



CALL FOR CONSULATE GENERAL IN MONTREAL

Ireland's ambassador to Canada, Dr. Eamonn McKee, was the guest of honour at the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) Christmas party that took place on Friday, December 9, 2022, at the McGill Faculty Club in downtown Montreal. The event was well attended by both members and friends of ICCC.

During his talk, Dr. McKee pleased the ICCC Montreal Chapter when he said that there is a strong case for a Consulate General to be established in the city of Montreal given its sizable and very active Irish community. He stressed the trade opportunities that exist between Ireland and Montreal, and noted, for example, that Enterprise Ireland has a dedicated economic promotion officer in the city. Dr. McKee told the Chamber that the Irish Government is committed to supporting the Irish diaspora but also to promoting further trade and economic cooperation between Ireland and Montreal. "There is so much potential for further growth and I personally think the time is right for a full-time Consulate to be set up, dedicated to Montreal, to help realize that potential and make the most of organizations like the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce," he said.

ICCC President, Paul Dunne, welcomed the Ambassador's comments and pledged to make a strong case to the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs for an increased presence in Montreal. Mr. Dunne said: "It is a massive opportunity



L-R: Sean Murphy, James Fitzgerald, Vivian Doyle-Kelly, Paul Dunne (President), Ireland's ambassador to Canada, Dr. Eamonn McKee, Ruth Hanna, Katrina Montgomery, Conor Barry and Pádraig McLean.
Source: The ICCC Montreal Chapter

for the Government of Ireland to capitalize on the vibrancy of the Irish community here as well as the esteem in which the nation is held generally."

Dr. McKee also took the opportunity to highlight some of the ways Irish people – or those of Irish descent – have helped shape modern Canada into the vibrant, diverse and democratic confederacy it is today. From the Dublin-born Duke of Wellington to Thomas Ahearn to Thomas D'Arcy-McGee, and the first three Governors General of Canada (Lord Monck, Lord Lisgar and Lord Dufferin), as well as countless merchants, religious, captains of industry and other influencers over the years, it is clear that Canada would be a very different place were it not for the Irish and Anglo-Irish, who created and shaped the nation over

the past 200 years and more. He said: "We need to put this up in lights. Everyone has forgotten the contribution made by the Irish in Quebec and across Canada in general. That is why we are launching "Fifty Irish Lives" in Canada next March, Irish Heritage Month. We are planning an Irish Heritage Trail for the following year. This trail can act like a Christmas tree to hang on these stories about the Irish, like decorations, that help to give an overall impression of just how influential Irish people have been throughout Canada's history and right up to the modern day. It is safe to say that without the Irish there would be no Canada as it is today."

Dr. McKee also gave an economic update from Ireland: "In terms of business, the news from Ireland remains good. In one hundred years since independence, we have created an economy that is incredibly robust. We have full employment; we have eradicated involuntary emigration. We have done that through talent because we have no other natural resources. Our economy is so robust it has survived well, both through the global financial crisis and COVID."

"There are huge opportunities for Ireland and Canada to cooperate, with Ireland remaining in the European Union. Meanwhile, Britain has made, in my view, a massive strategic economic error in leaving. A key partner for Ireland



2023 SPS COMMUNITY AWARD

BY MARTINA MCLEAN

A gentle reminder to the community at large that the closing date for submissions for St. Patrick's Society Community Award 2023, is **Friday, January 20, 2023**.

The award has two distinct goals:

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

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.

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

Community Award Nomination

Submission Page

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#) 



ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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NUAUGHT

Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

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Submissions for Winter edition: Jan. 15, 2023

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

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ANNUAL CHARITABLE BALL



FRIDAY | MARCH 3RD

2023

MARRIOTT, CHATEAU CHAMPLAIN

RECEPTION: 6:30PM

DINNER: 8:00PM

WWW.SPSMTL.COM/OUR-EVENTS/

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

ADVERTISING RATES FOR NUACHT

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



St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

FOUNDED 1834



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December 23, 2022

To: The Members of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

Re: Report of the Nominating Committee

In accordance with Section 2 of Article 6 of the By-Laws of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal (the "Society"), the designated chair of the Nominating committee, Christie Brown, convened and chaired a meeting of the committee consisting of the following members: Andrea Stanford, James Gallagher, Scott Phelan, and Patrick Shea. The committee hereby nominates the following 25 members (each of whom has consented to his or her nomination) for the offices set forth below across from their respective names for the term of office beginning at the next annual meeting of the members of the Society.

President and director:	Pamela McGovern
Vice-Presidents and directors:	Christopher Deehy Carol McCormick Patrick Short
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6767 Cote St. Luc Road, # 1, Montreal, QC H4V 2Z6 | Ph: 514-481-1346 | office@spsmtl.com | www.spsmtl.com

This letter constitutes the report of the Nominating Committee. According to the By-Laws of the Society, the report of the Nominating Committee must be delivered to all members of the Society. This is being done via the transmission of this letter to all members. The report will also be included in the next issue of *Nuacht*, the Society's newsletter, and in the News section of the Society's website: www.spsmtl.com.

Any Regular Member or Life Member (each as defined in the By-Laws of the Society) in good standing may nominate himself or herself or another Regular Member or Life Member for any of the elected offices of the Society set forth above. All such nominations must:

- (a) be in writing;
- (b) be signed by the nominator and by 5 other Regular Members or Life Members;
- (c) include an indication of the consent of the nominee; and
- (d) be received by the Secretary of the Society no later than 14 days prior to **December 27, 2022**

via mail or courier to:

Martina Branagan
Secretary
St. Patrick's Society of Montreal
6767 Cote St. Luc Road, Suite 1
Montreal, QC., H4V 2Z6

or a scan thereof sent by e-mail to: office@spsmtl.com.

We look forward to your attendance at the annual meeting of the members of the Society to be held on **January 17, 2023**. The meeting will likely be conducted in person, with a videoconference option. We will provide you with more information shortly.

Sincerely,

Martina Branagan
Secretary

IRISH UNITY MESSAGE COMES TO OTTAWA

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

The cross-Canada roadshow to promote Irish unity, organised by Friends of Sinn Féin Canada, began in Montreal last May with the visit of Sinn Féin MP Órfhlaith Begley. In September, there were visits by Sinn Féin politicians to BC and Alberta as well as the Maritimes. In October, the tour ended on a high note with a visit to Canada's capital by John Finucane, MP for the Belfast North constituency of the House of Commons in the United Kingdom, and Sinn Féin's Director for North America, Ciaran Quinn. Finucane is the son of the late Pat Finucane, a human rights lawyer who was murdered by Loyalist paramilitaries working in collusion with British security forces. During the visit, Finucane and Quinn met with Canada Federal MPs, business and trade union leaders, and the Ottawa Irish community to ask for support to protect the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) and to inform people of the developing conversation about Irish unity.

