



HERSTORY EXHIBITION ON 'PEACE HEROINES'

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement, which was signed on 10 April 1998. In recognition of this anniversary, the President of Ireland decided to host an event in honour of the significant and essential contribution that women have made to the critically important task of peacebuilding on the island of Ireland.



Source: President of Ireland

The exhibition, which consists of a series of information panels and portraits commissioned and curated by HerStory, celebrates the role of women in the building of peace in Northern Ireland from grassroots up to government levels. It captures a diversity of voices and perspectives, featuring 30 women's stories, including Bridget Bond, Monica Patterson, Ruth Agnew, Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, Inez McCormack and Dr Mo Mowlam amongst others. Central to the exhibition are nine large portraits by the visual artist FRIZ, featuring Pat Hume, Bronagh Hinds, Eileen Weir, Susan McCrory, Saidie Patterson, Monica McWilliams, Pearl Sagar, Anne Carr and Baroness May Blood.

A number of those featured in the portraits were in attendance at the event, including Bronagh Hinds, Susan McCrory, Monica McWilliams and Anne Carr. Also in attendance were Áine Fryers, Kate Fearon, Joanne Fitzpatrick and Liz O'Donnell, each of whom are among the 30 women's stories featured in the exhibition.

In his address, President Higgins said: I am delighted to see the role of co-

operation and the power of partnerships explored in this exhibition, partnerships such as Peace People, Women Together, Peace Players, Derry Peace Women, the special dynamic that has been forged between Shankill and Falls Women's Centres through the leadership of Eileen Weir and Susan McCrory, and of course the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition.

The Women's Coalition, in its rejection of traditional partisan sources of division within what was male-dominated politics, played a vital role in the delivery of an alternative context that could carry the Good Friday Agreement. Its founders, drawn from both of the main opposing traditions, sought to work together, transcending the old tribal divides, and focussing instead on creating a common, agreed, shared future, united by the cause of bringing women's concerns to the negotiating table, and ensuring an inclusive peace accord. Groups such as the Shankill Women's Centre and the Falls Women Centre – formed as locally based groups to provide education for women, but who have since gone on to flourish and develop into their

current roles as key providers for training, health awareness, childcare and young women's activities in the Greater Shankill and West Belfast areas respectively – are the peaceful future, playing an important, indeed vital role, in the promotion and achievement of a sustainable, inclusive warm future in Northern Ireland for all, one that is demonstrating the critical importance of cross-community engagement and the benefits of active citizenship and democratic participation which will serve as a means to forging an agreed, peaceful, perhaps even emancipatory, future.

We have an obligation to work towards the goal of moving peace from paper to experience, to the texture of lives lived that carry the remembered experience of terrible loss, cruelty, humiliation and indifference. This can only be done with the inclusion of women at the core of every step of this process, their voices, their rich experiences and their expertise...

I know that the women of Ireland, North and South, will continue to rise to this challenge, as they have done on so many occasions before, as we carve out a future of sustained, inclusive peace and reconciliation on our shared island. Let us celebrate then the great contribution that women have made, to building and sustaining peace, to inclusion, equality and sustainable society and economy, and let us commit to working together to build on this progress, helping to end all forms of discrimination and inequality on an island at peace."



I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Ken Quinn who navigated a very particular period in the Society's history, the pandemic. Thank you Ken. I am delighted that you will continue to work with me as Immediate Past President and I look forward to sharing some of the events as you acted almost exclusively as a virtual President. I would also be remiss if I did not mention the awesome work of Christie Brown (Ken's predecessor) whose knowledge of the Society should probably be cloned! She's also very adept with technology as we discovered during the preparation of the virtual luncheons.



Pamela McGovern,
President, SPS

Welcome to our new Board members: Richard Church (whose grandfather Bill Wilson served as a President of the Society) and Mark O'Neill who has served on the St Patrick's Square Foundation. I look forward to working with you during my term. I would also like to thank those who have served and who are leaving the board, Paul Loftus and Christie Brown.

As you are all probably aware, the Society was founded in 1834 to unite the members of the Irish Canadian community and to promote the charitable, educational, and cultural interests of the community.

I am a fifth generation Canadian of Irish descent. The McGovern (or Magaurans) trace their roots back to 1,100 when the Magaurans were chiefs of the mountainous territory in West Cavan. I think that I can speak on behalf of the McGovern when I say that we are proud of our Irish heritage, and I am delighted that I can represent my family as one of the Presidents of the Society.

I recall attending luncheons and balls since the late 1980's which was the beginning of my involvement with the Society. My former law partner Vince O'Donnell invited me to one of my first luncheons and I haven't looked back since. Over the course of the years, I also developed a keen interest in Irish culture, history and politics and as you may know, I have supported the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation since its inception and have acted as Chair for the past 8 years.

During my term, I would like to continue to work with the community and find ways to involve some of its younger members. I would also like to work on the following points:

- 1- Review the protocols and governance to increase the transparency of the work of the executive and the board;
- 2- Ensure that the Society's finances improve given the hit that they have taken since the beginning of the pandemic and the market turmoil; and
- 3- Continue to find ways to commemorate and celebrate achievements (and perhaps see what can be done with the website).

For all of this to work, I hope that I can count on the members of the executive and the board.

In conclusion, I would like to thank again Ken and Christie for all of their work, Katie Irving who has returned from maternity leave, Robin who stepped in, and the other members of the executive and the board whose hard work ensures the success of our events (Ball, luncheon & golf tournament).

Pamela McGovern,
President, SPS

NUACHT

Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

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Submissions for Spring edition: May. 15, 2023

27TH ANNUAL SPS GOLF TOURNAMENT

BY DAVID DUBEAU

PHOTO: LAURIE MCKEOWN

You are all invited to join us for the 27th Annual SPS Golf Tournament due to take place on **June 16, 2023** at the **CLUB DE GOLF BELLEVUE**, 880 Boul de Lery, Lery, QC J6N 1B7.

