years earlier in 1823, William McManus left his Irish home in County Tipperary for Lower Canada. Crossing the Atlantic for these Irish immigrants was a hazardous trip, a potential tragedy waiting to happen every day during those long seven-weeks. The ship went as far as Quebec City and from there they had to find their



BUSH FARM NEAR CHATHAM (about 1838)
www.historymuseum.ca

own way west along the St. Lawrence River. Steamboat companies bound for Montreal loaded up their boats with as many as two hundred men, women and children and at the end of this week-long voyage, they disembarked in Lachine to avoid the rapids and continued the rest of the way on foot. But, their arduous journey wasn't over yet. Both the Skelly brothers and McManus would now have to find room on another steamer or large river raft to continue their journey up the Ottawa river.

The day would be spent travelling on the water and at night they would sleep on the riverbanks. The Skelly brothers

would disembark just past what is now Oka and make the long trek north on foot to St. Columban.

McManus would have started his 30 km walk at St. Andrew's, headed for the wooded vacant land behind the Argenteuil seigneurie, which would eventually become the town of Gore. The terms of the land grants often stated that in the first year an acre had to be cleared and a log home built.

A tremendous undertaking with only an axe. This was just the start of their new life in Canada. The decision to leave Ireland, leave family and friends must have been very difficult. It is hard to imagine being in a foreign land with an unfamiliar landscape, an unforgiving climate and formidable wildlife. Like so many Irish that came here in the 19th century, this is a story that many of us share. Perhaps you have a similar ancestral story. Your family history, your family narrative, 'your heritage.'

Historians look at the past from a scholarly perspective, studying numerous primary and secondary sources in order to piece together an historical narrative. There is no single interpretation, the past is viewed from many different angles and perspectives. The time period which the Skelly's and McManus immigrated has been authenticated by historians as a historical period in which the political, environmental and economic climate caused many Irish to leave their homes. Family history brings more than just the historical knowledge, it fills in the small cracks of history and gives us a sense of belonging and identity. Knowing our history provides us with the information to understand where we came from. It is responsible for how we came to be, it's a part of who and what



Felling axe (1800s)
www.historymuseum.ca

we are and may determine what we will become. Heritage is your history. Memories, traditions and values passed down through the generations are unique endowments of knowledge that are your legacy. Personal stories of our ancestors allow us to discover what life was like for them, their family and community. Understanding the past is often difficult when applying our modern day living to those who lived over 100 years before us. Family genealogy and genetic testing have become extremely popular in the last 20 years. Knowing your heritage helps to more fully understand yourself, and gives a sense of place, belonging and more importantly; identity. Genealogists armed with artifacts, diaries, deeds and photographs, help us understand what the ancestral families did and why. Family history helps track the movement and actions of people which in turn help historians fill in the small bits within an historical moment. Why do we need to know the past? By learning the stories behind names and dates teaches us a personal history and explains how ordinary people lived within historical moments.

Heritage can be narratives, objects or sites that are personal to either an individual, family or community. Identifying these confirms our sense of connection to our past. Tom Morton describes heritage as an inheritance, a past that is bequeathed to us and we feel obligated to preserve it for our future generations. The newly



launched Canadian Irish Migration Preservation Network was created to research and promote Irish heritage in Canada and to create a dynamic network of groups and individuals with similar goals. The CIMPN is excited

2022: THE YEAR OF START-OVER

BY KEVIN WRIGHT

James Joyce had a quirky interest in numbers. To him, the number 11 was the number of “start over.”

This year, Festival Bloomsday Montreal marked its eleventh anniversary, ready to start over, with several interesting events. Most importantly, it re-started having events with audiences. Numbers were limited, but the audiences were live.

Among the events that launched the festival this year was a discussion featuring His Excellency Eamonn McKee, the Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland to Canada and John McCourt, Joycean expert and author of a newly-published book on Ulysses. Professor McCourt is in Rome, so we Zoomed across the planet. 2022 is the 100th anniversary of the publication of Ulysses and they spoke about the reception of this ground-breaking novel in 1922 and now. Dennis Trudeau was the moderator.

