



Bob Rae announced as Guest Speaker at the St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

By Anne Forrest

On Wednesday, March 17th, members of Montreal's extended Irish community enjoying lunch at the Hotel Bonaventure will have the privilege of listening to one of Canada's foremost politicians. The guest speaker at the ever-popular SPS event will be none other than Bob Rae, MP for Toronto Centre and the Liberal opposition's foreign affairs critic.

Born in Ottawa on August 2nd, 1948, Bob grew up with three siblings – brothers John and David, and sister Jennifer. John, a high-profile member of the Liberal party, was a former advisor to Jean Chrétien from 1993 to 2003 and is presently a vice-president of Power Corporation here in Montreal. Sadly, Bob's younger brother, David, died in 1989 of leukemia despite having received a bone marrow transplant from his brother. Older sister Jennifer, who dated Pierre Trudeau in the late '60s, worked for the IMAX Corporation for many years until her retirement.

Bob was exposed to other cultures at a very early age. His father, Saul Rae, who boasted Jewish and Scottish roots, was a career diplomat whose postings took him and the family to Washington, Geneva, New York, Mexico and The Hague. It was when delivering newspapers after school in Washington, that Bob developed sympathies for the Democrats. The story goes that both Richard Nixon and Estes Kefauver (Democratic member of the House of

Representatives) were among his customers. It seems that one Christmas, Kefauver gave Bob a \$20.00 tip in contrast to the 25 cents that Pat Nixon shelled out! The die was cast.

His educational and other credits are numerous. Bob has a BA and an LLB from the University of Toronto (where he and Michael Ignatieff

once were roommates), was a Rhodes Scholar in 1969, and obtained a BPhil degree from Oxford University in 1971. He was named a Queen's Counsel in 1984. In addition to receiving numerous honorary degrees and awards from Canadian and foreign universities, colleges, and organizations, he was appointed to Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada in 1998, chosen as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2000, and was selected as an Officer of the Order of Ontario in 2004.

During his stay in Britain, he became involved with social work, helping squatters find rental accommodation in London. Bob maintains that it was this experience that developed in him a commitment to social justice and led him to join the NDP when he returned to Canada in 1974.

Throughout his political career, he has put the interests of people first, and he carries that guiding principle with him today. When

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Bob Rae, MP Toronto Centre

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NUACHT

A word from the President

All over the world they say that March belongs to the Irish. While this may be true (and it is!), it is evident that here in Montreal “the Season” extends over a much longer period than a mere calendar month. At the time of writing we are just one week into February and already I’ve had the pleasure and privilege of representing the Society at three events.

First up was a very informative “summit” meeting of Montreal Irish societies and organizations hosted by Dr. Michael Kenneally at the School of Canadian Irish Studies. Then it was on to the ICCC Irish Community quiz in Hurley’s Pub where I witnessed a fine win by the SPS team. I say “witnessed” as I had been rather unceremoniously transferred to another team just before the competition started, the win of course proving that the SPS captain did indeed know what she was doing. On February 5th, I had the pleasure of joining the Erin Sports Association for the sashing of “2010 Irishman of the Year” Walter “Wally” Gregory. Walter’s tireless community work is well recognised throughout Verdun and the Society salutes his nomination.

So, with just one week down and a veritable smorgasbord of events to come, including the return of the St. Patrick’s Parade to Québec City on March 20th, “the Season” is indeed a title well earned.

Before looking ahead to our own upcoming events, I would like to thank everyone who joined us for the 17th Annual SPS Christmas Concert where we were truly spoiled with superb performances from Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal, the Bernadette Short Irish Dancers, and Concerto Della Donna and Carol McCormick who both produced and directed the entire evening. The December 2nd Concert marked the end of our 175th

Anniversary celebrations and I am delighted to report that we were able to raise over \$11,000 for the charitable, cultural and educational endeavours of the Society. I also thank all those who braved the elements to attend our Christmas Reception at the Montreal West Curling Club, courtesy of Paul Doyle, on December 9th. Despite the snowstorm we collected \$170 and six large boxes of toys and food which were donated to St. Gabriel’s Parish.