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.

You can register online at the following link: <https://spsmtl.com/membership/transactions/> The registration options include:

1. Foursome Annual Charity Golf Tournament
2. Individual Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Your participation helps ensure the Society can continue to support all the worthy organizations that rely on the Society for funding. Your Society is always grateful for the support it receives from hole sponsors and other friends in the community. Contact the office for more sponsorship opportunities.

Founded in June 1995 as a summer social event, and thanks to the golfers, prize donors and corporate sponsors, the tournament has become one of the major contributors to the Society's cultural, charitable and educational endeavours.



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, February 15th and May 15th.

Rates exclude layout or art. Please submit all art work in JPEG/PDF, sized accordingly. Rates also exclude GST and PST, if applicable.

COMHGHAIRDEAS LEAT, A PHÓIL ...

BY MARTINA BRANAGAN

Our St. Patrick's Society 2023 Community awardee was honoured at the SPS Luncheon on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2023.

MR. PAUL LOFTUS, right, was the recipient of the 2023 SPS Community Award for the many years of service to the whole community. His involvement in the community and promotion of our shared culture bring honour to us all.

A native of Ballina, Co. Mayo, Ireland, Paul has served the community of Montreal in a broad variety of organizations and roles including as president of the United Irish Societies, the first Irish-born president in fifty-four years at the time, co-founder and President of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce, co-host of the former Montreal Irish TV Show, vice chairman of the Jeanie Johnson Project, president of the Montreal Chapter of University College Dublin Alumni Association, director of St. Patrick's Society and director of the Thomas D'Arcy McGee Foundation.



In the field of sports, he has served as president of the Montreal Irish Rugby Club, secretary of the Montreal Gaelic Athletic Association and was captain of the Gaelic football team for five years.

He also held the position of director of The Ireland Fund of Canada, and he was Grand Marshal for the 2012 St. Patrick's parade.

Having travelled to more than twenty-five countries and all continents of the world as a consultant, he has been an intrepid ambassador for Ireland, Irish culture and the Irish here in Montreal. An industrial and organizational psychologist, an intercultural consultant and freelance journalist, his professional work has also frequently taken him to Ireland where he has conducted seminars for, among others, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Irish Business and Employers Confederation, the Irish Management Institute, JP Morgan, and University College Dublin. While there, he has always promoted the Montreal Irish Ambassador to the Canadian Ambassador, the Ireland Canada Business Association, even to the point of encouraging participation from Irish university teams in the John Molsson MBA International Case Competition and bringing the Ballina Rugby Football club on a tour to Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

Unfortunately, due to illness Mary Lynne Loftus, the 2017 St. Patrick's Parade Queen, accepted the award on her father's behalf. This young lady, who sat beside me at the head table, is following in his footsteps, as she has embarked on her career as a consultant in Deloitte Canada's Human Capital Workforce Transformation Consulting practice following a year spent in Dublin pursuing a Master's degree in Public Policy at University College Dublin, specializing in Citizenship, Rights and Policy. She even managed to send him some photos of the plaque in almost real time and told me Paul was delighted and honoured.

Comhghairdeas leat, a Phóil agus gabhaimid buíochas leat as ucht gach a ndearna tú ar ár son.

Congratulations, Paul, and thank you for all you have done on our behalf.

189TH SPS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

BY MARTINA BRANAGAN

St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Luncheon took place at the EVO, Plaza Centre Ville on Friday, March 17, 2023 to a packed ballroom lit up in green for the occasion. Our Guest of Honour was none other than Mr. P.J. Stock, Sports Analyst, former National Hockey League professional hockey player, producer of "Battle of the Blades" and podcast host of "Stock Talk".



Among those at the head table were Ms. Jill Stock, P.J. Stock's sister who introduced her brother, Mr. Beryl P. Wajsman, Editor-in-Chief of the Suburban Newspaper Group, Mr. Glen Cambridge, Erin Sports Association's Irishman of the Year 2023, Mr. Sterling Downey, Chief Reviewing Office, City Councillor for the District of Desmarchais-Crawford, Borough of Verdun, Mr. Tim Furlong, Grand Marshal, 2023 St. Patrick's parade and 2022 SPS Community Award Winner and Ms. Mary Lynne Loftus, representing her father, Mr. Paul Loftus, SPS 2023 Recipient of the Community Award.

Ms. Kathleen McAuliffe, accompanied by the all-female group, Gráinne, sang both the Irish and Canadian national anthems. Mr. Sterling Downey raised a toast to Montreal. Mr. Eoin Ó hÓgáin toasted Ireland and SPS past president Mr. Ken Quinn toasted Canada. Grace was said by Reverend Dr. Glenn Chestnut and Episcopal Vicar, Father Raymond Lafontaine. The UIS Queen 2023, Samara O'Gorman recited a poem of her own composition for the occasion.

The food was delicious. After the salad, there was a choice of melt-in-the-mouth braised beef or fresh salmon with roasted potatoes and spring vegetables. Dessert was a slice of Tiramisu gâteau. Congratulations to the servers who ensured

that the food was served hot and seamlessly.



Ms. Jill Stock, a self-professed nervous speaker, gave her brother a fantastic introduction, showing her public speaking prowess. Her brother, Philip Joseph Stock was delighted and regaled those present with stories from his childhood and hockey days. The TV crews were hanging on his every word ready to catch newsworthy information.



New this year was the "Chop for Charity". Mr. Sterling Downey had grown his beard for the occasion and when fifty percent of the fundraising goal was reached, he allowed his beard to be cut with the largest scissors I have ever seen in my life.

Congratulations to the Luncheon Committee and the Luncheon Chairperson, Me. Pamela McGovern.

