



GIVING VOICE TO OUR DEAD NEAR THE BLACK ROCK

In July 2022, the 125th Anniversary of 1847, some members of the Irish community were presented with preliminary findings of the analysis of the bones and teeth found during the 2019 archaeological dig at Point St. Charles at the Réseau Express Métropolitain (REM) site near the Black Rock close to Victoria Bridge. These findings reveal that the fourteen immigrants found suffered disease and malnutrition before their untimely death from ship's fever.



Source: CBC

Bio-archaeologist Marine Puech at the Ethnoscop lab in Boucherville, Quebec confirmed that the seven adults, three teenagers and four children showed unspecified stress and diet deficiencies like iron as well as significant lead levels. Trace evidence of malnutrition was found, which left them susceptible to other diseases like typhus. Puech says that most of the remains can be traced to rural south-west Ireland, and the time of death was between August and September 1847, the time of the 'Great Hunger', the famine that ravaged Ireland.

The Ethnoscop lab was surprised by a finding that two of the people exhumed are probably not from Ireland. Other details emerged that moved the Irish community. The almost complete skeleton of one of the teenagers provides a picture of a fifteen-year-old adolescent male who, due to a bacterial infection in his hip, walked with a limp, and used a crutch. One of the children was a six-month old in a tiny coffin.

Victor Boyle, president of the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation told CBC "... to be shown at the laboratory, these bones being assembled as a full skeleton, hearing what their diet was, what part of Ireland they were probably from, now there's a person lying on that table." Ms. Puech said that she is happy to be "giving voice to people."

The remains will be further analysed at a lab in Trois-Rivières where the DNA will be sequenced. The hope is that this analysis will enable the community to give these people back their human dignity. By pinpointing their village, retrieving their names, forward tracing to living relatives, they can be re-interred in sacred ground at a ceremony to be attended by relatives, and the broader Montreal and Irish communities – that is the hope.

It is important to the Montreal-Irish community to also celebrate the caring character of those who came to the aid of the new arrivals from Ireland including the First Nations and the people of Montreal and Quebec who

opened their doors and hearts to the sick as well as the orphaned Irish children. Some succumbed to typhus including, the **Martyr Mayor** of Montreal, John Easton Mills, many Grey Nuns, priests from various communities, first responders and citizens of Montreal. Others survived like Bishop of Montreal, Ignace Bourget.

For more than ten years, the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation is planning to establish an appropriate memorial near the Black Rock. For now, the Black Rock is largely inaccessible other than during the annual "Walk to the Stone", facilitated by Montreal police. In 2020, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) awarded the 2020 Richard Evans Award to the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation. QAHN president Grant Myers told representatives from the Montreal-Irish community "We salute the superb work done by the volunteers of the Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation, and we have no doubt that this important memorial park will be achieved."

The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation is a charitable organization hoping to start building in 2026 according to one of its directors, Scott Phelan, in an interview on CJAD. All donations would be appreciated to make this a reality. If you would like to donate, please visit this link: <https://www.montrealirishmonument.com/donations> or contact your Montreal-Irish society or association to know more.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KEN QUINN

I am so pleased to read the content in this edition of Nuacht. The community is coming alive again as organizations begin to plan their activities after a prolonged period of pandemic produced isolation. It certainly was refreshing to take in a number of films presented by Ciné Gael in the Spring and it has been fun seeing the progress of the various sports associations, Irish dancers, AND some teachers too! Congratulations to Casey Costello and Michael O'Gorman, who recently were certified to adjudicate at competitions.

In September, your Society held its annual Charity Golf Tournament thanks to Chairman Dave Dubeau and his team. It was a great day. The weather cooperated. It was nice to see so many familiar faces in one room at a Society event again. The Erin Sports Association held its Irishman of the Year Breakfast downtown honouring Joseph Quinn, who in all likelihood will go down in history as the longest serving Irishman of the Year in our community's history. It was my pleasure to play a small role that day in being the one to introduce my father.

A number of weeks ago, the School of Irish Studies held the 15th annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture, given by Dr. Gavin Foster. The first in-person event at the School open to the community since before the pandemic, there was a good mix of students and community at this well-attended event. The topic of this interesting lecture was "The Irish Civil War: History and Memory in Conflict". Although I have good knowledge of our local history, I cannot say the same about Ireland's history. I believe I was able to learn a few things that evening.

The United Irish Societies recently announced the names of the parade dignitaries for the 2023 St. Patrick's Parade. We will read more about them in a future edition of Nuacht. Tim Furlong joins a long list of men and women to lead the parade as Grand Marshal. City Councillor Sterling Downey is the 2023 Chief Reviewing Officer. Innisfail Social and Sports executive Pam McEntee is the recipient of the Simon McDonaugh Humanitarian Award. Grant Stewart is the recipient of the Liam Daly Heritage Award. I congratulate them all for the community recognition they are receiving.

The Society will be getting back to in person activities as well. We anticipate the Ball being held on Friday March 3rd and the Luncheon on Friday March 17, 2023. Information about the Annual General Meeting will be sent to the membership soon.

As this is my final Nuacht report as St. Patrick's Society President, I want to thank each and every one of you for placing your confidence in us. This certainly hasn't been a normal presidency, however, we continued to support the charitable, cultural, and educational organizations and activities throughout the pandemic, which I am proud to have played a small part in.

president@spsmtl.com

NUACHT

Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

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Submissions for Winter edition: Nov. 15, 2022

2023 SPS COMMUNITY AWARD

BY MARTINA MCLEAN

We are delighted to announce that the closing date for submissions for St. Patrick's Society Community Award 2023, is **Friday, January 20, 2023**.

Nominations are now being accepted for the SPS Community Award 2023. This award dates back to 1993 when it was presented for the first time to Rev. Russell Breen, Pastor, St. Patrick's Basilica for the restoration achieved. All previous awardees are listed on our website under [History](#).

It has two distinct goals:

1. To honour a person within the Irish community who has served in low-profile positions yet who has worked wholeheartedly for the good of the whole community.
2. To honour a Montrealer of Irish descent who has assumed a broader mandate to serve beyond the borders of our local Irish societies. His/her achievements bring honour to us all and it is fitting that we acknowledge such commitment.

The form can be completed online under the [News](#) tab and will be submitted to us directly.

On **March 17, 2023**, the awardee will be honoured at the SPS Annual Luncheon.

To help the committee in its evaluation of nominees, we kindly ask you to elaborate on the nominees' contributions, and their broader involvement in and beyond the Irish community, as applicable. Let us know how long the nominee has served. Think of their achievements to date and list them. The more information you provide, the better.

If you are considering the second category, let us know how this nominee's service brings honour to our Montreal-Irish community.

The SPS Community Award Committee thanks you in advance for your submissions and looks forward to reading about those you select to be recognized.

Community Award Nomination

Submission Page

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

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 15th, November 15th, January 15th and May 15th.