The Ottawa visit began on Tuesday, October 18th with a stop at the Parliamentary Press Gallery where Finucane described the changes happening in Ireland and the ongoing discussion in favour of Irish unity as an alternative to the ongoing political and economic instability provoked by Brexit. He highlighted the past contributions to the Irish peace process by Canadians such as General De Chastelain who oversaw decommissioning of paramilitary weapons, and he issued a call to Canadians and their political representatives for support in the current situation. Finucane also did an interview with the Canadian Press, which created a minor media firestorm with some papers carrying headlines that Finucane had called on the Canadian government to halt trade talks with the UK. In fact, in the interview, the Sinn Féin MP urged Canada to follow the example of the Biden administration in the US and make trade talks conditional on the UK respecting the Good Friday Agreement, which ended the 30-year conflict in Ireland. His words that led to headline were that Canada should not be "even allowing a trade agreement to get off the ground if there is damage to the Good Friday Agreement."

The press meeting was followed by a lunch with over a dozen leaders of the Canadian trade union movement, to whom John described the changes sweeping Ireland, including the growing support for Irish unity in response to the calamity of Brexit. Also in attendance was former president of the Canadian Labour Congress Senator, Hassan Yussuff, who made a strong statement in support of a united Ireland. Finucane and Quinn then made a courtesy call on the Irish ambassador Eamonn McKee. During their conversation, Ciaran Quinn, who had recently met the executive of the Montreal Irish Park Foundation in Montreal, made a point of praising the work of the Foundation, and stressed the importance of the Black Rock to both Ireland and the Canadian Irish community. Quinn had been in Montreal on Saturday October 15th for a Concert for Irish Unity at Hurley's Irish pub featuring Gráinne, a new Irish music group composed of three women all from the Concordia School of

Irish Studies.



Irish ambassador to Canada Dr. McKee with MP John Finucane

On Wednesday, October 19th, the day began with a meeting with Liberal MP James Maloney, chair of the Ireland-Canada Parliamentary Group, and Liberal MP Brenda Shanahan. Maloney was the only Canadian to speak at the recent Ireland's Future conference on Irish unity held in Dublin in October.

This was followed by an open meeting on Parliament Hill attended by fourteen MPs from all five parties. This meeting was chaired by NDP MP Charlie Angus and was co-sponsored by Liberal MP James Maloney, Conservative MP Michael Chong, and Bloc Québécois MP Xavier Barsalou-Duvall. Finucane spoke to MPs about the importance of Canada's voice in protecting the Good Friday Agreement and the growing support in Ireland for Irish unity. He stressed that the long historical ties between Canada and the UK mean that Canada's voice will be listened to by the British government. Finucane later had individual meetings with Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet, Conservative Party Foreign Affairs critic Michael Chong, and New Democratic Party Foreign Affairs critic Heather McPherson. Following her meeting, McPherson tweeted "[Wonderful to meet with John Finucane MP and the Friends of Sinn Féin Canada. I join my colleagues within Canada's NDP/Le NPd du Canada in urging the UK government to respect and honour the Good Friday Accord. Adhering to international law and agreements is of fundamental importance.](#)" See page 13.

On Thursday, October 20th Finucane had a breakfast meeting with Jackie Gilna, President of the Ottawa branch of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce. That evening, the tour was capped off with a lively Concert for Irish Unity at the Heart and Crown Pub. John Finucane spoke to a packed house of over one hundred people, including several MPs.

‘T WAS A CRACKER OF A NIGHT...

BY MARTINA MCLEAN

On Sunday December 11, 2022, to a packed theatre at St. Thomas High School, Pointe-Claire, the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dance in association with Ville Marie Feis Inc. delighted audiences with two performances of The Irish Nutcracker, the first at 3 PM and the second at 7 PM.

Although there was a slight dusting of snow on the ground and a nip in the air, St. Thomas High School Theatre filled up well in advance of the starting time of 7 PM. There were people of all ages and cultures present, all keen to see someone they knew on stage. Some had flowers for their loved ones as they beamed with pride in the foyer.



It would be hard to pinpoint any dance or section of the Irish dance-ballet fusion gifted to the audience that evening. The dedication, discipline, fitness, and health of each dancer, from the littlest to the most senior, glowed with star power as they kicked, soared, and stepped back and forth across the stage to the ecstatic clapping of a very attentive audience. They were sprite, nimble and on cue, and appeared to really enjoy themselves. Kudos to the choreographers, Marie Short, Natasha Woytiuk, Katie Irving, Kayla Gagne, Meaghan Kilmartin, Michael Keane, and Lucas Lawton. From Sugar Plum Fairies to candy canes, snowflakes and mice, the costumes, organized by Sylvia Kilmartin and SPS Administrative Assistant, Katie Irving, were delightful, colourful, eye-catching, and highlighted the characters in a credible performance. The choice of music underscored the theatrical show and included pieces from [Beoga](#), Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker", and world renowned "Lord of the Dance" segments by Ronan Hardiman and Gerard Fahy among others. Kevin Conforti, on sound and lighting, heightened the atmosphere of each scene. The attention to detail was evident in the props, thanks to Joanne Boisvert-Marsh.



Based on Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann's original short story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King", the Irish Nutcracker begins at a family's annual Christmas céilí, with melodious live music from Jonathan Moorman, François-Félix Roy, and Abigail Marsh. Then, the audience was led on a merry dance to memorable performances in two acts, depicting The Irish Nutcracker. It is the story of Ciara whose special Nutcracker toy, a present from her Uncle Ryan, comes to life, and takes her on a journey to a dreamland of snowflakes, sugar plum fairies, gingerbread cookies, and candy canes!



A CANDLE AT SOLSTICE: GREAT IRISH FAMINE REMEMBRANCE

PHOTOS: KEN QUINN



The National Famine Museum and the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa coordinated with other famine sites to light a candle of remembrance on Winter Solstice, December 21, 2022 at sunset (4pm). The Black Rock site was among sites of significance in Ireland and Canada to remember the victims of the Great Irish Famine and to commemorate those who came to their aid.

Ambassador to Canada, Eamonn McKee, and Director of the National Famine Museum, Caroilín Callery, said “there is a universal message in our simple gesture this Winter Solstice. That those strangers on our shores in need find hope in our compassion and a new future in the opportunities that we offer them.”

Ambassador McKee noted that “traditionally in Ireland, the Winter Solstice is a symbolic moment of remembrance and renewal. From the time of Newgrange five thousand years ago to today, we mark the shortest day of the year as an end and a beginning.

Many people recall lost loved ones at this time of year. We light a candle as an act of remembrance and a symbol of hope.”