Part of the other events included a performance of a rarely-heard musical setting of the words of Ulysses by the Ukrainian composer Thomas de Hartmann. Mezzo-soprano Geraldina Mendez interpreted this work. The same evening saw the Montreal premiere of a one-act play by Debra Weiss, *Of Thyme and Rosemary*, a conversation between James Joyce and Marcel Proust in the after-life, first presented at the International James-Joyce Symposium in London.

Jonathan Cheung, chef and owner of *Appetite for Books* on Greene Avenue proposed an Irish dinner with a secret menu. His classes always sell out quickly.

There were the academic panels prepared by Miles Murphy and moderated by Geraldina Mendez as well as a concert of traditional music with Kate Bevan-Baker during the week. June 16, Bloomsday, saw staged readings of scenes from Ulysses featuring local personalities. The last word went to Molly Bloom as Kathleen Fee interpreted the words of Leopold Bloom’s wife as she tries to get back to sleep after a very tumultuous day.

Other events, hybrid and in person, are planned. For the full [program](https://www.bloomsdaymontreal.com), please visit www.bloomsdaymontreal.com.



Left to right: composer Thomas de Hartmann, poet Rachel McCrum, Ambassador Eamonn McKee, fiddle duo Archetype Trad

EVERYONE HAS A HISTORY CONT.

to share stories, projects, photos and music etc., of our Irish heritage and is interested in seeking out, recording and preserving these contributions for future generations. One of the CIMPn’s main objectives is the preservation and protection of Irish cemeteries and burial grounds. Cemeteries are living history books, primary sources of the life of a person, family or community from the past. One of the main restoration projects at the moment

is the St. Columban cemetery in the Mirabel region. Through grants and fundraising the CIMPn hopes to repair existing headstones, chronicle and preserve the names and narratives of those that are buried there, locate the earliest grave and create an interactive map of the area. Hopefully this project will become a model for the restoration of other Irish cemeteries. Words connect us to our history, to our ancestors and our identity. We need

to value our heritage and pass it on to future generations with a little bit of ourselves attached to it.

For more information on the Canadian Irish Migration Preservation Network and the full story of the Skelly brothers and William McManus, please visit www.cimpn.ca or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cimpnca. We’d love to hear about your ancestral history.

DANCERS: MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR

BY PAT SHORT

This spring has been very busy for the Irish dancers in the Montreal area. An in-person World Championships took place in Belfast over the Easter holiday week and 14 Montreal area dancers travelled to compete in this event. It was so great for the community of dancers, parents, and committees to be back doing something so worthwhile for the children following two years of COVID-19. This year was the most successful year on record for our dancers, with so many recalling to higher levels in their competitions.

On a local level Feis Montreal was held over the Victoria Day weekend. Another great get-together in-person following a two-year absence because of the pandemic. Three hundred and seventy dancers competed for trophies, and medals,



Aveen Mahon



James Houghton
World's Medalist

generously sponsored by St. Patrick's Society of Montreal. This number was down slightly from years before the pandemic, as not many travelled from the Toronto area and New England area because of vaccination requirements.

Another Feis, organized by the Young Academy will be held at John Abbott College on Saturday July 16th, 2022. This promises to be another great event of Irish dancing in the Montreal area.

No longer can candidates just sit an exam to become a certified teacher of Irish dancing. It is now a long process whereby young Irish dancers are examined up through the grades at annual Grade Exams. This year 48 candidates will complete Grades 1 to

10 at the studio of the Bernadette Short School. This is a way to ensure future generations will be catered to with certified teachers. The writer fondly remembers when Feis Montreal was adjudicated by Aer Lingus "stewardesses" while on lay-over in Montreal. We have come a long way in forty-five years.

The North American Championships (Nationals) will be held in Palais des Congrès, Montreal, from June 29th to July 4th this year. There are 3,600 Irish dancers coming from all over the world to our city. Along with parents and relatives, Tourisme Montréal, a major sponsor of the event, expects that this event will have at least \$10M economic impact on our city. **Marie Short** of the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing is co-chair of this event, along with Eastern Canada Regional Director, **Mr. Ryan Carroll** of Oakville, Ontario.