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

A CARNIVORE'S DELIGHT

BY DAVID DUBEAU PHOTOS: LAURIE MCKEOWN

On a beautiful late summer's day, the 26th annual St. Patrick's Golf Tournament was held at the Bellevue Golf Club. For the first time in three years, we were able to have our regular format including a full sit-down breakfast and a roast beef or fish dinner in the dining room. Not to mention the Hurley's hospitality hole which remained a constant despite Covid restrictions.

I would like to thank all the golfers and sponsors who helped make the event a success. The tournament is one of the main fundraising events of the Society, so your support is much appreciated. Over the years, the tournament has raised in excess of \$300,000. The list of charitable donations that the event helps support is included in the brochure.

The committee has already begun preparing for next year. If anyone has input or suggestions they would like to share, please contact the office, office@spsmtl.com or myself, ddubeau7@gmail.com.

Finally, if you participated this year and enjoyed the day, please tell your friends.

We hope to see you all again next year.



43RD IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR BREAKFAST

BY MARTINA MCLEAN

PHOTOS: HOWIE MYERS

Together at last! The Erin Sports Association finally honoured Joseph (Joe) Quinn (Past UIS President), the 2020 Irishman of the Year on Sunday, September 18th, 2022 at the Evo Plaza in downtown Montreal.



Hundreds attended this year to celebrate the longest serving Erin Sports Association Irishman of the Year 2020-2022, Joseph Quinn, who was sashed by Tim Furlong instead of Fr. Walsh who passed away. Ken Quinn, Joseph's son introduced the Irishman of the Year in place of his sister, Shannon, outlining his father's Irish heritage, his sociable nature, his volunteerism, his professional career and his leadership. Joseph thanked Erin Sports for the distinguished honour bestowed on him, his father for

the example of volunteerism, and the promotion of his Irish heritage, and his wife, Heather for all her support.

The Mayoress of Verdun presented Joseph with a Recognition Certificate on behalf of the past and current council reminding us that he was awarded the Grand Verdunois 2001 and the Fire Excellence Award.



The head table comprised Shawn O'Donnell, Grand Marshall 2020; Ryan MacDougall, Corby's; Danny Doyle, Erin Sports President; Joey Elias, Comedian; Jessica Rusnak, Sports Columnist at the CBC; Michel Lacroix, Montreal Canadiens-RDS; Tim Furlong, Past President Erin Sports Association; Shawn Doyle Emcee and son of Danny Doyle above; Joseph Quinn, 2020 Irishman of the Year; Ken Quinn, son of Joseph Quinn, SPS President and Irishman of the Year Presenter; Dr. Eamonn McKee, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada; Michael Canavan, Colonel in the Canadian Armed Forces; Laurence Beauregard, Female Amateur Athlete 2020 (wrestling); Spencer Gallant, Male Amateur Athlete 2020 (multi-sports); Emme Riley, Professional Curler; Lawrence Corber, Comedian; and Steve Garnet, 2020 Chief Reviewing Officer.

Other awardees were honoured on this special occasion, the proceeds of which, helps a grassroots organisation (UIS) help

the grassroots where most needed, according to Danny Doyle. Francis Baddeley received a special award for his contribution to the annual 'breakfast' and the Special Athlete of the Year award went to Christopher Kazmerchuk.

For Dr. McKee, it was his first official event in person in Montreal and he recognized the nuclear energy, great leadership and strength of the Irish organisations in Montreal. Laurence Beauregard spoke about the initiatives and sacrifices required to try to be in competitive shape during the pandemic.



Joseph Quinn receives the walking stick

People left with various takeaways from inspiring and humorous speeches including:

- Never forget where you come from and give back to your community!
- Priority is family.
- Loud and proud. Best dad I ever had!
- Prisoner of your thoughts / Master of your mind.
- Surround yourself with good people and you can achieve anything.
- Diversity is our strength.
- Wonderful to come together to celebrate community.
- Remember your roots!

Breakfast Chairman Ronnie James and his committee were thanked for organizing such an event during these difficult times.



A PHENOMENAL YEAR!

BY KEVIN WRIGHT

This year, 2022, was really a year for starting over. For the two previous years, Festival Bloomsday Montreal had held on by going online. What we discovered was that we had more than held on. By being online, we discovered audiences in places as varied as Galway, South Africa, New Zealand, and many other places in between.

With the loosening of the restrictions due to COVID, we decided to start over with live audiences. Even so, we felt that we could not abandon our international followers. We offered as many of our events as possible in a hybrid format: live audiences and audiences online. This seems to be the way of the future.

This year we brought back some old favourites and tried some new things. We began the festival by walking around Old Montreal in much the same way as Leopold Bloom and Stephen Dedalus of *Ulysses* walked through the streets of Dublin in 1904. Donovan King of *Haunted Montreal* led us through the streets regaling his audience with spine-tingling stories of spirits disturbing the living.

Because it was the 100th anniversary of the publication of *Ulysses*, we brought together His Excellency Eamonn McKee, Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland, and Professor John McCourt, Rector of the University of Macerata in Rome, in a conversation about the reception of *Ulysses* from 100 years ago (1922) to today. The moderator for this event was the long-time friend of Festival Bloomsday Montreal and veteran newsman Dennis Trudeau.

Other highlights of this year's festival were the presentation of a long-lost musical composition by Ukrainian composer Tomas de Hartmann, based on *Ulysses*. The performers were Geraldina Mendez and Maria-Teresa Vera Benedetti. An extra bonus was the presence of Tom Daly, the heir to the de Hartmann archives, who is a resident of Montreal.



Geraldina Mendez, Miles Murphy, Edmund Nash, André Furlani

Marcel Proust and James Joyce were famous (or infamous) for the time they met at a party years ago. It was supposed to have been a gabfest between two illustrious authors. It turned out to be a disaster. Debbie Weiss imagined a scenario in which the two get together to start over, this time in the

afterlife. Directed by Elsa Bolam, it starred Arthur Holden and John Hernan in *Rosemary and Thyme*.



Arthur Holden and John Hernan

A concert of traditional music featured Kate Bevan-Baker and Emilie Brulé of Archetype Trad. A surprise bonus was Ukrainian soprano Maryna Krejcarova who sang two Ukrainian folk songs and encored with a song by W.B. Yeats.

Montreal journalist and author Anne Lewis interviewed Festival Bloomsday Montreal co-founder David Schurman about the origins and evolution of the festival from its beginnings as a study-group at the McGill Community for Life-long Learning to the present day when it has become the second-largest Bloomsday celebration in the world, surpassed only by the events in Dublin.

Samara O'Gorman, the new editor of Joyicity, the online newsletter of the festival, interviewed Belfast-born and Canadian-resident poet Rachel McCrum about her work.



Tom Daly, Maria-Teresa Vera Benedetti, Geraldina Mendez

An event which has been a long-time part of the festival was the academic-panels day organized by Miles Murphy. This year, we welcomed four people associated with the exploration of the works of James Joyce in groups. Elizabeth Salerno, a librarian from the New York City Public Library, spoke about her experience of running an online reading group dealing

UNITED IRISH SOCIETIES

GETTING READY FOR IRISH SEASON 2023

On Wednesday Oct 19, 2022, the UIS Executive held their monthly meeting, and one of the agenda items was to select the 2023 Parade Dignitaries and 2023 Awards.