To view photos of the event and your table, visit:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/145464169@N03/52763591298/in/album-72177720306896107/>

UKRAINIANS - CROSSING THE GREAT DIVIDE

AN EDUCATIONAL MUSIC VIDEO

Dear friends, family and colleagues,

Best to you all in 2023. Given the relevance of the Ukrainian crisis, we are raising production funds <https://gofund.me/1e53c3d9> to record a song and create a music video (for the purposes of education) on Ukrainian immigration to Canada for our www.abriefcanadianhistory.com and <https://artistsinspire.ca/artist/g-scott-macleod/> music-history education program that is presented to schools.

Canadian Encyclopedia - Ukrainian Canadians

[https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ukrainian-canadians#:~:text=The%20first%20major%20immigration%20\(170%2C000,two%20Ukrainian%20immigrants%20to%20Canada.](https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ukrainian-canadians#:~:text=The%20first%20major%20immigration%20(170%2C000,two%20Ukrainian%20immigrants%20to%20Canada.)

Production Budget:

\$ 500 Recording song at Le Gallee Sound
\$ 500 Musicians fees
\$ 1000 Create animations MacLeod 9 Productions
\$ 1500 Animation Stabilization and VFX Jo Meuris
\$ 1000 Editing Rachelle Hamilton
\$ 500 Promotion graphics
\$ 500 update website

\$5500 TOTAL



\$ 50 Contributors will get a signed print of an animation drawing.
\$ 100 Contributors will get a signed print of an animation drawing, and your name will be in the credits.
\$ 1000 + Contributors get an original animation drawing and a producer credit.

Thank you for your interest and support.

G. Scott MacLeod BFA MA
Producer/Director/Animator
www.macleod9.com

A Brief Canadian History is a multimedia music performance designed to celebrate and promote a deeper awareness of indigenous and Canadian art, culture and history. Our performance, songbook and videos were designed to bring a fresh focus to the historical importance of the people and events that have shaped indigenous and Canadian histories. The narrative songs, while dealing sensitively with these subjects, illustrate integral aspects of our past, and demonstrate the need to recognize these issues to shape our future. This project lends itself fully to schools and the public, providing a forum for thought and classroom discussion in the faculties of indigenous and Canadian issues, history, music, art, geography, literature, political science and the promotion of culture. The performance takes the audience on a geographical and cultural sweep across Canada, touching on events that have boldly or subtly helped to distinguish our nation. The music, images and videos are the central themes of this performance and are designed to engage our audiences in the tradition of storytelling. We have provided some suggested topics for discussion in the various faculties that A Brief Canadian History touches. Please consult our online education feature. Liner notes and the lyrics may be downloaded from our website as a teaching tool to explore the themes further in the classroom. <http://www.abriefcanadianhistory.com/online.php>

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HISTORY AT FIRST FULL PARADE SINCE COVID

BY MARTINA MCLEAN

The 198th St. Patrick's parade was wonderful, even if it seemed to be a hop, skip and sprint from Fort to the reviewing stand.



Thousands of Montreal citizens and visitors donned some green at the UIS St. Patrick's parade that began at noon on Sunday, March 19, 2023. Although the parade reverted to its roots as a procession in 2022, this year's parade was back to usual with seventy-seven different groups and organizations participating, including marching bands from Quebec and Ontario as well as floats of all kinds, including St. Patrick and the Queen and her court.



In spite of the very changeable weather, snow and wind in equal measure, the sun did show up and people had fun as they marked the unofficial start of spring and thanked us for putting on the parade. How wonderful it was to see so many people lining Saint Catherine Street, rows deep in many

key spots along the route. No-one complained of the cold but rather raised a glass or their voices in salute. Watching the mosaic of cultures as we marched three abreast, it was also an opportunity to collectively remember the invaluable contribution of the Irish community and other immigrant communities to the history and culture of Montreal.



There was a first at this year's parade: last year's SPS Community Award winner and this year's Grand Marshal, former president of the Erin Sports Association, Tim Furlong married Kim Lampitt at the Reviewing Stand.

Congratulations to our sister society, UIS for this great success! We are already looking forward to walking with you again next year!



STELLAR PERFORMANCES

BY LORI MORRISON

The United Irish Societies held its annual Queen's Selection Evening on Saturday, February 4th at EVO in downtown Montreal thanks to the outstanding work by Elizabeth Quinn and Colleen Murphy and their team. The evening was off to a smashing start with the event being completely sold out and the first in-person event in years due to Covid restrictions. Fifteen young ladies from the Montreal area competed in this public speaking event, all vying for a spot as either princess, or Queen.



Lori Morrison and her daughter Daphne Giroux
Photo: Claudia Vellone

the piper, Gord Batty, to lead in the judges for the evening: Helen Reese-Brodrick, President of Innisfail; Gary McKeown, Karnak Shriners; Francis Scarpaleggia, MP Lac-Saint-Louis; Karen Scott, Educator. Scrutineer Ken Quinn and assistant Jennifer Spring ensured all votes were tallied. The Grand Marshal for 2023, Tim Furlong, was sashed by previous Grand Marshal Shawn O'Donnell, and the 2023 Chief Reviewing Officer, Sterling Downey, was sashed by Steve Garnett, CRO for 2020/2021/2022.

The evening began with a tribute to Francis Baddeley by UIS President Kevin Tracey. Mr. Baddeley was known far and wide as the voice who would herald the beginning of most, if not all, events of Montreal's "Green Season" through his moving renditions of both "O Canada", and the English version of "Amhrán na bhFiann" or "The Soldier's Song", the national anthem of Ireland. When a recording of him singing the anthems was played, there were quite a few tears shed in the room. Mr. Baddeley passed away on Thursday, February 2nd. He will be truly missed by all.