Caroilín Callery said that “we light the candle in a spirit of remembrance but also of hope. Those who fled Ireland, like the tenants of Strokestown House, were met with compassion and humanity, notably in Canada and in the United States. They and later generations added to the Irish diaspora, now including some 70 million around the world with Irish ancestry.”

Ambassador McKee noted that “at risk to their own lives, the humanitarian actions of Canadians demonstrated the power of compassion extended to the stranger on the shore. Their compassion created hope where there was despair. Opportunities in Canada offered the new arrivals the prospect of decent lives and success. Canada’s humanitarian response in 1847 remains an inspiration to us today, a universal message of the power of kindness in transforming the lives of all those

in need, those searching for hope, opportunity, and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.”

Ambassador McKee noted that since then, “Ireland too has prospered, as we can see in this, the hundredth year of our Independence. Our population has reached 5.1 million, or including the 1.89 million in Northern Ireland, almost 7 million. Our society embraces the future with confidence. We remember the victims of the Famine but also the survivors, those who had the resilience to endure and prosper, whether at home or abroad.”

Ambassador McKee paid tribute to Galway-born member of the Embassy team, Breda Kelly and her brother. “Breda approached me with this idea and I immediately recognised how powerful it was.”

“Our family always light a candle on the graves of our family members over Christmas, and we thought it would be nice to remember these souls this Christmas too,” said Breda.



CINÉ GAEL MONTREAL'S 31ST SEASON

BY DAVID HANLEY AND ANTOINE MALONEY

As we feel the pandemic starting to recede in our rear-view mirrors, we hope you'll return for our first full Ciné Gael season in several years. The series that our film programmers have assembled is an exciting fresh look at recent Irish filmmaking.



Opening night, Friday, Jan 27th, sees the screening of "RÓISE & FRANK".

OPENING NIGHT IS CONFIRMED - RÓISE & FRANK

In the two years since the sudden death of Frank, her husband and soulmate, Róise has retreated into a cocoon of grief. She spends days in isolation, barely eating, consoling herself with listening to her dead husband's voicemail message and re-watching old hurling matches that defined him when he was alive. Róise's only child, Alan, is the town's new GP. He is unable or unwilling to help her deal with her never ending grief. He has other things on his mind, a new baby and the nagging feeling that he has chosen the wrong career. Into this unhappiness comes a stray dog. We've seen him travel for miles to arrive straight to Róise's door. This is a dog on a mission. He needs Róise to understand that mission. Fortunately for Róise, the dog is insistent. He follows her, runs into her house, sneaks into her son's bedroom. He simply refuses to

leave her alone. He finally leads her to a place which was very special to her and her husband and she starts to wonder, where this dog came from, and what does he want.

At the time of going to press, the following films are also confirmed:

- Feb 10 - *The 34th* and *When Women Won* - documentaries about the recent Irish referendums on marriage equality and abortion
- Mar 31 - *Making the Grade* - a documentary about a popular Irish ritual in which teachers and students across the country prepare for an annual graded musical exam
- Apr 14 - The much anticipated evening of *Short Irish Films* organized by Kester Dyer and Heather MacDougall
- Apr 28 - *Arracht* - a tragic Irish-language drama set during the Famine
- 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

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.



‘T WAS A CRACKER OF A NIGHT... CONT.



Go raibh míle maith agaibh, cast and crew, for a very uplifting, entertaining, and joyful event. We wish you every success as you compete in the upcoming 2023 World Championships and other competitions, showcasing the strength of Irish Dance here in Montreal.

With a focus on Community and spreading their love of dance, The Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing has been operating in Montreal for over forty years, now includes several locations and has produced numerous champion dancers.

COMHGHAIRDEAS
LIBH GO LÉIR!

GRÁINNE DREAMS BIG

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

Interview

On a bright afternoon at the end of last May, some young women connected with Concordia's School of Irish Studies stood up to sing at a reception on the terrace of Hurley's Irish pub. They had prepared the famous patriotic Irish song "Óró, sé do bheatha abhaile" to welcome Sinn Féin MP Orfhlaith Begley, in whose honour the event was being held. As the women began to sing, the crowd fell silent, and a magic moment transpired. The song was beautifully rendered, and everyone felt something special had happened. By the end of the day, Gráinne was born. Gráinne is an amazing new Irish music trio consisting of Lily MacLean, Darragh Mondoux, and Esmé Cavanaugh. They took the name from Gráinne or Granuaile, a 16th century historical figure named Grace O'Malley who had a legendary career as a 'pirate queen' and whose name in Irish came to represent Ireland itself. She is the subject of the song in Irish the women had chosen to sing for the event, so it seemed fitting to name the group after this strong Irish woman. As the song says,

*Tá Gráinne Mhaol ag teacht thar sáile/ óglaigh armtha léi mar gharda,
Grace O'Malley Is coming over the sea / armed warriors along with her as her guard*

sang along to well known favourites or sat in quiet wonder at songs in Irish or Scots Gaelic. The guest speaker, Ciaran Quinn from Sinn Féin, jokingly complained about having to speak after the performance because he felt everyone would want to keep listening to Gráinne rather than to him. A few nights later, Gráinne performed at another concert for Irish unity at the Heart and Crown pub in Ottawa with Sinn Féin MP John Finucane as the guest speaker. Over a hundred people gave them a warm welcome as they were the opening act for Charlie Angus, the NDP MP who is also a professional musician. While many in the crowd were talking about the possibility of Irish unity, praise for Gráinne was also a frequent topic of conversation. The group is now clearly established, set to become a creative new voice on the Montreal music scene, and a source of pride for Montreal's Irish community. I was able to interview the three young women to hear about their plans for their musical future.

1. You are all friends. How did you meet and come together?

Lily: Well, we are all students or alumni of the School of Irish Studies and Darragh and I both went to the same theatre school. Esmé and I met in classes, and we recorded a song



Gráinne playing at Hurley's

Over the summer, Lily, Darragh, and Esmé planned and practiced and were ready for a major début at Hurley's on October 15th at a concert for Irish unity. They appeared on stage in lovely gowns, one green, one orange, and one white, to make a living, moving Irish tri-colour. For an hour, the trio held the audience spellbound as people clapped and

for the 10th anniversary of the School of Irish Studies. So, our musical collaboration began.

Esmé: Because of the pandemic, we did not get to know each other well until we worked on the Beltane Ball last spring where I was playing with my band and Lily sang with us.

Darragh: It was just a natural connection through the

CANADA'S 14TH TOP 25 CANADIAN IMMIGRANT AWARDS 2022 INCLUDES AN IRISHMAN



Ruairi Spillane, an Irishman living in Vancouver, British Columbia, is among Canada's 14th Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards 2022.