After many nominations were read, the Executive voted the following people into the following positions:

2023 **Grand Marshal** - Tim Furlong

2023 **Chief Reviewing Officer** - Sterling Downey

2023 **Liam Daly Heritage Award** - Grant Stewart

2023 **Simon McDonaugh Humanitarian Award** - Pam McEntee

The UIS is grateful for all for the great nominations and the thought given in the selection.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

The 2023 Queen Selection evening is ON!! For the first time since the pandemic, the UIS is looking for young ladies, aged 18-25 to participate in a public speaking competition to become the 2023 Queen and Court for the 2023 St. Patrick's Parade. If any young ladies 18-25 are interested, please contact cmurphy2_3@msn.com.

Remember, the Queen gets a trip to Ireland! Spread the word and see you all on **Saturday, Feb 4, 2023** for the selection evening.

The UIS is very happy to announce this year's recipient of the United Irish Societies of Montreal's Scholarship: Samara O'Gorman.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

Parade Queen Selection Evening

Saturday February 4, 2023

Calling Montreal women of Irish descent to the United Irish Societies' most esteemed competition

Grand Prize: Trip to Ireland!

Participants must be between 18 and 25 years of age and permanent residents of Montreal or surrounding areas

For more information, contact
cmurphy2_3@msn.com

www.montrealirishparade.com



United Irish Societies of Montreal



@uismtl



uismtl

Please join us in congratulating Samara on being awarded this scholarship received on October 23, 2022 at the UIS general meeting.

The UIS would also like to thank this year's Scholarship Committee: Kevin Tracey, UIS President; Sterling Downey, Montreal City Councillor; and Nikki Picher, Director of the office of the Honourable David Lametti (Attorney General of Canada, and Minister of Justice).

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

Ken Quinn
Steven Owens
Laurie McKeown
Jeni Batten
Michael O'Gorman

Kevin Callahan
Kevin Wright
Rowan Kennedy
Janis Kirshner
Casey Costello

Kevin Wilson
Dave Dubeau
Erika Morris
Howie Myers
Marie Short

Lynn Doyle
Mark Gallagher
Lorrie Morrison
Pat Short

CINÉ GAEL MONTREAL BACK FOR A 31ST SEASON!

BY KEN WILSON

We are ecstatic to announce that Ciné Gael Montreal will return for its 31st season. The little festival that could, may not be the largest Irish film festival but it is certainly the longest running Irish film festival outside of Ireland. It's difficult to believe that it was back in the pre-internet days of 1992 that St. Patrick's Society Cultural Committee was presented with this wildly insane idea that we should import Irish films for the benefit of the Irish community of Montreal.

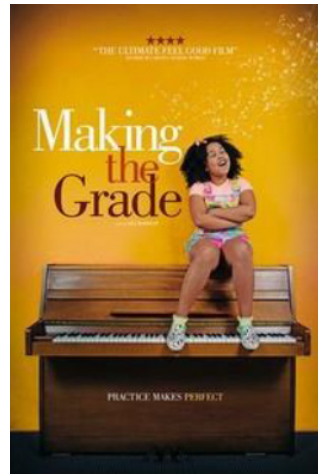
We are especially excited to return to the format that we enjoy the most: getting together in the same actual room with nary a computer in sight. As we have done in the past, we have eight dates reserved to present films, and we intend to return to our formula of having a guest speaker present each film. We have been fortunate in the past to have had both actors and directors speak to our audience and participate in question-and-answer sessions.

Not surprisingly, producing such a festival each year is a labour of love for the members of the Ciné Gael Montreal committee and indeed the composition of our committee changes much as life changes. We were thrilled to learn that one committee member, Patrick Brodie, accepted a position as a Lecturer/Assistant Professor at University College Dublin so unfortunately, he could no longer participate with us. However, we are delighted to welcome Martina Branagan, the editor of Nuacht, into the fold.

The 2023 season will begin January 27, 2023 and end in the first week of May. At this moment, the Ciné Gael Montreal committee is feverishly preparing an assortment of films with the goal of presenting a variety of categories and cinematic styles. We know that at least two of the films that we had planned to present back in 2020, are being readied for presentation.



One such film is [The 34th: The Story of Marriage Equality in Ireland](#). This film follows the principal characters in the drive for what became the 34th Amendment of the Irish Constitution, the couple's right to marriage without distinction as to their gender. The couple, Ann Louise Gilligan and Katherine Zappone, were seeking recognition of their Canadian marriage which would entitle them to jointly file their income tax return.



Another of the films from 2020 resuscitated in 2023 will be [Making the Grade](#). In a time where 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 by renowned Irish director, Ken Wardrop, 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.

In the category of new films to be presented in 2023, one that we anticipate presenting this season is *Wolfwalkers* – a 2021 Oscar-nominated animated feature from the filmmakers of *The Secret of Kells* and *Song of the Sea*.

While much is still in the planning phase and concrete details are still being worked on, here are the dates we have reserved with the De Sève cinema at Concordia University:

Fri. Jan. 27, 2023

Fri. Feb. 10, 2023

Fri. Feb. 24, 2023

Fri. Mar. 10, 2023

Fri. Mar. 31, 2023

Fri. Apr. 14, 2023 – Evening of Short Films (tentative)

Fri. Apr. 28, 2023

Fri. May 5, 2023

All film presentations will begin at 7:15 PM.

We would like to express our gratitude for the support of all those who attended the three evenings we planned in 2022 to help us celebrate our 30th season. 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.

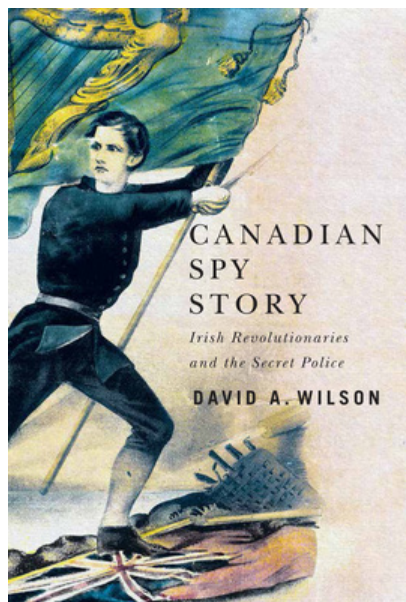
As always, our website is the place to go for details <https://cinegaelmontreal.com/> and to see the complete list of Irish films presented over the years classified by date. You can follow us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cinegaelmontreal> which is moderated by the tireless web producer, Antoine Maloney.

IRISH REVOLUTIONARIES AND THE SECRET POLICE

A CANADIAN SPY STORY

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

Book Review



It is something of a cliché to call a work of history “definitive” because historians are always finding new information and examining different perspectives. Nonetheless, I can safely say that University of Toronto professor David Wilson’s outstanding book “*Canadian Spy Story – Irish Revolutionaries and the Secret Police*” will be the standard reference on the Fenians in Canada for many years to come.