The MC of the evening was the ever-ebullient Lori Graham from CTV and she started the evening by welcoming

We were then entertained throughout the night by the Bernadette Short dancers, The Fidllaires, Lisa and Christine Forget, True North, Terry Clahane, and comedian Trevor Thompson. The audience was enthralled by the stellar contestants with their introductions and answers to the questions they were assigned. All participants were exceptional in their own way, and with incredible life achievements thus far.

As we know, only five can ascend to the court, and the judges had quite the task in making the selection. The winners are Samara O'Gorman (Queen), and princesses: Julia Rochford, Caeleigh McDonald, Shaeleigh Rose Spracklin, and Olivia Dawe. Congratulations to all!



Sterling Downey, Tim Furlong, the Queen and her court, and Kevin Tracey
Photo: Peter McCabe

YEAR STARTS OUT WITH SOME HIGH QUALITY SHOWS

BY BYRON TOBEN



Friday, January 27, 2023 was opening night with the screening of "RÓISE & FRANK".

The opening night film at the 31st annual Ciné Gael Montreal Film Series. This series, unlike many film festivals that last about seven to ten consecutive days, is spread out over several months. Its 2021 run was cut short by the pandemic, and its 2022 run was limited to streamed selections.

For 2023, the live screenings return. In addition to the opener, see left, there were two screenings in February, and two in March. There will be two in April and the closer on May 5. All in all, eight screenings at which seven full-length films are scheduled, plus the ever-popular evening of Irish short films.

These are all on Friday evenings at 7:15 P.M. at the Cinéma De Sève within downtown Concordia University. The cost for individual screenings is \$12, or for a seasonal pass for all, \$75 (pro-rated).

Just as the famous billboard ad in New York proclaimed "You don't need to be Jewish to love Levy's rye bread", so you don't have to be Irish to love Ciné Gael films, many of which do not get commercial release in Quebec, more's the pity.

Byron Toben, a past president of The Montreal Press Club, has been WestmountMag.ca's theatre reviewer since July 2015. Previously, he wrote for since terminated web sites Rover Arts and Charlebois Post, print weekly The Downtowner and print monthly The Senior Times. He also is an expert consultant on U.S. work permits for Canadians.

Here is the remaining schedule for the 2023 Ciné Gael season:

- Apr 28 - The much anticipated evening of Short Irish Films organized by Kester Dyer and Heather MacDougall
- May 5 - *Seamus Heaney and the Music of What Happens* - a stirring documentary about the life and opus of the poet, Seamus Heaney, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1995. Dr. Eamonn McKee, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada will be in attendance at this screening and at the reception afterwards to honour Lynn Doyle, founder and Chair Emerita of Ciné Gael. We look forward to seeing you in great numbers. Please RSVP before May 1, 2023.

For further information on the schedule, please visit Ciné Gael at: <https://www.cinegaelmontreal.com/> There you will also be able to link to trailers of the films.

You can sign up for season membership or attend individual events and pay as you go. All details are listed on this page: <https://www.cinegaelmontreal.com/membership.htm>

To stay up to date with film events, you can join the mailing list. Simply send an email to: info@cinegaelmontreal.com.



THE UNITED IRISH SOCIETIES OF MONTREAL

2023 SIMON MCDONAUGH
HUMANITARIAN AWARD RECIPIENT
Pam McEntee

Pam McEntee is one who constantly works to help others.

She is a great behind-the-scenes volunteer and worker. Pam always seems to seek out what needs to be done and makes herself available to help. She delivers meals to seniors on a regular basis. She is a personal caregiver to a person with physical challenges.

Pam volunteers at the NDG Legion and is always on hand to lend a hand at Innisfail. She was on the reviewing stand at the parade serving coffee.

Wherever she sees the need, she is there. She is just a giving person and never looks for recognition.

The United Irish Societies is happy to present Pam McEntee as the recipient of the 2023 Simon McDonaugh Humanitarian Award.

About Simon McDonaugh

The United Irish Societies lost a dear and valued member in 1992, when Simon McDonaugh passed away. An award was established in 1993 for the community to remember Mr. McDonaugh's dedication to his heritage and to the humanitarian acts performed during his life. Mr. McDonaugh's association with the United Irish Societies and the St. Patrick's Day Parade were longstanding: from 1940 to 1979 he served the organization and the annual parade as its Chief Deputy Marshal. During those years, he was an inspiration to the marshals and society members due to the successful execution of the parades. For many years, he and his colleagues were responsible for building the reviewing stands for dignitaries to review the parades. In later years, Mr. McDonaugh was presented with a Gold Card Membership in recognition of a lifetime of loyal and faithful service to the United Irish Societies and to the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The memory of Mr. McDonaugh's humanitarian lifestyle lives on through this award.

2023 LIAM DALY
HERITAGE AWARD RECIPIENT
Grant Stewart

Since the onset of the pandemic, as quarantine and isolation took its toll on us all, Grant Stewart found a way to make days a little bit brighter for others. He took the opportunity to ask daily trivia questions in the UIS Marshals' Facebook group, as well as the St. Gabriel's Parish group, with very rare pauses.

For months on end, Grant would "remember" prominent members of our organization – past presidents, grand marshals, CROs, Queens, members, etc. He found a way to bring the Irish community together in a way that not many other people could have. Grant is a relatively quiet man. However, his daily posts have persistently given us pause to reflect on the impact the men and women that came before us have had on our organization and our community. He renewed a sense of community when it was needed most, and for that, many are grateful.

For his consistent and persistent work at remembering the UIS leaders and members who came before us, Grantland "Grant" Stewart was chosen as the recipient of the Liam Daly Heritage Award 2023.

About Liam Daly

A native son of Dublin, Ireland, Liam Daly, was proud of his Irish heritage. From the first day he arrived, through his talent, love and devotion, Liam volunteered his time to the continual presence of the Arts and the Irish Cultural in the City of Montreal. Liam is missed by the Irish Community. As a tribute to him, the United Irish Societies of Montreal has created the Liam Daly Heritage Award which will be awarded to a worthy candidate who exemplifies Liam's love of his heritage and promotes the Irish heritage through the arts.