On March 12th, the Society welcomes Bernadette Short as Guest of Honour at this year’s Annual Charity Ball. For many years now, Bernadette’s dancers have mesmerised all who have attended the Ball. I can barely wait to see this year’s display! With Jean Marc Généreux as Chair of this year’s Patrons’ Fund, Christie Brown and her Ball Committee promise us a true “extrava-danza.” Five days later we are delighted to receive the Hon. Bob Rae, MP for Toronto Centre, as our guest speaker at the St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon. With our own Tom Mulcair, MP for Outremont, delivering the response to the speaker, it promises to be a lively affair. Andrea Bobkovicz and her committee will brook no prorogation on this event! And of course on the Sunday in between, John Mulholland and Frank McMahon will attempt to impose some semblance of order on our marching contingent in Montreal’s St. Patrick’s Parade. It is through events such as these that we raise funds in support of ground-level organizations throughout the community while celebrating our unique heritage. Please join us.

While we celebrate, and we should, I ask you to spare a thought for the current plight of the people of Haiti, an island nation, a poor but proud nation with a diaspora scattered around the world. It has a familiar ring to it, does it not? It is estimated that some \$10 billion will be needed to rebuild Haiti over the next 10 years. While Governments and Corporations pledge millions in donations and aid, we should not overlook the importance of the individual donor. In fact, of the total amount donated after the 2004 tsunami, over 40% came from individual donors. Please consider making a donation; it could have a bigger impact than you may think. You may donate through the Society website or by sending a cheque to the office indicating that the donation is for Haiti Relief. You will receive an income tax receipt for the donated amount. SPS will then forward the collected funds to the Red Cross of Canada.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming weeks.
A Happy St. Patrick’s Day to you all.
Alistair O’Hara



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Deadline for submissions for next issue: May 1, 2010

SPS lauds Ambassador Declan Kelly

The members of the St. Patrick’s Society, meeting in Montreal on Wednesday, 10th February 2010, adopted a resolution that:
His Excellency, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada, Declan Kelly is an extraordinary Ambassador who has embraced the Irish Canadian Diaspora as few other Ambassadors have before him. From coast to coast, he continues to be an extremely visible and productive force in support of the Ireland-Canada relationship.

The Society congratulates Ambassador Kelly, who has been chosen as the 2010 Irish Person of the Year by the Toronto Irish Community. He is a most deserving recipient of this award.



Great music at the SPS Annual Christmas Concert

By Carol McCormick

December 2, 2009, marked the 17th Annual Christmas Concert held at St. Patrick's Basilica and the finale of the Society's 175th Anniversary.

Due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, the Concert Committee had only six weeks to put the wheels in motion. However, with the collaboration of members, directors and especially the unwavering support of Erin Matheson, SPS Office Manager, the concert evening ended on a high note!

Although attendance was down from that of previous years, the sale of Patron Tickets (\$100.00 for two or \$150.00 for four) increased to 124. Patron ticket holders benefit from being assigned reserved seats, being ushered into them by directors of the Society, and receiving an income tax receipt. In addition to getting generous donations from such sponsors as the Montreal Alouettes, Ye Olde Orchard Pub and Power Corporation of Canada, the concert generated over \$11,000.

The evening began with an opening address of welcome from SPS president, Alistair O'Hara. Many in the audience were first time spectators to the Christmas Concert and claimed to have enjoyed the concert so much they vowed to return next year.

Both invited choirs: Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal and Concerto Della Donna delivered high quality performances with their classical Christmas repertoire.

Les Petits Chanteurs, under the direction of Scott Gabriel, gave a lovely performance, even though they numbered only 30 as opposed to their usual 120 voices. This may have accounted at times, however, for their lack of confidence.

Concerto Della Donna with Maestro Iwan Edwards – recipient of the Order of Canada and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal during his illustrious career – began the second half of the show by singing as they came down the main aisle of the Basilica. The audience thoroughly enjoyed seeing and hearing these angelic voices so close to them.



Photo: John Gilroy

Celtic Grace display their usual fine form

The St. Patrick's Society Christmas Concert would never be quite the same without the enchanting performances given by the Bernadette Short Irish Dancers. The choreography and costumes awe the audience year after year.

The traditional closing Sing-a-long of songs such as "Joy to the World", "Il est né, le divin enfant" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" always seems to be a favourite segment of the program because, for many, singing the songs they know begins their Christmas season.

We are so fortunate to have a Society like St. Patrick's to organize once a year for the benefit of the community, an evening presenting to an audience such wonderful and talented Montrealers in a venue so beautiful and inspiring as that of the St. Patrick's Basilica.

Let us hope that we can continue this tradition for many more years to come. I am sure one of the challenges that the Society hopes to achieve is to fill the Basilica to capacity with 2000 attendees. With everyone's support, it can be done!



The party went on ... despite the snowstorm!