Managing director of Moving2Canada.com, [Ruairi Spillane](#) came to Vancouver from Ireland in 2008. He was homesick at first. He missed his family and friends back home. He initially worked in finance, but after the global financial crisis hit, he decided to do something more meaningful — to help other newcomers.

He began researching success factors that allowed newcomers to settle quicker. From that research, the Moving2Canada website was born. It won him the Small Business BC Best Immigrant Entrepreneur Award in 2019.

Spillane describes [Moving2Canada](#) as a free information resource to help recent and prospective newcomers build their dream life in Canada. He knows from experience that “moving countries is a transformational act — one of the biggest and most emotional decisions a person can make in their life. It brings challenges

in leaving home, and excitement in launching a new life in a new place. Reducing the complexity is heartwarming and motivates our team to continue improving each and every day.”

Moving2Canada celebrated its tenth anniversary in late October. To mark the occasion, the website was overhauled, “to bring even more personalized tools and dynamic checklists to our motivated community of future Canadians. It’s all about making the moving and settlement process even easier!” said Spillane.

Spillane also founded and manages another business with a focus on newcomers called [Outpost Recruitment](#). It places international and local talent with Canada’s leading construction and engineering firms.

In 2018, he co-founded the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce Vancouver to promote increased trade between Ireland and Canada. He served as president from 2019 to 2021.

Spillane remains committed to helping newcomers. “Throughout my journey, I’ve been helped by so many people. With Moving2Canada, I strive to return the favour.”

When asked for his top tip, Spillane said “Actively embrace diversity and inclusion. As a newcomer to Vancouver, I was fascinated by the many cultures, customs and communities that interacted throughout the city. I’ve always done my best to learn more about others’ experiences and to teach them about my own. So much can be learned from examining what different people and different nationalities have in common and how we differ.”

TOP 25 CANADIAN IMMIGRANT AWARDS

The [Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards](#) presented by Western Union is a people’s choice awards program that recognizes inspirational immigrants who have made a positive impact on their communities since arriving in Canada. As the first Canadian national award program, the Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Awards presented by Western Union recognizes the achievements of all immigrants including community advocates, volunteers, successful entrepreneurs, cultural icons. You can nominate someone you feel has made an impact here.

You can nominate any immigrant who is 15 or older, and who has contributed to Canada by making a positive difference to the country. The nominee must be either a landed immigrant or a citizen of Canada (as defined by Canadian law). The nominee must also be living in Canada for most of the time within the past three (3) years. The nominee’s contributions to Canada should have made a particular or significant impact, in the past year in particular, as related to their achievements highlighted in their nomination.

Consider those who have especially impacted Canada in a positive way — on a local or a national level — and who are helping to make our country a better place to live in. These types of nominees will be especially considered for the shortlist of finalists.

If you want to learn about next year’s campaign, which kicks off with all-new nominations in July, sign up for free, for the Canadian Immigrant newsletter, [Connections](#).

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

BY CASEY COSTELLO

Costello Irish Dance spread holiday cheer at the 2022 edition of the Montreal Santa Claus Parade.



The Costello Irish dancers were dressed as ice crystals and performed to the musical stylings of Quebec singer, Henri Gordon. With three different numbers, the troupe of twenty danced down Saint-Catherine's, from Guy to Jeanne-Mance, spreading holiday cheer to the 400,000 spectators that lined the street.

On Saturday, November 19th, 2022, Montrealers filled the streets of downtown, to celebrate the 70th edition of the Montreal Santa Claus Parade. Returning after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the parade featured over one hundred artists, including Cirque du Soleil, Santa Claus, and Costello Irish Dance.



COSTELLO IRISH DANCE

Founded in 2015, Costello Irish Dance is based in Vaudreuil-Soulanges. With over 60 dancers, the school celebrates both competitive and performance aspects of Irish dance.

At the Eastern Canadian Championships, in October, five of their teams won, and four solo dancers qualified for the World Championships. The Worlds will take place in Montreal in April, 2023.

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

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Laurie McKeown
Marie Short
Maureen Fitzgerald
Embassy of Ireland to Canada

MONTREAL LOSES A SON



David Harris Flaherty
Feb. 25, 1940 - Oct. 11, 2022

David Harris Flaherty passed peacefully at Victoria, BC on October 11, 2022, with his wife, Karen Jensen, and one of his sons, Robert, at his side. Born on February 25, 1940, in Campbellton, NB, and raised in Montreal, QC, David was predeceased by his parents, Edwin Flaherty and Mary (Harquail) Flaherty. He was also predeceased by his brother, Hon. Jim Flaherty PC, and brother Ted. He is survived by his wife, Karen, sons Sean (Ann), Michael (Shauna) and Robert (Christine), stepchildren Jake and Alex, grandchildren Nicole, Nina, Sam, Caleb and Jack, and his sisters and brothers Ann, Gerry, Patrick, Norah and Mary.

Having received the gold medal in history at McGill University, David received his doctorate in history from Columbia University. He went on to teach American history at Princeton University and the University of Virginia before returning to Canada, to what was then the University of Western Ontario, where he was appointed in the law and history faculties. Building on his early scholarship, David broke new ground in privacy law and policy, publishing influential papers and texts on topics such as privacy in modern surveillance societies. He was known internationally for his academic and policy work on privacy, and is remembered as a major contributor to the establishment of Canadian legal history scholarship.

In 1993, the British Columbia Legislature appointed David as the province's first Information and Privacy Commissioner. He established the office from scratch, quickly building it into an internationally respected regulatory body in both freedom of information and privacy. After his distinguished service in that role, David established a busy consultancy, wisely helping governments, public institutions and businesses across Canada navigate their legal obligations while doing the right thing. Along the way, David was a mentor and confidante to many, generously offering wise counsel over the years.

During his nearly thirty years in Victoria, David devoted thousands of hours to the community. He was a long-time board member, president of, and donor to Pacific Opera Victoria, and was a generous donor to many other arts and community organizations, including the Victoria Symphony and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. His charitable contributions also benefit many other organizations, including the Garth Homer Society and the BC Cancer Foundation.