COMHGHAIIRDEAS
LIBH!

EU AND UK REACH BREAKTHROUGH AGREEMENT ON NORTHERN PROTOCOL

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

OPINION

On Monday February 27, 2023, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen announced a breakthrough agreement on revising the Protocol for Northern Ireland. This deal, known as the **WINDSOR AGREEMENT**, appears to resolve several contentious issues related to the position of the North of Ireland in the post-Brexit UK. To his credit, Sunak showed how negotiating seriously can achieve better results than blustering, blaming, and badgering, which was the approach of former Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his hard Brexit followers. As Irish pundit Fintan O'Toole points out, this agreement could have been done in 2021 if the British government had acted in good faith.

Before looking at the agreement and what may follow, **NUA**CHT readers may appreciate a summary of events to place the current crisis in context. In 2016, the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. A majority of voters in both Scotland and the North of Ireland voted to remain but were nonetheless taken out of the EU. Negotiations on how the UK would leave the EU dragged on. A potential compromise by then British PM Theresa May would have brought a soft Brexit that kept the UK in line with the EU economy. However, this was sabotaged by the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) which wanted a hard Brexit that would bring back a hard border in Ireland and undermine the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) that had brought peace after decades of conflict. The GFA, however, is an international treaty and the United States made it clear that future trade agreements with the UK depended on respect for the Agreement. Boris Johnson, who had supplanted Theresa May as British prime minister, then negotiated the Northern Ireland Protocol, which essentially put a border in the Irish Sea. After negotiating and signing the deal in January 2020, Johnson began to backtrack saying he had not realized the implications of the agreement he himself had negotiated and signed. He then put forward a bill in Parliament that would allow ministers to waive any article of the Protocol they did not like. This, of course, would be illegal and destroy Britain's reputation as a trustworthy business partner. In fact, businesses in the North have been generally quite happy because they have access to both the EU and UK markets. The DUP leadership, however, has been adamant that the Protocol should be ripped up even though it is a legally binding international agreement. In May 2022, elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly saw the nationalist Sinn Féin



Photo: Charles McQuillan/Getty Images

party become the largest party and its leader Michelle O'Neill become first minister. The DUP, the largest Unionist party, has refused to allow the Assembly to function even though it is now a minority party. No new laws are being passed and citizens are being denied many necessary services because of this boycott. The DUP set "7 tests" that it says must be met before the party will go back into the Assembly. These tests would essentially shred the Protocol, put a hard border between the North and the Republic of Ireland, and destroy the Good Friday Agreement. It should be emphasised that political parties representing more than 70% of voters in the North support the Protocol and want the Assembly to get to work.

The paralysis of the Assembly is very unpopular, and the Windsor Agreement opens the way for the Assembly to get up and running again.

Sunak faced down the hardliners in his own party and their erstwhile leader Boris Johnson, who was said to be planning a political comeback. On March 22, 2023 a vote on the so-called Stormont brake on new EU regulations passed by 515 to 29, with only a few hardline Tory Brexiters and DUP MPs voting against. This overwhelming majority in favour of this part of the bill indicates similar support for the entire plan.

Sunak has indicated that the agreement will go forward with or without the support of the DUP and emphasized that this is the best deal available. The "Stormont Brake" allows the Northern Ireland Assembly to stop single market EU rules from applying in the North. However, it will take 30 MLAs from at least two parties to accomplish this. For the brake to apply, the Assembly must function. So, this means the DUP has to stop its boycott and allow elected officials to do their job. If the DUP refuses to do so, EU rules will still apply, but the Assembly will have no veto power at all. If the Assembly becomes unworkable, there is a likelihood that the North would eventually come under joint London-Dublin administration, which would be a nightmare for hardline unionists.

Ironically, Sunak, a fervent proponent of Brexit, waxed enthusiastically about the economic benefits of the Protocol for Northern businesses which have access to both the EU and the UK. This led Scottish National Party spokespeople to quip that Sunak was 'moonlighting as a Remainer' and protest that Scotland does not have these [See Page 15](#)

AR AIS ARÍS: A VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

During the Green Season, the School of Irish Studies hosted an incredible Irish-language virtual reality experience, created by the Galway-based Brú Theatre Company.

Incorporating some of the finest contemporary writing in the Irish language, Ar Ais Arís (Back Again) combines literature and visual poetry in a Virtual Reality (VR) experience. In 1912, an Irish mother bids farewell to her first-born child, who is leaving for America. In 1950, a woman returns to her small community, but cannot leave her shame abroad. In the present day, an immigrant wrestles with visions of water, which tug and tear at her roots.

Brú's team of performers, creators, designers, and composers created three 180° films, immersing audiences in a fusion of movement, text, music and stunning Connemara landscapes through the use of VR headsets. The Irish Times described it as "a compelling piece of work that engages with both Irish cultural tradition and with the emerging future of theatre practice." This wonderful 16-minute experience offers a powerful reflection on the theme of immigration/emigration, which has been so central to the Irish experience. A big go raibh maith agat (thank you) to Dr. Emer O'Toole of the School of Irish Studies for bringing this amazing VR project to the Montreal Irish community.