L-R: Marie Short, Kelsey Crone &
Bernadette Short

CINÉ GAEL MONTREAL'S 30TH SEASON

BY KEN WILSON

Ciné Gael Montreal celebrated its 30th season with an abbreviated but lively season highlighted by old friends both on screen and in person, and a new ambassador.

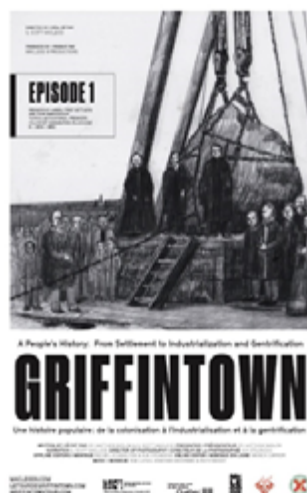
Through the autumn and winter, the abnormally trepidatious Ciné Gael Montreal committee convened several meetings in an attempt to solve the go/no go question concerning the approaching season. This was supposed to be a noteworthy occasion: our 30th season; an achievement worth celebrating with friends who have been so loyal all these years. Fortunately, the pandemic subsided, government restrictions lifted, and we were able to piece together a brief but well-received season.



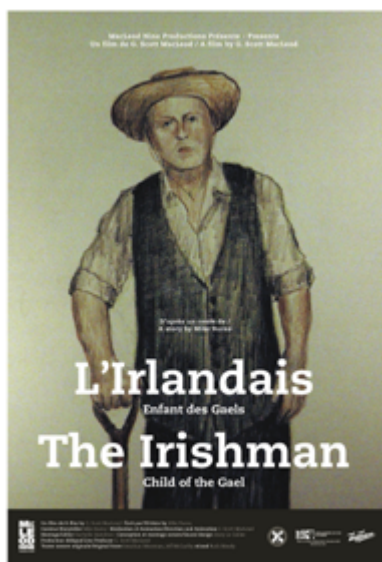
Our first film shown on April 8 was Death of a Ladies Man, a Leonard Cohen-inspired work by Montrealer, Matt Bissonnette, who graciously agreed to present the film and provide time for a Q&A session after the screening. Ciné Gael Montreal's old friend, Gabriel Byrne plays Samuel O'Shea, a university poetry professor whose two greatest loves are women and alcoholic beverages, and naturally this has gotten him into more trouble than he would care to remember and probably doesn't.

The music of Leonard Cohen is interspersed throughout the film and having it filmed in Montreal and Ireland makes it a film that Irish Montrealers can identify with. An added bonus was not only did the audience have a chance

to see several great Canadian actors but this might be the only Irish film Ciné Gael Montreal has presented that included Frankenstein fittingly in a pub, drinking.



The second evening was a presentation of works by another old friend of Ciné Gael's, G. Scott McLeod. His collaboration with Dr. Matthew Barlow resulted in 21 short films that were remolded into a four-episode mini-series named, Griffintown, A People's History. Scott was kind enough to present the first episode of the series, Indigenous Lands, First Settlers and Irish Immigration. As the name suggests, it is a recounting of the development of the area starting first with indigenous settlements and advancing through French and Irish settlements, with the rampant industrialization that accompanied this evolution.



A second work was also presented, and this was a 20-minute animated film called, The Irishman. Scott's artistry in conjunction with Montreal's favourite Irish storyteller, Mike Burns' narration creates a beautifully crafted story of the grind and the struggle for survival to build a better life for those who follow. On this night, another bonus was a Q&A session moderated by well-known TV and radio personality, Randy Renaud, featuring G. Scott McLeod and Dr. Matthew Barlow.