Filled with larger-than-life characters inspired by a range of motivations from patriotism, idealism, greed, vanity, courage, political cynicism, and duplicity, *Canadian Spy Story* reads like a thriller. Wilson takes an aspect of Canadian history that has become barely a footnote and shows how it was central to its time. People like D’Arcy McGee, John O’Neill, John A. MacDonald, Louis Riel, and Jeremiah Gallagher are only some of the fascinating individuals who interacted, fought, and plotted with and against each other to promote or undermine different agendas. To keep the reader from being overwhelmed by the many individuals involved, Wilson conveniently provides a who’s who list at the back of the book for easy reference.

The Fenian movement sought to free Ireland from British domination and

create an independent Irish Republic. It drew its strength from the hundreds of thousands of Irish who were forced to flee Ireland during An Gorta Mor/The Great Hunger (1845 -1848) and found new homes in the US and Canada. These refugees took with them a memory of their homeland and a burning hatred of the injustices of British rule. The Fenian movement quickly split between those who favoured a rebellion in Ireland and those who sought to invade Canada, either to hold it for ransom for Irish freedom or to make it a republic, perhaps incorporated into the US. The fact that tens of thousands of Irish men gained military experience in the US Civil War meant the Fenian Movement was able to recruit many trained veterans into its ranks and had to be taken seriously.

Wilson does a masterful job in depicting and uncovering the many complexities and political machinations on all sides in this dramatic story. The US government seemed at times to give the Fenians tacit support, but this was largely so as not to alienate the crucial Irish vote in many districts. John A. MacDonald took the Fenians very seriously though said the opposite in public because he did not want to give them publicity or give the powerful Orange Order in Canada an excuse to launch attacks against Irish Catholic immigrants. He also was relatively lenient in repressing Fenians in Canada as he wanted to avoid giving them martyr status. The leadership of the two wings of the Fenians detested each other and a few people even turned informer to sabotage the plans of the rival faction.

As well as presenting the hopes, triumphs, and failures of the Fenians, Wilson also shows the creation, successes, and mishaps of the Canadian intelligence service. Under the leadership of spymaster Gilbert McMicken, Canadian agents failed miserably to forewarn authorities about the Fenian invasion that led to its one military victory at the Battle of

Ridgeway. Later, they scored stunning successes such as spy Henri Le Caron, whose real name was Thomas Billis Beach, being named adjutant general of the Irish Republican Army before the attempted invasion of Lower Canada (Quebec). Beach was perhaps the most successful and colourful of the many undercover agents who were moved by a variety of motives, whether thrill-seeking, money, anti-Irish chauvinism, hope for a future career, or simple loyalty to McMicken.

Readers of NUACHT will find especially interesting the role Saint Patrick’s Society played in the ongoing drama as many SPS members were Fenians or Fenian sympathizers. Both Montreal and Quebec City at the time had large and active Irish communities, so Fenianism became an important force in both cities. Indeed, outspoken Fenian Francis Bernard McNamee even served as president of Saint Patrick’s Society in 1869.

Wilson makes it clear that Fenianism was a major issue at the time of Confederation. This is not to say that the Fenian challenge caused Canada to come into being, but it was a serious source of concern and consideration at the time. Both having to face the threat of a successful invasion and having to contain the ever-present danger of violence against Irish Catholic communities by the Orange Order in response to Fenian activities were elements in the making of Canada. Wilson also finds contemporary echoes in his historical account as issues such as civil liberties in times of crisis, the abuse of power, the use of secret police, and the relationship of immigrant communities to the dominant society are all more relevant than ever.

Canadian Spy Story is anything but dry history. Irish Canadians, and indeed anyone interested in both Irish history and the early days of Canada, will find this book a rewarding and fascinating read.

A PHENOMENAL YEAR CONT.



Jamie Salomon

with a book considered by many to be impenetrable. Jamie Salomon, the leader of the Festival Bloomsday Montreal Ulysses reading group spoke of his addiction to reading and interpreting the novel. Kevin Wright, the leader of The Boaters and Sifters of ALP, explained some of the background of Joyce's final work, *Finnegans Wake*. He has oftentimes been heard saying, "If you think *Ulysses* is difficult, you should try reading *Finnegans Wake*." Geraldina Mendez spoke about her experience of leading a group reading *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake* in Spanish via Twitter and Instagram.

Other presenters during the day included Peter Stockland, a former editor of *The Montreal Gazette*, and André Furlani, professor of Literature at Concordia University and Fellow of the Concordia School of Irish Studies.



Geraldina Mendez, Miles Murphy, Edmund Nash, André Furlani

Later in the day, a well-received writing workshop was led by Louise Cauchon. The participants were able to exercise their creativity in many unexpected ways.

During the previous two years, Craig Morriss exhibited his caricatures of James Joyce, Friends and Enemies on the Festival Bloomsday Montreal website. To mark the centenary of *Ulysses*, he published the three collections of his work in one volume, and anyone interested in purchasing a copy can contact Johanne Patry at johannepatry2003@yahoo.ca.

On June 16, Bloomsday itself celebrated across the globe as the day James Joyce first "walked out" with Nora Barnacle and the day on which *Ulysses* is set, was commemorated with readings from the novel at the Westmount Public Library. The words on the page were brought to life by means of staged readings through the voices of Liam Phelan Cox, Susan Gilmore Lombard, John Donohue, Pat Machin, Ellen Rubin, Colleen Curran, and Peggy Curran. Kevin Wright provided the context between each scene.

The day came to an end with the traditional reading by Kathleen Fee of excerpts from the last chapter of *Ulysses*, known as Molly Bloom's soliloquy. At least forty-five pages long, with almost no punctuation, this daunting monologue set in the mind of Leopold Bloom's wife reflecting on the events of her day as she tries to get back to sleep was a tour de force on the part of the festival's artistic director.

During the year, we also had a few events to celebrate the birth of James Joyce on February 2, the date on which all his works were published. Readings from *Ulysses* in French by Jean Marchand and Kathleen Fee sponsored by the Université de Montréal were held, along with music by Kate Bevan-Baker. Later in the same day, readings to contextualize *Ulysses* and Joyce's place in the world of literature took place at the Westmount Public Library. Kevin Bermingham, author of *The Most Dangerous Book: The Battle for James Joyce's Ulysses* recorded a presentation for the event.

Most of our events from this and previous years are available for viewing on our YouTube channel. Google Festival Bloomsday Montreal. Scroll down almost to the middle of the page and click on the YouTube icon. When the page opens, go to the top left of that page, and click on the three stacked lines which will open a page where you will see a menu saying video. When you click on that, all the Bloomsday archived videos are available for you to watch.