A moment of departure. A moment of return. A moment of reckoning.
Photo: Julia Dunin Photography, <https://brutheatre.com/ar-ais-ars-1>

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

Kevin Callahan	Pamela McGovern	Lori Morrison	Byron Toben	Bryan O'Gallagher
Ken Quinn	Bernadette Short	Katie Irving	David Dubeau	Laurie McKeown
Irish Studies	United Irish Societies	Ville Marie Feis Inc.	The Montreal Arts Centre	

IN MEMORIAM

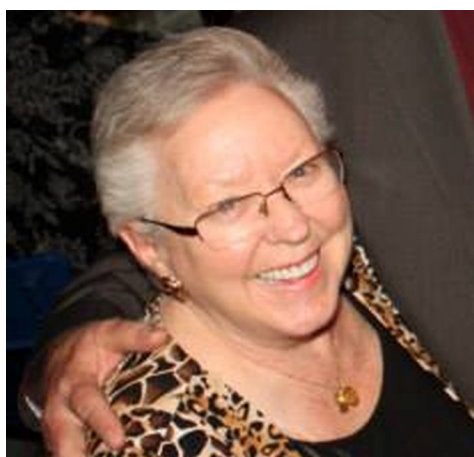


Beloved wife of the late Edward McGovern CA and cherished mother to Patricia (Alan) and Pamela (Daniel) and grandmother to Dominique, Émilie, Marcus, Adrienne and Hendrik, passed away peacefully at the Lakeshore General Hospital from complications from pneumonia.

Although she spent most of her life devoted to her husband and family, she had a passionate interest in music. She started playing the piano at age 6 and became an accomplished pianist. With her family's support and encouragement, in her late 40s she went back to school to further her education and successfully completed her studies in 1988 at the age of 66 obtaining a master's degree in Musicology from the Université de Montréal.

In her later life she devoted time to volunteer work at Fulford and Mont Royal Residences. One of her jobs at Fulford was as a "greeter" where, in 2010, she went from being a volunteer to a resident. She lived there until it closed in April of 2021 when she moved to the Manoir West Island in Pierrefonds. She celebrated her 100th birthday at the Manoir on a beautiful day in June.

The family would like to thank the staff in the emergency and on the 4th floor ward for their attentiveness as well as the staff of Manoir West Island for their excellent care in her final years.



Heather Margaret Quinn (née Gelston) passed away peacefully February 24, 2023. A resident of Verdun for over sixty years, she leaves to mourn her loving husband of fifty-six years, Joseph Quinn. Together they raised their three children Kevin (Sherri), Ken, and Shannon (Ted) and doted on their grandsons, Patrick and Taggart as best they could. Other than her immediate family, Heather leaves to mourn her brother John (Diane) and sister Barbara as well as her nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The family wishes to thank each and every doctor, nurse, PAB, and other medical professional who cared for our Mom/Oma throughout her medical journey, especially the staff at the Verdun General Hospital's Palliative Care Unit.

Cremation has taken place and Per Mom/Oma's wishes there will be no funeral or memorial service. The immediate family will gather to celebrate Mom's life at a suitable time.

Memorial donations in Heather's name may be made to Dawson Community Centre (666 rue Woodland, Verdun, Québec H4H 1V8 - Donate | BGC Dawson | Montréal) or to a charity of your choice.

St. Patrick's Society offers our condolences to the Quinn family and prays that Heather rests in peace.

JOHN O'CONNOR - REST IN PEACE

BY BRYAN O'GALLAGHER



Photo: John Bertrand

It is with great sadness that Irish Heritage Quebec shares the news of the passing of John O'Connor. John was an active member since 1988 and served on our Board of Directors beginning in 1999 and performed invaluable service as Secretary/Treasurer up until the end of 2022. Well known in the greater Quebec City area, he was a member of many other history societies, with whom he shared his knowledge and sense of humour during conferences and tours of St. Patrick's Cemetery and other Irish sites around Quebec. Perfectly bilingual, he often chaired gatherings for other groups and associations when they convened in round table discussions or held annual meetings. John was generous with his time and his contribution will be remembered by many an individual and by Saint Brigid's Guild of which he was a long-time member. Our condolences go out to his family. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam. May his soul be on the right hand of God.

C'est avec tristesse que Héritage irlandais Québec a appris le décès de John O'Connor. Membre actif depuis 1988, John a siégé à notre conseil d'administration débutant en 1999 et il a assumé les postes de secrétaire/trésorier avec rigueur jusqu'à la fin de 2022. Bien connu dans la région de Québec, il était membre de plusieurs autres sociétés d'histoire, avec qui il partageait ses connaissances et son sens de l'humour lors de conférences et visites guidées du Cimetière Saint-Patrick et autres lieux du patrimoine irlandais autour de Québec. Habile animateur, John fut fréquemment invité à présider les assemblées générales et séances plénières de plusieurs organismes et associations. Nombreux sont celles et ceux qui ont bénéficié de sa grande disponibilité et de sa générosité, dont la Saint-Brigid's Guild dont il fut membre de longue date. Nous offrons nos condoléances à la famille de John. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam. Qu'il repose en paix.

BLACK ROCK PROJECT PRAISED IN IRISH SEANAD

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

On Thursday, February 9, 2023 in the Irish Seanad, Sinn Féin Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile raised the issue of Irish government support for the Montreal Irish Monument Park around the Black Rock. Ó Donnghaile praised the work being done in Montreal to build a fitting memorial to the 6,000 dead Irish refugees who fled 'An Gorta Mór' (The Great Hunger) in 1847, only to die from typhus upon arrival in Montreal. He then urged the Minister for the Diaspora to state what kind of support the Irish government could provide to support the Black Rock project. Here is the text of his speech.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

The Irish commemorative stone also known as “The Black Rock” is a monument in Point St. Charles in Quebec. It marks a mass grave of 6000 Irish immigrants who fled An Gorta Mór and died of typhus and other diseases. The Stone was erected on the First of December 1859, and it was the first memorial in North America to victims of the Great Hunger. Each year the community in Montreal remembers those who died, and the aid offered to those who were fleeing hunger in Ireland with a march to the Black Rock. The Rock is currently surrounded by roads, infrastructure, and an industrial estate. However, a group has been established to develop the site a fitting public monument to the Irish in Montreal, Quebec, and all of Canada. The group has acquired a large parcel of land

around the Rock and a commitment to move the roads away from the monument to provide a space for reflection and proper fitting commemoration. I want to commend the work of the group here in the Seanad today, and I know colleagues in the House will join me in that. Leader, while considerable work has been done to develop the plans and secure the site and infrastructure works, there is much more to do. You'll know that I have been asking for some time, leader, for statements from

the Minister for responsibility for the Diaspora and I think what I have cited here today is just one fine example of the kind of great work that our Irish diaspora and communities overseas are doing and we would take the opportunity to engage with the Minister to hear just what support he can offer on that very worthwhile project and indeed on many others amongst our diaspora community around the world.”