Our final night of the shortened season, May 9, was the always favourite, Evening of Irish Short films curated by Ciné Gael Montreal committee members, Heather MacDougall and Kester Dyer. We were honoured to have a very special guest that evening, His Excellency, Dr. Eamonn McKee, the Ambassador of Ireland to Canada. As usual, the variety and quality of short films was tremendous and, as is our tradition, the audience voted at the end of the evening to pick their top three favourites culminating in one film chosen as the audience winner. This year's winner was The Vasectomy Doctor, a short documentary film directed by Paul Webster that was based on the true story of Dr. Andrew Rynne who was the first person to perform vasectomies in Ireland back in the 1980's and who was shot while working in his office in 1990. To see the complete list of Irish short films presented that evening, please visit our website at <https://cinegaelmontreal.com/>

We would like to express our gratitude for the support of all those who came out on those three evenings to help us celebrate our 30th season, and we hope that in 2023, our 31st season, we will be able to return to the format that has served us well for most of the last 30 years.

As always, our website is the place to go for details <https://cinegaelmontreal.com/> and follow us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cinegaelmontreal> which is moderated by the indefatigable, Antoine Maloney.

SINN FÉIN MP INVITES MONTREAL IRISH TO JOIN UNITY DISCUSSION

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

At a reception at Hurley's on Saturday, May 28th 2022, Sinn Féin MP for West Tyrone Órfhlaith Begley invited the Montreal Irish community to join the discussion on a vote for Irish unity and what a united Ireland might look like. The reception was part of a tour of Quebec to talk about Sinn Féin's recent historic election victory in the North of Ireland Assembly elections and the party's call for a vote on Irish unity. Sinn Féin is now the largest party in the Assembly and holds the first minister position. Moreover, Sinn Féin's support is surging in polls in the Republic of Ireland, and it seems increasingly likely that the party will be in government there in the near future.



L-R: Órfhlaith Begley, Kevin Callahan, Victor Boyle, Fergus Keyes and Scott Phelan.

Ms. Begley's talk at Hurley's was part of a five-day tour of Quebec that saw her visiting the Quebec National Assembly and meeting with Quebec government representatives as well as elected officials from provincial and federal political parties. In addition, she was formerly received at Montreal City Hall by councillors Sterling Downey and Craig Sauv  . She presented the councillors with a copy of the recent unanimous vote of the Dublin city council calling for a vote on Irish unity and the creation of a Citizens Assembly to prepare for the vote.

Órfhlaith (pronounced Orla) also took part in the annual Walk to the Stone on Sunday, May 29th 2022. At the Saturday reception, she presented the executive of the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation with a cheque for \$500 on behalf of Friends of Sinn F  in Canada.



On May 28, 2022, Martin Perron, Arch  ologue - Conseiller Expertise Environnementale with Hydro-Qu  bec (HQ) made a presentation at the Universit   du Qu  bec    Rimouski (UQAR) Colloquium: Places of Memory/Places of Heritage. Mr. Perron has been working on the Black Rock Memorial and was involved in the "Carrick" project in Quebec City.

The presentation covered a number of topics related to the "Black Rock site", including:

- Historical background of the site
- Power station construction plans and archaeological impact assessments
- Consultation, commemoration goals and partnership between HQ and the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation

THE WALK TO THE STONE

BY MARTINA MCLEAN

The Annual Walk to the Stone took place on Sunday, May 29th 2022. It began with the celebration of 9:30 AM Mass at St. Charles church where the Catholic community of St. Gabriel is now housed, and a delay beyond the organizer's control.

The sun was splitting the trees while we waited patiently for the police to arrive. They were busy with The IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's, a national public awareness event taking place in another part of town.

With the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, the walk was well-attended this year, with the usual bus for those needing assistance with mobility. A few people did leave early due to the delay at the outset.

Victor Boyle, AOH was the organizer and Emcee on the day, introducing a host of speakers.

Cathal Marlowe gave the invocation reminding us to remember who helps us in our time of greatest need, and recognised the perseverance and endurance of those ancestors who survived.

Marie-Claude Durand from Hydro-Quebec, no stranger to the Irish Community, spoke for a few minutes about the partnership with the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation and the future. Hydro's project is due for completion in 2024.