All these events and performances are part of Festival Bloomsday Montreal's mission to promote Irish culture in Montreal and to give work to local performers. In no small part this was accomplished through generous donations from various sponsors and individuals. One of these sponsors, a faithful partner in our mission, is Saint Patrick's Society of Montreal. Through its constant support, we have been able to play a part in keeping the culture alive and helping it to thrive in these difficult times.

Go raibh míle maith agat!



Johanne Patry

FROM THE IRISH DANCING SCHOOLS

BY PAT SHORT

The **North American Championships of Irish Dancing** was held at Palais des congrès in Montreal from June 30 to July 4 in conjunction with Canada Day/ American Independence Holiday weekend. This major event attracted 3,800 Irish dancers, not only from Canada and the United States, but also from Mexico, Ireland, Great Britain and even one from Chile. Dancers from the local schools; **Costello, Moran, Short and Young** competed very successfully and many “re-called” and medaled. This event is a “secondary qualifier” for the World Championships 2023 to be held in the same Montreal venue from 2nd to 9th April 2023. Qualifiers must still dance at the **Eastern Canadian Oireachtas** to be held in Toronto 28th, 29th, and 30th October 2022.

All the dancing schools in the area are reporting regrowth in their schools, since the reduction in the number of COVID-19 cases. It has been a very challenging time for all in the sport, but numbers are growing again in this great activity for growing boys and girls. Bernadette Short reports twenty-four new beginners in her pro-bono class in St. Gabriel’s School in Pointe St. Charles. Her next project is to raise funds for dancing shoes, skirts and blouses for these tiny tots.

Many Montreal dancers traveled to Scotland October 6 to 11 for that country’s National Championship. Bernadette Short dancers Meaghan Kilmartin, Susie Roper and Michaela Isaacson were recalled into the finals of their age groups and Kilmartin placed overall 3rd in her competition.



Left to right, the four dancers who represented the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing at the Scottish Nationals were: Katherine Rossiter, Susie Roper, Michaela Isaacson, & Alicia Marsh

I am told rehearsals are well under way for this year’s performance of the **Irish Nutcracker** and we will have full details in the next issue of Nuacht.

Class information:

Casey Costello

Casey@costelloirishdance.ca

Eileen Moran

Eileenmoran28@hotmail.com

Marie-Claude Rousseau

M.c.rousseau@videotron.ca

Bernadette & Marie Short and Associates

Marie@shortschoolirishdance.com

Janice Young

Youngirishdance@hotmail.com



Meaghan Kilmartin 3rd Senior Ladies



Shauna Young, Young Academy

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

COMPETITION RESULTS FOR INSIGHT GRANTS: 2022

Dr. McGaughey, Johnson Chair of Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies was awarded almost eighty thousand dollars in funding from the [Social Science and Humanities Research Council \(SSHRC\)](#) for her project entitled “Mothers in the Time of Cholera: Motherhood, Migration, and Pandemics in the Canadian Colonial Medical System, 1817-1867”.

Congratulations to Dr. Jane McGaughey and her two collaborators, Carina Fourie, University of Washington and Julie Rodgers, National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

Recipients of the SSHRC Insight award competitions are posted quarterly on the [Government of Canada Grants and Contributions page](#), following the official public announcement of results by the federal government.



The Johnson Chair in Québec and Canadian Irish Studies, funded by the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, is Dr. Jane G. V. McGaughey, Associate Professor of Irish Diaspora Studies at Concordia University's School of Irish Studies.

With the aim to share her research to a broad audience beyond students and academics, on September 29, 2022, Dr. McGaughey launched the first series of episodes exploring the histories and legacies of Irish immigrants and their descendants in Canada, revealing what it meant to be Irish in pre-Confederation Québec and Canada. In these short episodes, she investigates key events and personalities from Irish Canadian history that do not usually get much air play.

The Irish in Canada Podcast website is: www.theirishincanadapodcast.ca. Tune in, and also find show notes for episodes including lists of sources and recommendations for further reading.

You can spread the word about The Irish in Canada by following on Twitter and Instagram – @irishcanadapod



Welcome Gabriel Kelley

Congratulations to Quebec MNAs Marwah Rizqy and Gregory Kelley on the birth of their first child, son Gabriel Kelley who was born on Thursday, October 20, 2022.

The two MNAs married a little more than a year ago, were reelected in the recent General Election on October 3, 2022 and were the first MNAs to be sworn into office by videoconference. Ms. Rizqy is the Liberal MNA for the Montreal riding of Saint-Laurent and Mr. Kelley the Liberal MNA for Jacques-Cartier.

Gabriel's grandfather is Geoffrey Kelley, a former MNA for Jacques-Cartier.

MONTREAL SHAMROCKS CROWNED REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

BY STEVEN OWENS, SECRETARY & PLAYER, MONTREAL SHAMROCKS



The ladies Gaelic Football Eastern Canadian Champions 2022

Back row Left to right: Niamh Devaney, Jasmine Akkermans, Orla Mahon, Catherine Barnwell
Middle Row Left to Right: Paddy Mahon (Manager/Coach), Mariette Parrod, Frédérique Horwood, Fu-Chen (Joannie) Lee, Lliana Loupessis, Jillian Simpson, Erin Rainville
Front Row Left to Right: Aidan Gallagher (Manager/Coach), Claire Lubell, Emily Flaherty, Alicia Corriveau, Samantha Brittain, Téa Jovanovic.



Montreal Shamrocks Mens Gaelic Football Team Winners of 2022 Championship

Back row: Darragh Hyland, Mickaël Herbelin, Alan Baxter, Ian Martin, Eanna Reidy, Ronan Shaughnessey, Patrick Bourke, Corey Crawford, Aidan Gallagher
Front Row left to right: Damian Conneely, David Healy (Manager/Coach), Olivier Sakr, Ciaran Keane, Steven Owens, Martin Lawless, James Sisk, Jacob Meza

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONS 2022 CONT.

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) has clubs throughout Canada. Within Canada, regional Divisions exist: Vancouver, Western Canada, Toronto and Eastern Canada. The Eastern division consists of gaelic football, hurling and camogie clubs stretching from Peterborough through Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Halifax and PEI.

Restarting from 2019, the Eastern Canadian Championships took place this year in Halifax over the last weekend in July. The Montreal Shamrocks were represented by teams in both ladies and mens gaelic football, hurling and camogie. The ladies and mens gaelic football teams retained their Eastern Champions status with unbeaten runs throughout the entire tournament. The Hurlers and Camogs, rounded out the 'Easterns' by also claiming top spot in their respective competitions.

The Eastern Canadian GAA championships were founded in 2014 and **for the first time**, The Montreal Shamrocks are the holders of **ALL** the cups available, a fantastic achievement.

Over labour weekend of 2022, the first ever Canadian National Championships (CNC) took place in Centennial Park in Toronto. Two days of gaelic games, covering all codes (football, hurling, camogie) were competed amongst teams and clubs from across all of Canada. Representation was present from clubs in Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary, Kingston, Ottawa,



Montreal Shamrocks at the Canadian National Championships in Toronto

Quebec City and the Montreal Shamrocks. The Shamrocks again were capable of competing in competitions of all codes. The hurling, ladies gaelic football and camogie teams put in superb performances with special note to the camogie team winning two games with a squad made up of 100% non-Irish players, and were ultimately beaten in the Camogie final by a Toronto team made up of Irish players.