By Anne Forrest



Photo: John Gilroy

Julie Dunn and Caitlin O'Hara

Montreal's first snowstorm of the season on December 9th did not deter the SPS faithful who made it to the Montreal West Curling Club for yet another warm and friendly Christmas reception. A good time was had by all, thanks to the delicious food provided by *Gourmet à votre service* and the cheerful music of Siamsa. Raffle tickets were sold for St. Gabriel's Christmas Basket Fund and raised \$170.00. The Society also sent over at least six huge boxes of food and toys that members brought to the party. A big thank you to all who braved the elements. See you next year!



Photo: John Gilroy

John McDonough: a merry fiddler



Two Society events that you should not miss

By Erin Matheson

The 2010 St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Ball will take place on Friday, March 12th, 2010 at the Marriott Chateau Champlain. As one of the oldest events on the Montreal social calendar, the Ball promises to be the perfect beginning to the St. Patrick's season – a night of fine food, exceptional entertainment, and invigorating Irish hospitality.

We are pleased to confirm that Bernadette Short has accepted our invitation to be our Guest of Honour. The Society looks forward to honouring her many achievements not only as a successful Irish dance instructor, but as someone who has helped keep the Irish culture alive here in Montreal and throughout Quebec by tirelessly promoting and fostering Irish dance, music and song.

Another time-honoured tradition of the Ball is the Patrons' Fund. This year, Jean-Marc Généreux, of *So You Think You Can Dance Canada* will be acting as Patron. We are happy to announce that the revenues of this year's Ball Patrons' Fund will go towards the Centre for the Arts in Human Development at Concordia University and the Rett Syndrome Association, two charities that we hold in high regard. We also have many wonderful silent auction items to bid on as well as great door prizes.

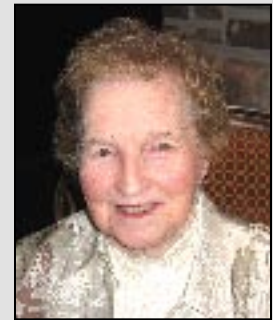
For more information, ticket purchases and Ball Patrons' Fund donations, please visit our website at www.spsmtl.com.

We look forward to welcoming you on March 12th!

The Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon, will be held at the Hilton Montreal Bonaventure Hotel on Wednesday, March 17th, 2010. We welcome our guest speaker, the Honourable Bob Rae, MP for Toronto Centre. The Annual Luncheon is the cornerstone of our fundraising efforts for charitable, cultural and educational purposes. This event is attended by over five hundred business leaders and representatives from the Montreal community. There will be the customary cash bar from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and the lunch begins at 12:15 p.m. Individual prices have remained the same at \$65 for members and \$75 for non-members. Corporate tables are limited, at a cost of \$1100, and offer you preferential seating, wine, two VIP passes to the reception prior to the Luncheon and recognition in the menu and in *NUA CHT*. Please visit our website at www.spsmtl.com to order your tickets and/or make a donation to the Patrons' Fund.

SPS Community Award recipient

We are honoured to announce that **Margaret Healy** is the recipient of the St. Patrick's Society Community Award for 2010. Margaret will be profiled in our May issue of *NUA CHT*.



TV personality to be Patrons' Chair at Ball

By Anne Forrest



Jean-Marc Généreux

This year's Patron is well known to Canadians everywhere as a permanent judge on *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*. He has also attended many Society balls.

Jean-Marc Généreux began dancing at the age of 10 with his partner, and now wife, France Mousseau, and within six years the pair had won every regional and state championship. They began dancing the international style of ballroom dance in the early 1980s, turned professional in 1987 and won multiple competitions and participated in 10 World Championships as the first representatives for Canada before retiring in 1998.

Jean-Marc and France have danced in every major city around the world from Asia and Australia to Europe and America. In 12 years they won over 200 competitions. They still travel all over the world to judge and choreograph for elite competitors.

The pair has been featured as dancers on the PBS series *Championship Ballroom Dancing*. Jean-Marc also performed in the motion picture *Dance With Me*, featuring Vanessa L. Williams and Chayanne, and the motion picture *Shall We Dance*, with Jennifer Lopez and Richard Gere. In 2006, he joined the cast of the American version of *So You Think You Can Dance* as a choreographer; he also choreographs *The Rachel Ray Show*.

Most recently Jean-Marc was the lead choreographer for the motion picture *Funkytown* starring dancer Romina D'Ugo (a dancer in the first season of *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*). He has become well loved by audiences as the judge who speaks from the heart and isn't afraid to show his emotion, but Season 2 dancers will have to work hard to earn a spot on his VID (very important dancer) list.