Victor Boyle introduced some of the next generation in his family, grateful for family support. He acknowledged the current team members who are unrelenting in their dedication: Fergus Keyes, Lynn Doyle, and Scott Phelan. He told those gathered that the City intends to reroute the bridge to make space for a respectful memorial space for the victims of the famine, and

those Montreal locals who helped and cared for them. To the surprise of many, he mentioned the old Montreal Distilleries where there is a visitors' centre that incorporates the contribution of the Irish to the business. Speaking with Claudia Menandez, the hope is that there will be a walkway connecting that centre to the monument. For Victor, we are keepers of our shared history, a solidity built on the foundations of the past, a way to honour our children, and never forget those buried in this sacred place.

Then, one by one, presidents and/or representatives of sister societies laid a wreath near the Black Rock.

Órfhlaith Begley, Sinn Féin MP for West Tyrone, thanked everyone for the warm welcome she received, echoed much of the sentiments expressed by other speakers, and acknowledged how this story is not just an Irish story, but the story of the hand of friendship, caring, huge sacrifices, humanitarian aid, and strong connections between organizations.

Dr. Michael Kenneally thanked the committee, partners, and the Southeast Borough for the progress so far. "Irish cemeteries provide us with a sense of place and memory, they focus and sharpen our sense of identity," he said.

Kevin Wright, Blommsday Montreal reminded us that 1847 was an extremely hot year with the fever sheds... Then, he read "All Day I Hear the Noise of Waters" by James Joyce.

In spite of the initial delay, this commemorative event, and the updates received, brought applause from those in attendance.

Thank you to the organizers and those who participated.



coral strings

*an Irish Unity poem by Samara O'Gorman
(pictured above reading this poem she
composed over the previous month)*

I watch them as they fight
these copper and emerald ribbons
that descend into ocean tide
they braid within seaweed
and build nests where the salmon dwell

I catch a glimpse of her at night
reuniting with the slender rivers of willow trees
the branches whistle:
"don't turn away from a dream"

a gust of wind soon brought a sprite
hidden in the lace shadows that sway
it brushed my brow and then sank into
the great darkness of the sea

and how my legs took flight
to lay all ambition on her hope
to hear her sing again
to bind the verses and notes
into hardcover reserve

there she is in sudden sight
a harp lying in the strand
her tones uniting the people who find her
the worn moon competing with her light

I softly pluck the coral strings
her melody a warm promise to hold
yet only heard under one sky

NORMAL PEOPLE

BY MAUREEN MCCORMICK

OPINION



Sally Rooney. Photo: © Kalpesh Lathigra

Normal People is the title of Sally Rooney's second novel, the first being "Conversations with Friends", published in 2017. Rooney was born in Castlebar, county Mayo, in Ireland's west. At only 31 years old, she has become quite a remarkable literary sensation, having won among many other awards, the 2019 "British Book Award for Book of the Year" for the novel Normal People.

Normal People, published in 2018, begins while the protagonists are still in school, and is set in the fictional town of Carricklea, in county Sligo. We are introduced to Marianne, and Connell, whose lives were destined to be intertwined though not without tumult and upheavals. We learn that Connell is being raised by a single mom in a working-class family, whereas Marianne is from a well-off yet highly dysfunctional family.

Both Connell and Marianne show their insecurities in different ways; Connell trying too hard to fit in and Marianne simply withdrawing away from her classroom peers. Their similar emotional baggage does bring Marianne and Connell together on many levels, and a deep and intimate romance and

friendship set in before they both leave for college in Dublin.

Once both are accepted and find themselves attending Trinity College in Dublin, much has changed on the surface between them. They are no longer together, and their roles have somewhat reversed. Now, Marianne is the popular and apparently well-adjusted person with a new boyfriend in tow, while Connell struggles to fit into the mould at Trinity and in Dublin as well.

Though they both meet and date other people, no relationship feels right, and many of Marianne's are fraught with abuse, both emotional and physical. They nonetheless try to create their own life-plans on their own terms. However, there are some aspects of life that they cannot control.