The Mens gaelic football team progressed to the Canadian Championship final where they successfully overcame a strong Calgary team to claim the first ever Canadian Championship and now stand as Canadian Champions of Gaelic Football.



Montreal Shamrocks Mens Gaelic Football Team 2022
Winners of the 2022 Canadian Championship

The 2022 local Montreal GAA leagues also came to a close in September with the following teams taking the honours:

Mens Gaelic Football- Griffintown Gaels
Ladies Gaelic Football – Verdun Vikings
Hurling – PSC Cú Chulainn
Camogie – NDG Na Fianna Rouge

The Montreal Shamrocks would like to thank St Patrick's Society for their generous and ongoing support. Funds received go towards field rental, equipment and travel costs to enable the local GAA to continue to participate in and grow Irish Culture in Montreal and throughout Canada.



Montreal Shamrock Beaten Camogie Finalists

Back row Left to right

Manon Walsh, Lea-Marie Caron, Audrey Mathieu, Gabrielle Crevier,
Vanessa Chaton, Iliana Loupessis, Catherine Barnwell,
Jake Ouellette (Manager/Coach), Eloise Raymond-Desrosiers
Front Row left to right: Clara Pougeard, Carly Bennett,
Alanna Budden, Karolyne Courville, Orla Mahon, Jillian Simpson.

COMHGHAIRDEAS
LIBH GO LÉIR!

CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER

BY PAT SHORT

The Bernadette Short School of Irish Dance congratulates two Montreal teachers of Irish dancing, Teagascóirí Choimisiúin le Rincí Gaelacha (T.C.R.G.), or certified Irish dance teachers by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha (C.L.R.G., the Irish Dancing Commission). They recently passed their Ard Diploma Coimisiúin le Rincí Gaelacha (A.D.C.R.G.).

Headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, the C.L.R.G. is the central authority for teacher and adjudicator accreditation. The A.D.C.R.G. qualifies the recipient to adjudicate at any CLRG-recognised competition. The examination consists of the following sections:

- a. Written ceilí dancing test
- b. Written music test
- c. Practical test in adjudicating of step dancing and céilí dancing, including interview
- d. Written test on adding and transcribing marks, determining places from marks, and operating the official points system
- e. Oral Irish language test (optional if candidate lives outside Ireland).



Casey Costello

The qualifying marks for each section are very high. So, this is a tremendous achievement for both Montreal teachers:

Michael O’Gorman, Associate teacher with the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing, son of Karin Austin and the late Gus O’Gorman; and Casey Costello, owner of Costello Irish Dance, and son of Lynn and Marty Costello.

Congratulations to both of these young men who are now qualified to judge any competition from Tiny Feis to the Worlds (Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne - The Irish Dancing World Championships).



Michael O’Gorman

IN MEMORIAM



Peacefully and with family by her side, **Sharleen McCambridge** passed away on August 3, 2022. Sharleen fought a lengthy battle with metastasized breast cancer and was only 55 years old.

Sharleen is predeceased by her father Michael (Mickey) McCambridge. She will be deeply missed by her mother Margaret (Peggy), her sister Colleen (Kevin), Michael and Patrick (Carrie-Ann). Sharleen was an amazing aunt to Reilly, Aidan, Declan, Aimee, Alexis (Garrett) and Matthew. Since the children were young, she encouraged all her nieces and nephews to follow their dreams, pursue their interests and not to settle for less. Sharleen will be missed by many cousins, aunts, and uncles.

Sharleen held many friends in her heart but there are two that she held especially close Tricia (Devlin) and Karen. The family would also like to thank Karen and Tricia for their support.

She had a special spot in her heart for animals and will be deeply missed by her dog, Chubbs McCambridge.

Sharleen spent most of her working years with Ericson. She valued volunteer work and spent a great deal of her spare time volunteering with the United Irish Society of Montreal (UIS) and Dawson Boys and Girls Club. Sharleen valued her community and advocated for many Anglo-seniors. She encouraged many to be assertive and fight for the services that should be available in their community, especially those living in Verdun.

Friends and family celebrated Sharleen's life on September 10, 2022, from 12-4 PM at the Lachine Legion 3015 rue Henri Dunant, Lachine, QC.



Our 2011 St. Patrick's Society (SPS) Community Award Recipient, **Mabel Ann Fitzgerald** (nee Denis) passed away October 28, 2022 after a very brief

hospitalization.

She is well known as the first female president of the United Irish Societies who worked for years in the St. Patrick's Square office.

A long standing SPS member, she will be missed.

Please keep her twins Sharon and Patricia in your thoughts as well as their families.



Visitation will take place on Friday, November 18, 2022 from 11:00 AM-12:30 PM immediately followed by a chapel service at Rideau Funeral Home, 4275 Sources Blvd, Dollard des Ormeaux.



You may join in the celebration virtually using this Livestream link: <https://fweb.tv/89181>



THE CASE FOR UNITY AT IRELAND'S FUTURE

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

The 3Arena in Dublin is usually associated with mega concerts of groups like U2, but on Saturday October 1, 2022, five thousand people gathered to take part in the growing discussion about Irish unity. Thirty-four speakers, including Tánaiste Leo Varadkar, Sinn Féin president Mary Lou McDonald, Irish actor Colm Meaney of Star Trek fame, and Canadian MP James Maloney, chair of the Ireland-Canada Parliamentary Friendship Group, presented ideas and aspirations about a future united Ireland and how to get there.

The conference, organised by Ireland's Future, a civic organization advocating for Irish unity, has been described as the "most significant and important" event in the last century for discussing a united Ireland. Tánaiste Varadkar told the audience "A shared, united and new Ireland is something that many Irish people have dreamt about for many years," "It is a noble and legitimate aspiration and one that I share." Headed that unity had to happen in a positive way so that the dream did not become someone else's nightmare. Sinn Féin's Mary Lou McDonald said "Together, we look to an Ireland beyond partition. We reimagine the future of our country, discuss our ideas for a united country and a tomorrow that captures all the potential and immense opportunities for this island." Actor James Nesbitt, a Protestant from a Unionist background, declared it was time for a "new union of Ireland", one that accommodated all identities and allegiances. "We're standing at a profound moment here in the history of the islands."

There were some notable absences as current Taoiseach Micheál Martin did not attend because his Fianna Fáil party was holding its 80th Ard Fheis (party

congress) at the same time. The Alliance Party in the North of Ireland proclaims itself as 'neutral' on the constitutional question and so chose not to attend the event, which it saw as promoting a united Ireland. The Democratic Unionist Party refused to attend and said energy should rather be put into making Northern Ireland a better place. There is a certain irony in this position as the DUP is currently preventing the functioning of the Assembly in protest about the Northern Ireland Protocol, so ordinary citizens in the North are being denied vital services.