His many contributions as a scholar, teacher, policymaker, regulator and community volunteer were justly recognized by an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Victoria in 2018, and Royal Roads University's Chancellor's Community Recognition Award in 2015. David will be sorely missed by his family and his wide circle of friends and former colleagues around the world, all of whom knew him as an intelligent, wise, kind and generous man. A private commemoration has been held, and a celebration of life will be held later. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mccallgardens.com

CALL FOR CONSULATE GENERAL IN MONTREAL

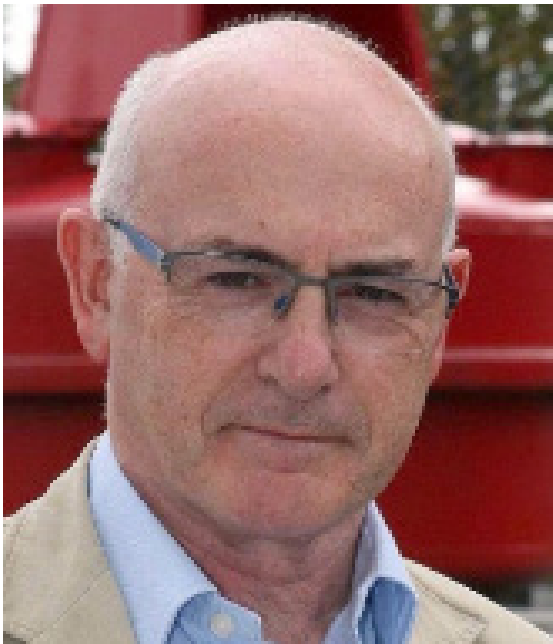
CONT. FROM PAGE 1

to develop that economic opportunity is through the network of Ireland-Canada Chambers of Commerce. The Chamber here in Montreal is a really important part of that. We have a pan-Canadian Chamber but that won't be relevant unless the individual chapters are active and strong. So, I would encourage you all to join. And not just join but also to get involved, be active and support the Chamber, because the work it does is very important and is recognized as such by the Irish Government."

Along with the Embassy in Ottawa, the Irish Government has established Consulates General in the Canadian cities of Vancouver and Toronto. Enterprise Ireland, the Governmental organization responsible for the development and growth of Irish businesses in world markets, also has a presence in Toronto, as well as the new office it set up in Montreal last year. In addition, Honorary Consuls represent Ireland in Toronto, Calgary, St. John's and Halifax. Montreal, too, has an Honorary Consul with Dr. Michael Kenneally from the School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University continuing to fulfill that volunteer role until his retirement at the end of 2022. The Chamber appreciates the stellar work Dr. Kenneally has done on behalf of the Irish in Montreal over many years and, in particular, the loyal and staunch support he has shown for the activities of the Chamber itself.

UNTIMELY DEATH OF INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER, BRENDAN MCALLISTER

BY MARTINA MCLEAN



Source: [FuneralTimes.com](https://www.funeraltimes.com)

On Tuesday December 13, 2022, tributes flooded social media following the sudden death of Brendan McAllister, a former international peacemaker with the UN Mediation Support Unit and founding director of Mediation NI.

Rev. Deacon Brendan McAllister died suddenly on December 13, 2022, in Daisy Hill Hospital, Northern Ireland, following a short illness, aged 66 years. He had only been ordained a


deacon in January 2022 and was serving in Kilbroney Parish in Rostrevor, in the Dromore Diocese.

We offer our sincere condolences to his wife Elizabeth (nee McGrath), his children Anna, Joseph and Tom, his grandchildren Dara, Oisín and Shaan, his sisters Marie and Sheila, his brothers, Kevin and Seamus, his extended family, friends and devastated colleagues.

His requiem Mass took place on Saturday December 17, 2022, at 12 noon at the Cathedral of Saints Colman and Patrick. He is interred in Monkshill Cemetery.

A long-time mediation expert in Ireland and internationally, Rev. Deacon McAllister, a graduate of Queen's University, was a trained social worker, who spent his early years working as a probation officer. In 1992, he was appointed director of Mediation Northern Ireland and spent the following sixteen years working on many complex and difficult cases, many related to the Northern Ireland conflict. He helped bring about police reform; was an advisor to the Parades Commission and served for four years (2008-2012) as Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, before spending time carrying out work for international bodies, including the European Union and the [United Nations](#) (Mediation Support Unit). In 2019, the Government appointed him as interim Advocate for Victims of Historical Institutional Abuse, a position he held until October 2020.

IRISH UNITY OTTAWA CONT.

 Heather McPherson MP
Wonderful to meet with John Finucane MP and the Friends of Sinn Féin - Canada.
I join my colleagues within Canada's NDP / Le NPD du Canada in urging the UK government to respect and honour the Good Friday Accord. Adhering to international law and agreements is of fundamental importance.



His speech was followed by spirited musical performances by Charlie Angus MP, Montreal's very own Gráinne, and traditional musician, Kevin Dooley.

Finucane's visit to Ottawa generated widespread interest from Canadian parliamentarians in the recent political developments in Ireland and the fallout from Brexit. Many MPs such as the NDP's Charlie Angus and BQ leader Yves-François Blanchet voiced strong support for upholding and fully implementing the Good Friday Agreement. Thanks to Finucane's visit, Canadian politicians are now much more aware of the growing call for a vote on Irish unity, and the dynamic discussion about what a new Ireland will look like. Moreover, protection of the Good Friday Agreement has now become an important issue in any trade agreement between Canada and the UK.

John Finucane at Parliamentary Press Gallery:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Wl0fGXlUvY>
- <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/irish-republican-party-sinn-fein-asks-canada-to-halt-trade-talks-with-u-k-1.6114962>
- <https://www.thestar.com/politics/2022/10/18/irish-republican-party-sinn-fein-asks-canada-to-halt-trade-talks-with-uk.html>

GRÁINNE DREAMS BIG CONT.

School of Irish Studies, and we wanted to stay in touch. The spring Beltane Ball was great. We all got very dressed up for the occasion, and it was a return to campus after the COVID lockdown. We got hooked on the beautiful feeling of coming together, and Irish music does that for people.

2. What is the origin of your interest in Ireland and things Irish?

Lily: Of course, we all have Irish heritage, but beyond that, it is academic, cultural and a strong emotional attachment ...a soul love, if you will, and the fun thing is, we all come at it from different perspectives and disciplines, like Esmé is thinking of doing her MA in archeology in Ireland...

Esmé: I have a special interest in ancient Ireland and also grew up with the Clancy Brothers and the Pogues, and Lily comes at it from studying sean-nós, an actual traditional genre of Irish music.

Darragh: I have a special interest in the role of theatre in the historical political landscape...like how theatre was specifically written as part of the cultural Celtic revival at the turn of the 20th century.

Esmé: Yes, Darragh and Lily are both actors, so, they have a sense of performance and storytelling that is so much a part of Irish culture, and we want to bring that to our performances.

3. What made you decide to form Gráinne?

Lily: Well, when we first played together at the Beltane Ball, we felt we touched on something that felt really right and really good for the three of us. A lot of our inspiration comes from groups like the Clancy Brothers, but we have the idea of taking these songs, that have been typically sung by men, and putting them back into women's bodies and women's voices, where they originally came from...and putting women back into the performance aspect.