Jean-Marc and France have two children – Jean-Francis (b.1996) and Francesca (b.1999). Because Francesca suffers from Rett Syndrome, her parents are trying to make others aware of this rare neurological condition and are raising money for research.

St. Patrick's Society is proud to welcome Jean-Marc as the Patron's Chair in 2010.



Guest of Honour is a cultural ambassador

By Kathleen Dunn

When Bernadette Short came to Canada with her new husband Patrick in 1973, they planned to stay for two years. Thirty seven years later, they are still here and showing no signs of returning to Ireland. Bernadette never dreamed then, nor when she took her first Irish dancing steps at the age of 7, that she would one day be at the helm of her own school in a thriving cultural milieu so far from her Dublin home nor, for that matter, that she would be guest of honour at the annual St. Patrick's Ball in 2010.

Bernadette was raised in a family of four who nurtured her love of Irish music, song, poetry and language and encouraged her growing interest in dance. By the time she came to Canada, she knew every Irish song in the book and was comfortable enough with her Irish culture to feel she could share it with others. Her culture has been her passport to many friendships as well as to creating a niche for herself in her adopted home. In fact, the name Bernadette Short has become synonymous with Irish dancing in Quebec.

There is never a problem attracting students to Bernadette's classes in Notre Dame de Grace, Beaconsfield, Chateaugay and Shannon. She started with 11 students in 1976 and can have upwards of 300 now in any given year. It's all word-of-mouth. The Riverdance phenomenon has helped too, of course. Plus she is called upon regularly to give workshops for folklore groups throughout the province, who want to include Irish dancing in their repertoire. Centaur Theatre has sought her advice when staging an Irish play that might include a jig or reel. She also makes time to bring Irish dancing to an after-school programme at St. Gabriel's school in Pointe St. Charles.

Although Irish dancing is a traditional art form, it, like figure skating, is always open to new choreographies, new ways of executing steps, and new costume designs. Because of her work as an adjudicator at local, regional and international competitions all over North America and in Ireland, Bernadette keeps abreast of the changing trends and makes sure her students can stand proud among the best. In fact, she encourages children to compete in order to help them strive for higher standards of excellence. Each child, however, is left to find his or her own level of competition. Some compete to win and have been finalists at the World Championships. Others compete to improve while having fun, travelling and meeting new friends. Still others prefer team dances to solo events. "When you have a passion for teaching," Bernadette says, "it's such a thrill to get children to achieve their potential, whether it's simple steps or championship titles."

As early as 1979 Bernadette and Pat and a group of parents who had been taking their children to competitions in Ontario and the U.S. decided it was time to have an annual feis (that's Irish for festival and pronounced "fesh") in Montreal. The first feis was held in a hockey arena with about 140 dancers from Quebec and Ontario. But Bernadette always had a dream that the Montreal feis would become a true Irish festival incorporating song, dance, traditional instruments, language workshops, sports and entertainment. That dream came true in 1992 when the feis was held in the Old Port as part of the City's 350th anniversary celebrations. Since then,

the feis has been held at John Abbott College and attracts close to 900 competitors.

Always eager to showcase the similarities between traditional Irish and Quebecois music, Bernadette and Pat invited Les Pieds Légers de Laval and

a group of Québécois musicians to join forces with her own dancers for what must be billed as the pièce de résistance of Bernadette's career. Together they created the musical dance drama *From Galway to Grosse-Ile* to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Irish famine that brought so many immigrants to Quebec. The show was a major move out of church basements onto main stages at Salle Pierre-Mercure and the Monument National in Montreal, Salle Dina-Bélanger in Quebec City, Centrepoint Theatre in Ottawa, and the Laval Cultural Centre in Laval. Audiences loved it and Bernadette's dancers gained stage presence, drama, confidence and team spirit to add to their already skilled solo expertise. "This is what I had been dreaming of for years," Bernadette says. "I would love to do it again."

Bernadette has always encouraged her senior dancers to help her with the little ones. Some have gone on to become teachers themselves and have opened their own schools in Montreal, Ottawa, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and even in Belfast. One big change, however, is the opportunity for champion dancers to join one of the many professional touring shows and some of Bernadette's dancers have done just that for a while to gain invaluable experience. Her own Celtic Grace Dancers perform regularly at St. Patrick's Ball and other Irish events, dance festivals and a wide variety of corporate shows. Younger dancers aspiring to join this elite troupe, meanwhile, bring joy to nursing homes, hospitals, and countless community events.