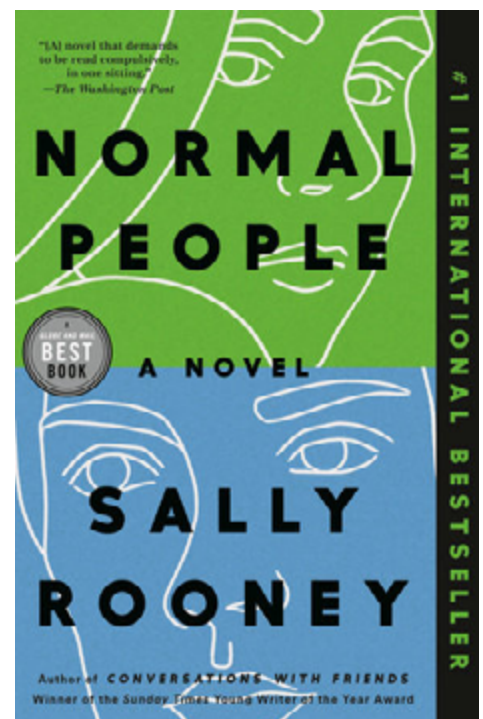
Their college paths at Trinity are extended further when they both obtain five-year postgraduate university scholarships, removing Connell's financial worries and enabling Marianne to feel personally rewarded for her evident intelligence.

When they find out that a mutual friend from school in Carricklea has committed suicide and died, their paths cross again at the funeral, and their complex relationship picks up once more.

In the conclusion of the novel, we learn that Connell has been accepted into the MFA program in creative writing in New York City. Throughout the novel, we discover his passion for literature,

so this moment is very bittersweet for Connell, as he'll need to make some critical life decisions...

This novel is very engrossing as Rooney has a very quick-paced and modern writing style. Though the author and characters are young, their complexity and humanity appeal to all age groups.



The novel has been made into an award-winning and multi-nominated TV series, produced by Element Pictures for BBC Three and Hulu in association with Screen Ireland. Rooney was nominated for an Emmy for her work on the television adaptation of the novel.

It is available on CBC Gem <https://gem.cbc.ca/media/normal-people/s01> since 2020. I would highly recommend taking a look, as the novel has much to teach us about human frailties and victories.

SIRE: A FATHER-DAUGHTER VAMPIRE STORY



Returning to the [St Ambroise Montreal Fringe Festival](#) for the first time since premiering *Burning* Bridget Cleary in 2019, Heart of Gold Productions brings us the fearful family dynamics

between an aging vampire and his human, millennial daughter. Calder Levine directs the world premiere of another darkly playful piece from this young production company.

Darragh Mondoux plays Vera, the Vampire's daughter in this one-act two-hander that she wrote with development help from dramaturg Jesse Stong and the [2020-21 Young Creator's Unit with Playwright's Workshop Montreal](#). The workshop went online as the COVID-19 pandemic persisted through the past year, and Darragh and her dad Robert Mondoux teamed up to put on a reading of this work in progress for the [2021 Festival de la Bête Noire](#) horror theatre festival, with their family home in NDG for a stage.