Esmé: Yeah, the Clancy Brothers all learned their music from their mothers and Mary, the mother of Tommy Makem, is the one who taught him all his songs. We just have a great chemistry we can share, and show our academic, cultural, and musical love for Ireland. And (laughs) our love for beautiful gowns, and it all works out for us.

Darragh: We are really serious academics and history nerds, but I will confess that a fair amount of our group chat will be about what we are going to wear (laughs) for a performance. We are trying to produce world class performances though. We want to be versatile. We want to make sense in pubs and festivals as well as at formal events. We give a real performance, and are not just ambient background music.

4. You do a wide range of traditional music including songs in Irish and Scots Gaelic. How do you decide on your material?

We are dreaming big!

Lily: Because we come at it from different perspectives, we take turns picking songs. Our repertoire is very much a reflection of our coming together. As I really love the Irish language and the sean-nós tradition, I like to add Irish language songs because they often get left out in North American Irish diaspora venues, and I think that is unfortunate. There are Irish and Scots Gaelic speakers in this country, and it is a linguistic heritage that should be brought back into all these spaces.

5. What are your goals/vision for the near future?

Esmé: We have some performances during the Christmas season, and we would like to record an album and write some of our own songs as well as record a video. Hopefully, next summer we can go around and tour in Ireland.

Darragh: I have storytelling schemes. Since Lily and I have this shared enjoyment of Irish history through theatre, I would like to write a narrative of Irish history that we could share with people in a 90-minute performance that is storytelling, that has traditional music in it. I think my contribution to the group will be a dramatic arc and storytelling. We want to make Irish history as gripping and fascinating for others as it is for us. It would put storytelling on equal footing with the music.

I would also love us to tour in the Irish bars in Toronto where I have a lot of family. The Maritimes is such a great scene for that as well. We feel there is a great opportunity for us to inject some new perspectives into the cultural scene of the Irish diaspora in Canada, which has burgeoned into Canadiana, but in a settler context. We want our music to present an anti-colonial perspective at home as well as elsewhere.

Lily: One of the beautiful things about Irish music is that the Irish diaspora is so widespread that you can find an audience anywhere you go. So, it is a great opportunity to see the world through a very specific lens.

6. How can people find what you are doing and about upcoming performances?

Well, we have an Instagram [@grainnemtl](https://www.instagram.com/grainnemtl) and an email for bookings: grainnemtl@gmail.com

We also have a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086395315638&mibextid=LQQJ4d>

We will also be doing a benefit for the Ukrainian people in February at the Centaur Theatre, so stay tuned!

THE ST. COLUMBAN PROJECT: A PRESERVATION OF HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

BY LAURIE MCKEOWN (ARTICLE & PHOTOS)

In 1825 James Skelly of County Westmeath was offered a land grant in the Seigneurie of Lake of Two Mountains from Father Jackson of the Sulpician Order of Montreal. Like many of his fellow countrymen, Skelly and his family suffered from severe poverty and poor farming conditions in Ireland. Deciding not to make the journey to Canada, Skelly's three sons accepted the land grant for a better life in Canada. Their arduous journey across the ocean brought them to the little village of St Columban, Quebec, just forty miles north-west of Montreal which was settled earlier in 1820 by fellow Irish families. These early Irish settlers were predominantly Catholic and in 1835 a chapel was built and later that year the Parish of St. Columban was established by the religious authorities in Montreal.

The community grew over the next seventy years and remained predominantly Irish Catholic up until the early 1900s. As the parish grew to over 250 families, the amount of farm land became scarce for the next generation of farmers resulting in families relocating to the more urban areas for employment, mainly the City of Montreal.



The neglected headstone of Michael Skelly and his wife Elizabeth Carey.

In 2005, the descendants of this forgotten Irish settlement were dismayed to find the original cemetery in disrepair. Due to general neglect and lack of interest over time, most of the head stones were either broken or vandalized, with some found thrown into the brush behind the church. One such headstone belongs to Michael Skelly, one of the three brothers who lived his life in St. Columban until his death in 1881. In 2010 the St. Columban Cemetery Restoration Project was established to incorporate the broken and discarded head stones into a memorial wall. This was the starting point for the restoration of the old Irish cemetery. The challenge was how to go about this endeavour? With no set rules or formal regulations regarding cemetery repair, or obtaining church and community records, it was felt that there was a

need for a standard in restoring and documenting old historic cemeteries. This vision was recognized by the Canadian Irish Migration Preservation Network (CIMPN). The CIMPN is a not-for-profit Irish historical collaborative association dedicated to the preservation, conservation and promotion of Irish heritage within the Irish diaspora. One of the main objectives of the CIMPN is the preservation and protection of Canadian Irish burial grounds. These are our living history books, our primary sources of the lives of individuals, of families and communities from the past.



Kelley O'Rourke of CIMPN
cleaning a headstone

The CIMPN has taken over the restoration project at the old St. Columban cemetery and the current funding from the "Belonging and Identity" grant awarded by QAHN and the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise, will allow the CIMPN to clean and repair existing headstones and to chronicle and preserve the names and narratives of those buried there. One key aspect of the project

will be to locate the earliest graves. Due to many of the oldest headstones being removed, and the lack of church records, many of the graves are not marked. With the technology of Ground Penetrating Radar, along with local documentation, the hope is to locate unmarked graves. Through research, the CIMPN can then create an interactive map of the cemetery, and create a genealogical profile of the early Irish families.

The CIMPN hopes that this project will become the model for the restoration and documentation of other Irish cemeteries throughout Quebec and Canada. The final vision for the St. Columban Cemetery Project would be the official designation of the cemetery, the church and the associated buildings as an Irish Memorial National Historic site. Our past is an inheritance, a past that is bequeathed to us, and we feel that we are obligated to protect and preserve it for our future generations.

Source: Keyes, F., 'The Irish, Montreal and St. Columban', *Montreal Mosaic WebMagazine*: <http://montrealmosaic.com/reflection/irish-montreal-and-st-columban>

2022 ANNUAL SPS LECTURE: MEMORY AND THE IRISH CIVIL WAR

BY KEVIN CALLAHAN

In a welcome sign of post-lockdown reality, the School of Irish Studies at Concordia University was able to host Saint Patrick's Society of Montreal's Annual Lecture in-person on October 21st. As 2022 marks the beginning of the centenary of the Irish Civil War, the guest speaker was the School's own Professor Gavin Foster. Professor Foster is author of *The Irish Civil War and Society: Politics, Class, and Conflict*, for which he was awarded the American Conference for Irish Studies 2015 James S. Donnelly, Sr. Prize for Books on History and Social Sciences. He is an expert on the Irish Civil War and focuses on the conflicting memories of that bitter time in Irish history and how they shaped the new Irish state.

History is purportedly a record of events that occurred in the past. In theory, it should be an objective account of what happened. However, how events are remembered and the transfer of these memories to new generations are also history and have a powerful influence on present realities.