In response to Ó Donnghaile's statement, Fine Gael Senator Regina Doherty, representing the Taoiseach, said she would speak to the Minister for the Diaspora about this issue. She also added she had not been aware of the Black Rock before visiting Montreal a few years ago and saluted the work of the Montreal Irish community to honour the memory of the victims of An Gorta Mór. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7Gi9F07pVo>

EU AND UK REACH BREAKTHROUGH AGREEMENT ON NORTHERN PROTOCOL **CONT. from page 11**

advantages because of Brexit.

The DUP, which was a prime mover in getting a hard Brexit in the first place, is now in a difficult position. If it goes into the Assembly, it will have to accept compromise and work with Sinn Féin's Michelle O'Neill as First Minister and may lose votes to the even more hard-line Traditional Unionist Voice party. If it continues to stop local government from functioning, it will be ignoring the wishes of the majority of voters, legally binding treaties, and the democratic process. Given that unionism is now a minority opinion in the North, this obstructionism is a political dead end. As Guardian columnist Simon Jenkins points out, the people of Northern Ireland, especially young people, are desperate for a settlement and for the Assembly to get to work. Nationalists are now a majority in the North, and many people believe that Ireland will be unified within 10 years. While many challenges lie ahead for Irish people North and South in the coming months, a major hurdle has now been cleared due to the Windsor Agreement. US president Joe Biden visited Ireland in April and went to Belfast to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. This international focus on the

North will increase pressure on the DUP to go back into the Assembly and work with nationalist politicians. For the first time in many months, there is reason for optimism in the North of Ireland.

Further Reading:

[This deal could have been struck in 2021 – but the last thing Brexiters wanted was to get Brexit done, Fintan O'Toole, The Guardian](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/feb/21/rishi-sunak-northern-ireland-protocol-dup>

[Majority of people in North would vote to remain in UK in referendum – survey – The Irish Times](#)

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_23_1271

THE IRISH IN CANADA PODCAST

BY IRISH STUDIES, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

The Irish in Canada is the podcast exploring the lives and legacies of Irish immigrants and their Canadian descendants. The podcast was created, and is researched, written, and narrated by Jane McGaughey, the Johnson Chair of Québec and Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University's School of Irish Studies. The show is edited and mixed by Patrick McMaster and produced by Marion Mulvenna. Our theme music was composed and performed by Kate Bevan-Baker. Our logo was designed by Claire Macaulay.



The podcast began as a series of lectures from “The Irish in Canada – IRST210/HIST212,” an undergraduate course offered by the School of Irish Studies — and a class that Jane has taught since 2012. There were so many intriguing and complex stories about the Irish who came to Québec, New Brunswick, Ontario, and elsewhere that her students had never heard before, even though many of them had grown up in Canada and studied Canadian history in school.

The late author Hilary Mantel wrote that “history is not the past — it is the method we have evolved of organizing our ignorance of the past. It’s the record of what’s left on the record.” One of the chief aims of this podcast is to add to that ‘official record’ of what we do know about the Irish who came to Canada in previous centuries — how they lived, what they experienced — and to make those stories better known to a wider audience.

The second season explores medical mysteries, rebellions, and adventures in the far north, six episodes so far. Click here to view on YouTube: <https://theishincanadapodcast.ca/>



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Our heartiest congratulations to Bernadette Short who received a Gradam Award for her outstanding development and promotion of Irish dancing.

Bernadette has been an ambassador of Irish culture in Montreal for over 40 years. She has shared her passion with generations of Irish dancers, celebrating each and every dancer's unique journey. She has inspired countless young individuals, given them a fun and safe environment to grow, and helped them develop the tools to succeed in all aspects of their lives. Through her dancers' numerous performances and productions, communities throughout the province of Quebec and beyond, have had the opportunity to appreciate Irish culture, music, and dance.

Although the awards ceremony was private, recipients were recognized and celebrated at the World Ball on April 8, 2023. Join us in celebration of Bernadette Short (amongst other recipients) and her contribution to the development of Irish dance in Quebec and the surrounding areas.



Congratulations from St. Patrick's Society to the 2023 Grand Marshal Tim Furlong and his new wife, Kim Lampitt who tied the knot at the 198th St. Patrick's parade on Sunday, March 19, 2023.

Photo left: SPS Ball 2023

OSCAR NEWS

Irish cinema received a bumper haul of Oscar nominations for 2023. Nine of them were for Martin McDonagh's film "The Banshees of Inisherin" for best picture, directing, editing, original screenplay, leading actor (Farrell), supporting actor (Gleeson and Barry Keoghan), supporting actress (Kerry Condon) and original score. Paul Mescal was nominated for best actor for "Aftersun". "An Cailín Ciúin" (The Quiet Girl) was the first Irish-language film to be nominated in the best international feature film category. The Northern Ireland film "An Irish Goodbye" was nominated and won in the live action short category. Jonathan Redmond was nominated for best editing for his work on "Elvis", and Richard Baneham was nominated and won for best visual effects for "Avatar: The Way of Water".

THANK YOU FROM VILLE-MARIE FEIS

Dear members of the Charitable Giving Committee,

I would like to express our gratitude to St. Patrick's Society of Montreal for their generous sponsorship of our IRISH NUTCRACKER 2022.