The huge success of the conference highlights the growing discussion about Irish unity. This conversation has been fueled by the United Kingdom opting for Brexit even though the North of Ireland voted to remain in the European Union. Brexit has provoked the destabilising threat of a hard border on the island of Ireland, and this has underlined the need for a new vision for the future. In addition, demographics are playing a role. A new census in September revealed that for the first time in the North of Ireland Catholic / Nationalists outnumber Protestant / Unionists 45.7% versus 43.48%. This has been long expected but is still stunning in its implications as the state had been set up a century ago to maintain Unionist supremacy forever. In the famous words of its first prime minister James Craig, Northern Ireland was "a Protestant

Parliament and a Protestant State." With this original rationale now gone, the relevance of maintaining the status quo of partition is called into question.

Advocates for Irish unity are at pains to avoid triumphalism and are calling for a national discussion on what a new united country would look like. Sinn Féin MP for North Belfast John Finucane stated "Constitutional change will require planning and preparation. It's not about imposing a preordained result on anybody." Proponents of unity maintain that a united Ireland simply makes sense and is the logical step to create a better more inclusive, more prosperous society for everyone on the island. Given the large numbers in attendance at the conference, it is clear that the discussion is now mainstream. The Ireland's Future group is planning further meetings and educational activities. Moreover, Sinn Féin is currently at 37% in voter preference polls in the Republic and seems likely to form the next government. Given that Sinn Féin's *raison d'être* is Irish unity, this discussion will be high on the political agenda in Ireland over the next few years.

Suggestions for more information:

1. The Guardian: 'It's closer now than it's ever been': could there soon be a united Ireland?
2. The Guardian: Catholics outnumber Protestants in Northern Ireland for first time
3. Belfast Telegraph: Alliance rejects invite to Ireland's Future, describing event as 'rally to endorse a united Ireland'
4. ITV: DUP defends not attending Ireland's Future event
5. Irish Central: More than 5,000 people attend Ireland's Future event in Dublin



BEAUTY, POWER AND SIGNIFICANCE OF IRISH

KEVIN CALLAHAN INTERVIEWS MÁIRTÍN COILFÉIR

1. Can you tell NUACHT readers about yourself and your relation to the Irish language?

On an Irish scale, I'm from a relatively big town: Navan, County Meath, which has a population of 30,000 people. Navan is around 50km to the north of Dublin and, like most people in the region, my family life growing up was in English. That said, almost every child in Ireland learns the Irish language in primary and secondary school, from the ages of 4 or 5 until they leave at 17 or 18, and many of them also spend time in the traditional Irish-speaking areas, called the Gaeltacht, with native Irish-speaking families during the summer.

My case is slightly unusual in that I was sent to the Gaeltacht in Conamara, County Galway, at a particularly young age. Whereas most children attend summer courses in their teenage years, especially towards the end of their secondary schooling, I was eleven years old when my parents kicked me out of the nest. I believe the (comparatively) early exposure to the language and life of the Gaeltacht had a profound effect on me. As a student I went back every year thereafter and I still believe the Gaeltacht is the primary life source of the language, a place and a community that proudly represents the unbroken continuum of Gaelic culture.

Language and the language arts have always been my true loves and so I studied English Literature and Modern Irish (i.e. the language from 1600 onwards) at university, in Trinity College, Dublin. It was during those years that I really came to understand the beauty, power and significance of Irish, and since then I've been exploring those things in my work and research. It's been something of a winding path but, since then, I've taught the language at all levels, from beginner adult education classes to MA-level editing and creative writing, with a stint on the New English-Irish Dictionary team. I've also been lucky enough to hold academic positions in the National University of Ireland, Galway; University



Máirtín Coilféir, PhD

Assistant Professor, School of Irish Studies

College, Dublin; University of Toronto; and now at the School of Irish Studies in Concordia. As well as the scholarly pursuits I also write poetry and am working on a detective novel at the moment.

2. Why do you think it is important to preserve and promote the Irish language?

Everyone will have their own answers to this question. It's often remarked that Irish is the oldest written vernacular of western Europe – that is to say, not including the lingua franca of Latin, it has the longest-lived, unbroken tradition of literature this side of Greece. In itself, that fact is remarkable and one of the many reasons to promote Irish is to put people into healthy contact with that same tradition, in all its glory. Tapping into a whole other world of language and literature can have consequences that go far beyond learning. My experience has been that many students who discover Irish find in it something that energises them in a more fundamental way. They respond to the wisdom of the manuscripts and the folk culture, or the poetry of the language's expressions, or even the fact that Irish has been pushed down, marginalised, but still endures. Others, of course, see in the language a link with their own heritage. Anyone whose ancestors came to these shores in the nineteenth century might wonder if their forebears were Irish-speaking, or

bilingual – and indeed they might well have been.

That answer emphasises the historical aspects of Irish. For me, though, Irish is also a contemporary language and a language of the world. My own commitment to it is based in the power of expression it offers, in its music, in its brilliantly odd grammar, in its humour and its imaginative qualities. Like all languages, it has its own special talents for describing human experience.

3. It is said that Irish is currently growing in popularity in Ireland. Can you tell us about that?

The latest census figures still need to be parsed but the general impression is that more and more people are speaking Irish both inside and outside the school system. I am open to correction by the statisticians, but I believe the last set of numbers indicated that 1.8 million people in Ireland are able to speak Irish in some capacity, with 700,000 people using it outside the education system. Considering the rapid decline of language use from the nineteenth-century onwards, these numbers are inspiring.

A note here is due on the phenomenon of the Gaelscoil. Gaelscoil translates literally as Gael-school: language-immersive schools in which students learn all subjects (except English) through the Irish language. They have been growing in popularity for the last 20 years in particular, and now there are pockets of young speakers to be found in every county in Ireland. Not only that, but Gaelscoileanna (the plural) are generally considered to be high-achieving academic institutions, with unusually high school spirit, and so they are in true demand. Not all of the Irish resurgence can be put down to Gaelscoileanna, but they are a huge and healthy influence on the language.

All of that said, I think it's vital to remember the traditional home of Irish, the Gaeltacht, and here the news isn't so rosy. Regular research on language

MONTREAL IRISH RFC 2022 SEASON

BY MARK GALLAGHER

Like everyone else, the club was delighted to say goodbye to COVID and get back to a regular season with full contact training, games and social gatherings in 2022.

2022 also marks the 65th anniversary of the club and there were a number of events and gatherings throughout the year; a spring tour to play the Markham Irish in Toronto, a homecoming type event with all teams playing at home, all to be capped off with a black tie Gala on Friday, 28th of October in L'Espace Canal, formerly known as Chateau Ambroise. For anyone interested in attending, please reach out to the club for details or tickets can be purchased directly on the club website www.montrealirish.com



The club alumni gather during some of the 65th anniversary celebrations to enjoy a game



Representing Verdun at the Jeux de Montreal

Thanks to the on-going and generous support of St. Patrick's Society the club was able to continue developing its mini rugby program in Verdun throughout the year and were delighted to be able to represent the borough for rugby at the annual Jeux de Montréal earlier in the summer. Not only did

they represent, but they won the gold medal, as well as the banner for sportsmanship! Rumour has it, we may see this banner hung in the Verdun auditorium in the near future, which would be a remarkable achievement and recognition of how the program has grown successfully, while maintaining great values.