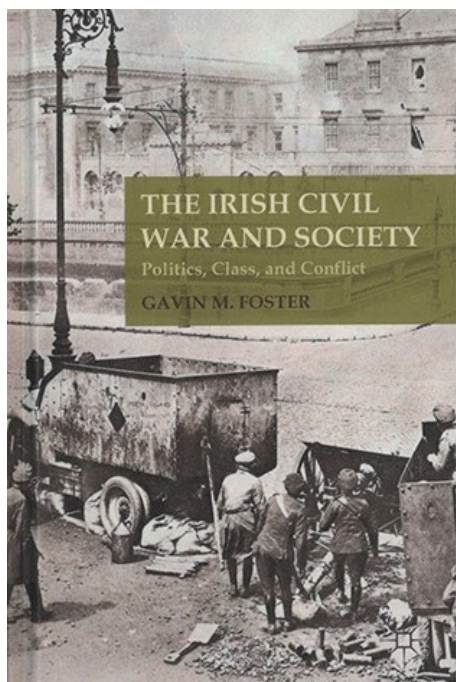
From 1912 to 1922, Ireland went through a turbulent and exciting period that saw the creation of non-state paramilitary organisations (the Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army), a major labour dispute in Dublin, World War 1, the 1916 Rising, the stunning electoral victory of Sinn Féin in 1918 and the guerrilla war conducted by the Irish Republican Army against the British presence in Ireland. These might be seen as glorious years by the Irish people in terms of solidarity and shared vision. However, peace negotiations begun in 1921 led to the Treaty which in the words of Professor Foster: *"was quite controversial for Irish revolutionaries. The Irish independence movement was rhetorically committed to an Irish Republic — that is, a fully sovereign, independent country that would have covered the whole island. But what they got was less than a republic and less than the whole island. That ignited a split and*

the civil war." ... "The Irish Civil War was thus both the end of the revolution and the beginning of the modern Irish state — a complex moment that connects these two periods."

Thus, the shared narrative of a glorious struggle to end 800 years of British occupation split into contrasting narratives of those who supported the Treaty and those who opposed it. This was compounded by the bitterness of the Civil War where families were torn apart, and former comrades turned on each other. There were many assassinations, and the new Irish Free State government adopted a ruthless policy of repression. Following the IRA shooting of Sean Hales, a member of the Free State army and the Dáil, the Provisional Government selected four leading Republicans, who had been in prison for several months, and executed them without trial. In perhaps the most notorious atrocity, nine Republican prisoners who had previously been tortured, bones broken with hammers, were taken to a crossroads, and tied to a landmine which was detonated and then survivors were machine gunned.

The lingering bitterness of the Civil War was intensified by the fact that many on the opposing sides had been comrades-in-arms in the struggle against the British. For the next century, the politics of the Irish state would be determined by the two opposing parties emerging from the Civil War, Fine Gael (pro-Treaty) and Fianna Fáil (anti-Treaty) and each maintained and promoted its own memory of what had happened. Professor Foster's lecture showed how the same events and figures came to be remembered and commemorated differently by the two parties. Especially interesting was the attitude towards the legendary figure of Michael Collins who signed the Treaty but still retained a certain grudging respect from Republicans for his leadership during the War of Independence. The flow of memory became even more disputed as Fianna Fáil contested with Sinn Féin for the mantle of the true heirs to the Republican legacy. Thus, there might be three different parades and commemorations honouring a figure like Wolfe Tone, a leader of the 1798 Rebellion and ideological founder of Irish Republicanism - one for Fianna Fáil, one for Fine Gael, and one for Sinn Féin.

Foster also discussed that while the War of Independence was the subject of song and story, there was a social silence about the Civil War. The scars and divisions ran deep, so it was not something that was publicly discussed though stories were passed on within families. The passing of the Civil War generation and a renewed historical interest in the period demonstrates how historical memory can also change with time, context, informed debate, and political expediency. Ironically, the two



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



[Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin](#) — professor of anthropology, ethnomusicology and cultural history — was appointed to a three-year term as principal of the School of Irish Studies by Pascale Sicotte, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, Concordia University. He is replacing Michael Kenneally, who is currently on sabbatical and will retire at the end of 2022.

Ó hAllmhuráin's "Lost Children of the Carricks", a documentary film he wrote and directed, which follows the traumatic story of an Irish shipwreck off Quebec's Gaspé coast during the Great Famine, was screened in April at Ethnografilm Paris and the Irish Film Festival Ottawa, and in June a director's screening was presented at an Irish Studies conference at Université de la Sorbonne in Paris.

The School of Irish Studies welcomed [Keelan Harkin](#) as its permanent specialist in Irish literary studies in August 2022. A native of London, Ontario, Harkin received degrees from the University of Western Ontario and McMaster University prior to completing a PhD at McGill University. Harkin taught at Concordia on a temporary basis for three years before spending a year at Trinity College Dublin on a postdoctoral fellowship.

Harkin's area of expertise is modern and contemporary fiction, with a special interest in such writers as James Joyce, Flann O'Brien, Elizabeth Bowen, Seán O'Faoláin, Kate O'Brien, Dorothy Macardle, Colm Tóibín, Anne Enright and Emma Donoghue.

Harkin's book-length study, *Imagined Constitutions: Citizenship and the Irish Novel*, will be published by Cork University Press next year. In the current academic year, Harkin is teaching *Highlights of Irish Literature*, *The Irish Short Story* and *The Irish Literary Revival*.

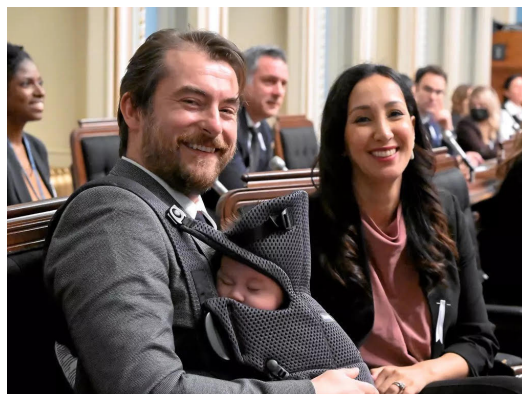


THE 3 GKs BY GEOFFREY KELLEY

Our family celebrated a very special moment on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, as our son [Gregory](#), his wife, [Marwah Rizqy](#), and their son Gabriel made an appearance in the National Assembly in Quebec City. This moment capped an extremely busy autumn in our family. Both Greg and Marwah spent the month of September campaigning for reelection to the Assembly. On October 3, they were successful in the riding of Jacques-Cartier (Greg) and Saint-Laurent (Marwah). Although the overall results were a disappointment for their Liberal party, they were pleased with the strong support they received from their ridings.