As stated in our application, the funds were used to ensure we had the same professional level of audio, at St. Thomas as we had at previous venues, and were able to improve on our Lighting Program for the event.

The show played to two full houses and is now considered an important part of the calendar of Montreal-Irish Community annual events.

We are also so appreciative of the lovely and eloquent review of our show in the recent edition of Nuacht. What a delight to our team to have our hard work described so beautifully.

The growth and success of our production has given us the confidence to set our goals higher. We have reserved the theatre of Centre Pierre-Peladeau (UQAM) for our 2023 performance. The dates will be [December 15th and 16th 2023](#).

Many thanks,

Marie Short

Director

Ville-Marie Feis Inc.



A CULTURAL GEM IN THE HEART OF GRIFFINTOWN

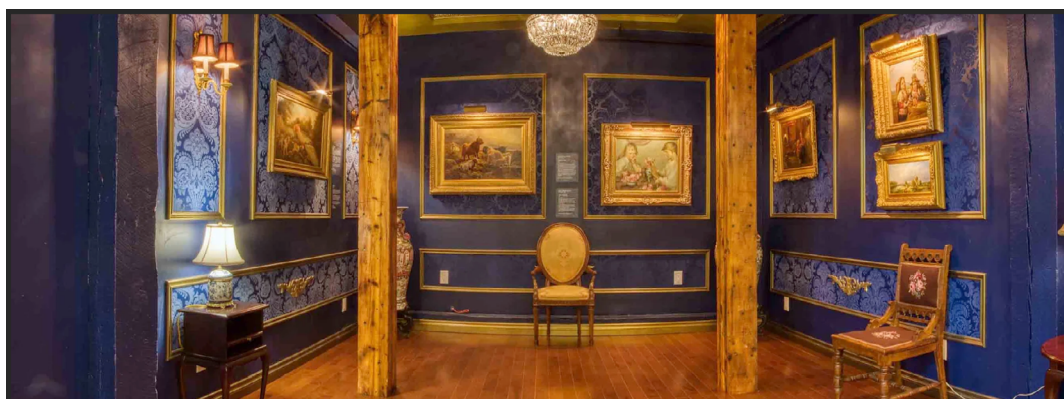
BY THE MONTREAL ART CENTRE AND MUSEUM

The Montreal Art Centre was founded in 2010 by Alain Diamond, an artist himself. Located in a patrimonial building erected in 1875 as the Caledonia Iron Works, the foundry was a source of employment for the many Irish immigrants who settled in Griffintown during the industrial revolution of the first half of the 19th century.

Fast forward almost 140 years and the Montreal Art Centre was created with a vision of a core for artists to work in, and to bring the members together in a strong collaborative community.

There are over 50 studio spaces for rent to a diverse array of visual artists, from hobby artists to professionals, from painters to pottery and jewelry makers. The centre gives each of the artists a chance to display their art in the many galleries within the building and to have access to a solo show each year.

Since 2022, the Montreal Art Centre developed into the Montreal Art Centre and Museum. Visitors can view and follow an audio tour of the wonderful permanent collection of 19th and 20th century paintings, many from the personal collection of Mr. Diamond as well as three historic, Italian, French, and Quebec themed museum galleries boasting art, antiques and spectacular wax figures of Quebec Founders from the Grévin Museum. One room is dedicated to 19th century photography of Griffintown during its industrialization. The Centre hosts performing artists with regular concerts, a cinema and viewing room, a bar, lounges and a reference library. Live drawing and painting classes are offered to the public and the marvellous location can also be rented for special occasions.



LOUISE GUIMOND

Exposition et vente d'art
Exhibition and art sale

May 12-18 Mai 2023

@louiseguimondart
louiseguimond111@gmail.com

Montreal Art Center and Museum
1844 William st.

Vernissage

May 12 Mai 2023

17:00-21:00

Exhibition of Montreal artist, **LOUISE GUIMOND**

One of our member artists of Irish descent, Louise Guimond, a board member of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal has worked on several collaborations recreating historical portraits for the themed rooms. She also recently donated a painting for St. Patrick Society 2023 Annual Charity Ball silent auction.

Louise will be having her own first solo exhibition from May 12th, through to May 18th 2023, at The Montreal Art Center and Museum located at 1844 William Street.

The public is invited to attend with Free Admission. A Vernissage will take place on Friday, May 12th, from 5 P.M. to 9 P.M. For advance booking, visit our website: montrealartcenter.com and be eligible for a Door Prize!



Artist: Louise Guimond
Montreal Art Center & Museum

CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2023 EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Apr 28, 2023	Irish Short Films, Ciné Gael, De Sève, Concordia, 7:15 PM	https://www.cinegaelmontreal.com/
May 1, 2023 May 5, 2023	UIS AGM, 2:30 PM, St. John Brebeuf Seamus Heaney documentary, Ciné Gael, De Sève, Concordia, 7:15 PM with reception & Dr. Eamonn McKee, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada to honour Lynn Doyle , Chair Emerita, Ciné Gael	publicrelations@montrealirishparade.com https://www.cinegaelmontreal.com/
June 16, 2023 June 2023	27 th Annual Golf Tournament, Club de Golf Bellevue, 880 Boul de Lery, Lery Festival Bloomsday - https://bloomsdaymontreal.com/ ; Tel: 438-969-3300	https://spsmtl.com/project/annual-golf-tournament/bloomsdaymontreal@gmail.com
Dec 15, 2023 Dec 16, 2023	The Irish Nutcracker, Centre Pierre-Peladeau (UQAM) The Irish Nutcracker, Centre Pierre-Peladeau (UQAM)	http://shortschoolirishdance.com/irishnutcracker http://shortschoolirishdance.com/irishnutcracker



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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 Summer edition is **May 15, 2022**. We look forward
to hearing from you.