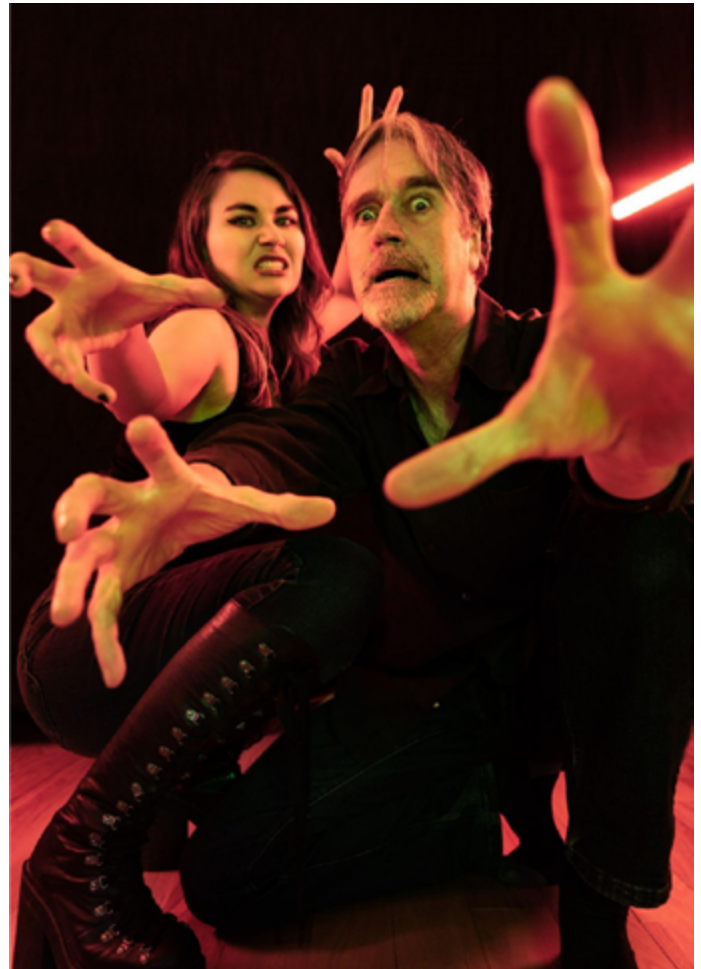


Photo: Julian Stamboulieh

Robert Mondoux is a painter and graphic designer, who did not need too much cajoling into returning to work in indie-theatre. Both father and daughter are alumni of Concordia University. The penchant for showmanship was inherited and amplified in Darragh, who has been working as a professional actress in Montreal since graduating from the Dome Professional Theatre program at Dawson College in 2014. More recently, she was nominated for the [Outstanding Emerging Artist Award by the Montreal English Theatre Awards Committee in 2021](#).



The play uses magical realism to heighten the emotional stakes involved in elder care; and how the caretaker roles between parent and child are swapped in the sunset years of life. Borrowing as much from her experience watching her parents care for their parents as from the vampire canon including *Dracula* (1931) to *What We Do In The Shadows* (2014), Darragh takes a private point of frightening anxiety, builds it into horror and then releases her audience from the deathly dread at the heart of the drama with the goofy comedy unique to her real life relationship with her dad.

Tickets sales began May 17th at the [Montreal Fringe](#) website. The play will run at Petit Campus, 57 rue Prince Arthur E. Fringe Venue #4, June 9 (7:30 PM); June 12 (6:30 PM); June 13 (8:45 PM); June 14 (5:45 PM); June 18 (12:15 PM); and June 19 (7:30 PM). For more information, contact Ms. Mondoux (actor, producer, playwright) via email: dkmondoux@gmail.com.

CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2022 EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
16 Sept. '22 18 Sept. '22	26 th Annual Golf Tournament, Bellevue Golf Course Erin Sports Irishman of the Year breakfast	office@spsmtl.com
Fall '22	SPS sponsored Lecture Visiting Speaker	office@spsmtl.com



**Voiceovers
for all your
audio needs**

Lori Morrison,
Founder, CEO

www.thevoxbox.com

THE BERNADETTE SHORT SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE



Classes in/Cours à:

Kirkland

Montreal

Chateaugay

Quebec City

Plattsburgh, NY

Performing group available
Troupe de danse disponible



www.shortschoolirishdance.com



**AFFORDABLE
COMMUNITY
SECURITY**

Discover a unique apartment building designed
for autonomous individuals 55+. Enjoy an active lifestyle
in a welcoming community. Located in Cote St. Luc near
CLSC, bus lines, shopping centres and library.
514-481-9609
info@spsquare.ca

ST PATRICK'S SOCIETY

You are cordially invited to submit your articles, photos,
events, and other information you'd like to share with the
Irish Community here in Montreal or around the world.

You can contact the editor of Nuacht via email at:
nuacht@spsmtl.com. The closing date for submissions
for the Fall edition is **September 3, 2022**. We look forward
to hearing from you.