Then seventeen days later, we received the news that we had a new grandson, [Gabriel](#), born at Sainte-Justine Hospital. We were relieved that "Baby Gabe" waited until after the election before showing up. His timing was perfect: the Assembly was not sitting until the end of November, so the new parents could focus on their baby and discover the world of sleep deprivation that all new parents experience. And the joy of being parents, of course!

But the work of the Assembly continues, so Greg and Marwah thought it was important to touch base with their colleagues, accept their new responsibilities on the parliamentary committees, and check



out their new offices.

On Tuesday, during Question Period, Greg stood up to ask the government to increase support for our food banks across the province. Given the alarming rise in food costs, more and more people are relying on our food banks to feed their families. What was unusual was the fact that Greg had his son snuggled in a baby carrier that he was wearing. Gabriel listened quietly as his dad pushed for more support for people in need in our society.

So, the family tradition continues, as now three generations of Kelleys have "participated" in debates in Quebec City. Coincidentally, all have the initials "GK", so GK 1 (me, [Geoff](#)) could proudly watch GK 2 (Greg) do his work, accompanied by GK 3 (Gabriel).

We will have seven grandchildren with us at Christmas (I get in trouble if I neglect anyone!). So, we will have lots to celebrate. But we are also aware that Christmas can be a difficult time for many, and we encourage you to support our community groups that provide help and shelter all year round, and to be thankful that we have essential workers keeping our hospitals and other public services going three hundred and sixty-five (365) days of the year.

IRISH STUDIES WINTER 2023 COURSES

The following lists the Irish Studies Winter 2023 courses:

- The Irish in Montreal
- ‘What’s That Tune?’ A Music Appreciation Course in Irish Traditional Music
- Contemporary Irish Theatre
- Irish Traditional Music in Canada: A Cultural History
- The Irish in Latin America
- Indigenous Language and National Literature in Ireland
- The Irish Literary Revival
- Irish Women in Quebec
- The Irish Short Story
- Intercultural Ireland: Film, Theatre and TV
- Early Ireland (10,000 BCE to 1014)
- Rebellions in Ireland and the Canadas



Source: [School of Irish Studies](#)

More detailed information on these courses is available here:

<https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/irish-studies/programs/undergraduate/courses.html>

Please contact the [School of Irish Studies](#) for more information or to find out about registering: <https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/irish-studies/contact.html>.

2022 ANNUAL SPS LECTURE CONT.

bitter antagonists for almost a century, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, are now in coalition to form a government excluding Sinn Féin, which is the largest party in the Dáil.

The theme of Professor Foster’s stimulating talk is also the focus of a book he is currently working on that examines the memory of the revolution’s bitter ending through oral history interviews.

A lively question and answer period followed the presentation. At the end of the evening, SPS president, Ken Quinn presented Professor Foster with a bottle of Irish whisky on behalf of the Society. It was clear to all that after two years of lockdown and on-line events, people were very happy to meet in person again to share an interest in all things Irish and carry on the great tradition of the SPS Annual Lecture.

IRISH CRYSTAL

POEM AND PHOTOS: MAUREEN FITZGERALD



Maureen is a recently retired nursing-teacher, and a proud graduate of Saint Mary's Hospital School of Nursing here in Montréal. She has always had an interest in writing, focusing on poetry and short-story fiction. She has also done some copy-editing, including academic thesis texts for post-graduate university students and a recently published book, entitled "[With Hand and Heart - Memories of Student Nursing Days](#)" which "Saint Patrick's Society so generously supported financially".

She is presently taking a course at the Thomas More Institute, entitled "[Writer's Room: An Introduction to Creative Writing Workshops](#)". Maureen intends to continue with this "very personally fulfilling art form".

I look at me...
And I see misty mornings
On a rocky outcrop painted in gorse...
The sky is down.

I look at me...
And I smell the acrid smoke of turf fires
In stone hearths big as doorways...
The damp is ossified.

I look at me...
And I hear the keening of the wind
That blows the rain over field and stone...
The land is emerald.

I look at me...
And I touch the picture
That sits on the wall by the settle
The Sacred Heart is glowing.

I look at me...
And I carry centuries of hatred
For kings and Anglo-Saxons...
Their banners orange and green.

I look at me...
And I feel famine hunger,
And seasick from the banishment
To America.

I look at me...
And now I am a crystal,
A multi-sided prism reflecting light...
Distinctly me.

I look at me...
Daughter, lover, godmother, friend, cousin,
Nurse, teacher, sister, poet...
Trying kindness on.

I look at me...
And spin my crystal self, searching
For the sun to actify my soul...
For I must shine.

I look at me...
And I know that crystals shatter
Into a million shards of mineral...
Into a million rays of light.

CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2023 EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Jan 17, 2023 Jan 27, 2023	SPS AGM, McEntee Reading Room, School of Irish Studies, Concordia, 6 PM <i>Róise & Frank</i> , Ciné Gael, De Sève, Concordia, 7:15 PM	office@spsmtl.com https://www.cinegaeltmontreal.com/
Feb 4, 2023 Feb 4, 2023 Feb 10, 2023 Feb 24, 2023	UIS 2023 Queen Selection Evening, EVO, Robert Bourassa Blvd, 7 PM Festival Bloomsday, Joyce's Birthday celebration. Details will follow <i>The 34th</i> and <i>When Women Won</i> , Ciné Gael, De Sève, Concordia, 7:15 PM TBC, Ciné Gael, De Sève, Concordia, 7:15 PM	cmurphy2_3@msn.com https://www.cinegaeltmontreal.com/ https://www.cinegaeltmontreal.com/
Mar 3, 2023 Mar 10, 2023 Mar 17, 2023 Mar 19, 2023 Mar 31, 2023	SPS Annual Charity Ball, Chateau Champlain, 6:30 PM for 8:00 PM dinner TBC, Ciné Gael, De Sève, Concordia, 7:15 PM SPS Annual Luncheon. Details to follow. The 198 th Montreal St. Patrick's Parade at 12 noon <i>Making the Grade</i> , Ciné Gael, De Sève, Concordia, 7:15 PM	office@spsmtl.com https://www.cinegaeltmontreal.com/ office@spsmtl.com director@montrealirishparade.com https://www.cinegaeltmontreal.com/
Apr 14, 2023 Apr 28, 2023	Irish Short Films, Ciné Gael, De Sève, Concordia, 7:15 PM <i>Arracht</i> , Ciné Gael, De Sève, Concordia, 7:15 PM	https://www.cinegaeltmontreal.com/ https://www.cinegaeltmontreal.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	publicrelations@montrealirishparade.com https://www.cinegaeltmontreal.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 Spring edition is **February 15, 2022**. We look forward to hearing from you.