Winning the gold medals

The club also successfully hosted a mini rugby jamboree at its grounds in St. Julie with over 300 children participating. This was another huge success for the club and the development of kids' rugby.



U12 team at the jamboree in St. Julie

One of the most pleasing parts of running the youth rugby program is watching the talent of young players develop as they advance through the program and it was fantastic that we were able to field; U12, U14, U16 and U18 boys and girls this year, many of whom have been with the club since they were six years old.

MONTREAL IRISH RFC 2022 SEASON CONT.



U8 Kids in action at the Jamboree in St. Julie



Montreal Irish U18 Girls Team

The Senior men and women's teams were also back in action, with both groups having successful seasons reaching the semi finals in their respective competitions. Registration numbers for both teams were strong despite the lull experienced during COVID and 2023 is shaping up to be another strong year.

And finally, the club was able to run a 3rd men's team in 2022. The Mighty 3rds is a social team created to allow more 'experienced' players continue to play the sport they love and stay active as playing members of the best rugby club in Montreal. If anyone wants to play or join, please just contact us at the club info@montrealirish.com



Women's senior team scrum



1st XV defend the try line during the Provincial Semi-Finals

BEAUTY, POWER AND SIGNIFICANCE OF IRISH CONT.

use shows a worrying decline in the number of people who use Irish in most aspects of their lives. While Irish is still a robust presence in many homes, as a community and as a public language, it is suffering in the areas where it used to be strongest. The result is somewhat counter-intuitive: more people speak Irish outside the Gaeltacht than they do in the Gaeltacht. There are fantastic community initiatives going on in the Gaeltacht all the time, but it looks like those communities need more help than they're getting at the moment.

4. What opportunities/resources are available to people in Montreal who would like to learn Irish?

As a very recent immigrant to the city, I'm not the best authority on this, but my first port of call is the School of Irish Studies in Concordia itself. I run a two-semester long course called 'Introduction to Spoken Irish' which focuses on the spoken language of the Conamara Gaeltacht, and it is open to both students and auditors alike (providing it's not full up). My ambition is to offer a continuation course so that students can continue their progress in the language and hopefully this will materialise soon. Special mention also goes to the conversation circle called An Caifé Gaelach, the Gaelic café, run for the last number of years by the wonderful Gemma Lambe, who has also taught in Concordia. Gemma has been doing brilliant work in the wider Montréal community promoting Irish, and the group convenes every week during the school term, learning in a relaxed and social environment. If any of the readers of Nuacht are involved in other programmes or groups I'd love to hear from them. And, of course, if anyone is interested in Concordia's work for the Irish language they can always contact me directly, through the university's website.

UIS SCHOLARSHIP 2022

BY LORI MORRISON

This year's recipient of the United Irish Societies of Montreal's Scholarship is Samara O'Gorman.

Samara is a third year undergraduate at Concordia University's School of Irish Studies, and in June of 2022, she became a recognized ICUF (Irish Canadian University Foundation) scholar after being awarded the Irish Language Scholarship to study in the Gaeltacht of An Cheathrú Rua. The opportunity was supported by the ICUF, The Irish Government and the School of Irish Studies at Concordia University.

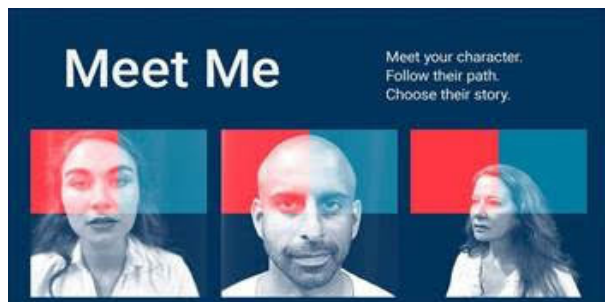
She has long been a strong supporter of Montreal's Irish community, a former parade princess with the Soulanges Irish Society, and is also a published poet.

Samara was awarded her \$1,000 scholarship on October 23, 2022 at the United Irish Societies general meeting.

Founded in 2018 by Lori Morrison and her sister Kayra Morrison, the United Irish Societies Scholarship is to recognize outstanding students in our community who not only excel in their studies of choice, but are committed to making a difference in Montreal's Irish community.



Samara O'Gorman, UIS Scholarship 2022



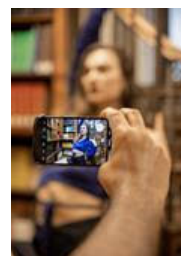
Montreal born and raised, **Darragh Kilkenny-Mondoux** starred as "Gemma Sotero" in the interactive production "**MEET ME**" written by Julia Ainsworth & Rosaruby Kagan and directed by Rosaruby Kagan at McGill University's TNC Theatre, from Thursday, September 29 to Saturday, October 8, 2022.

Set in the world of academics, actors Darragh Mondoux (Gemma), Zeshawn Saleem (Qas) and Leigh Ann Taylor (Roslyn) portray three characters of various ages and backgrounds whose perspectives clash after a night of intimacy goes wrong. The innovative and immersive theatre experience explores sexual dynamics, cancel culture and consent in the post #metoo era in a small audience setting. The audience is divided into three groups. Each audience member is given a specially programmed smartphone to use throughout the show, as they walk between three locations, 3-4 minutes apart, on the McGill campus and meet up with the other two characters. They experience that character's own smartphone and social media in real-time, including receiving text messages, social media posts and music integral to the storytelling. At key points, the audience collectively decides how the play unfolds and then watch as their input is transformed into action. So, no two shows are alike.



Live Action Theatre Project (LATP) in collaboration with Teesri Duniya Theatre presented this unique, premiere production. Continuing their mandate to encourage dialogue, there were moderated post-show talkbacks.

"This show is the answer to how theatre is different from staying home and watching Netflix. Audiences have the freedom to interact while it happens; their experiences and personalities enter the space too," said Mondoux.



CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2022 EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Dec 2022	The Irish Nutcracker - watch this space!	Marie@shortschoolirishdance.com
4 Feb. 2023	UIS 2023 Queen Selection Evening	cmurphy2_3@msn.com
3 Mar 2023	SPS Annual Charity Ball	office@spsmtl.com
17 Mar 2023	SPS Annual Luncheon	office@spsmtl.com
19 Mar 2023	The 198 th Montreal St. Patrick's Parade at 12 noon	director@montrealirishparade.com
Jan-May 2023	Ciné Gael Montreal, De Sève, Concordia, 7:15 PM	See page 8 of this edition
1 May 2023	UIS AGM, 2:30 PM, St. John Brebeuf	publicrelations@montrealirishparade.com



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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 Winter edition is **November 15, 2022**. We look forward to hearing from you.