For Bernadette, Irish dancing is a family affair. Pat is the detail man who keeps her organized. Their son Edward doesn't dance himself, but is always willing to lend a helping hand, especially at the feis. Their daughter Marie has become a certified teacher as well as mother's helper in running the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing.

Being guest of honour at the Ball is yet another feather in Bernadette's cap. She was recognized by her peers in the Irish Dance Teachers' Association of Canada in 1994, she received the Community Award of St. Patrick's Society in 1996, and the Simon McDonagh Award of the United Irish Societies in 2001. In 1999, *From Galway to Grosse-Ile* was awarded the Hélène Baillargeon Grand Prize for Interpretation by the Société du patrimoine d'expression du Québec.



Bernadette Short

Photo: Patrick Short



Patrick O'Hara

Historian to St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

Historien à la Société St-Patrick de Montréal

By Gus Ó Gormáin

Long-time historian to St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, Patrick O'Hara passed away on December 16th, 2009, after a brave battle with cancer.

Patrick's appointment as society historian followed his outstanding work for the Society during the Montreal 350th anniversary celebrations in 1992, when he compiled and organized a multiple-panel historic exhibit showing the Irish contribution to Montreal and Quebec over the centuries. This exhibit was also featured in the recent McCord Museum presentation celebrating 175 years of St. Patrick's Society.

In the mid-nineties Patrick assumed a more public role with the Society as luncheon chairman. With his enthusiastic diligence, the attendance doubled to over 700 guests. With his diplomacy and fluency in the two official languages, he was able to give the Society a much needed renewed public profile. This was reflected in the francophone Irish luncheon speakers and head table guests that Patrick warmly welcomed to this central Montreal Irish event on St. Patrick's Day. The excellent attendance which the Society luncheon still attracts can in no small way be traced to Patrick's efforts.

Patrick graduated as an electrical engineer, and in the sixties as Flight Lieutenant O'Hara, he was a pilot with the RCAF and his activities at that time saw him as one of the godfathers of today's Snowbird team. He earned an MBA at University of Western Ontario and joined IBM where he was vice-president of public relations at the time of his retirement. His passion for life saw him travel to Kitzbuhl, Austria, each year to experience the best skiing available. With his house at Mt. Tremblant he involved himself in local municipal affairs during the controversial amalgamation of that area.

Patrick was married to well-known Dublin-born Montreal actor and singer, Kathleen McAuliffe. Society members will remember Patrick O'Hara for his friendship and courtesy to all. We will miss you.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhílis.

Historien de longue date pour la Société St-Patrick de Montréal, Patrick O'Hara est décédé le 16 décembre 2009, après une lutte courageuse contre le cancer.

La nomination de Patrick à titre d'historien l'a suivi durant ses exploits afin de souligner les célébrations du 35^{ème} anniversaire de la Société St-Patrick, où il a compilé et organisé une exposition à multiples panneaux démontrant la contribution irlandaise à Québec et à Montréal au fil des siècles. Cette même exposition a figuré au Musée McCord lors d'une présentation célébrant 175 ans de la Société St-Patrick.

Au milieu des années 90, Patrick a entrepris un rôle plus figurant à titre de directeur pour le déjeuner de la Société. L'audience a doublé à plus de 700 invités dû à la diligence enthousiaste de Patrick. Avec sa diplomatie et sa facilité dans les deux langues officielles, il a su redonner à la Société un nouveau profil bien mérité. Ce fait s'est manifesté chez les orateurs francophones au déjeuner irlandais où les invités à la table d'honneur ont été chaleureusement accueillis à cet événement de la journée de la St-Patrick. L'excellente participation que le déjeuner de la Société attire est grandement due aux efforts de Patrick.

Patrick a gradué comme ingénieur électricien et dans les années soixante à titre de Capitaine, il est devenu pilote avec les FARC et ses activités à ce moment ont su faire de lui un des parrains de

l'équipe de SNOWBIRDS que l'on connaît aujourd'hui. Il a mérité sa MA à l'université de Waterloo en Ontario et s'est joint à IBM où il était vice-président des relations publiques au moment de prendre sa retraite. Sa passion pour la vie lui a permis de voyager à Kitzbuhl en Autriche à tous les ans afin de profiter des meilleures conditions de ski existantes. Etant propriétaire d'une maison au Mt-Tremblant, il s'est impliqué dans les affaires municipales de la région durant la fusion très disputée.

L'épouse de Patrick est Kathleen McAuliffe, comédienne et chanteuse bien connue à Montréal. Les membres de la Société se souviendront de Patrick pour son amitié et courtoisie envers tous. Tu nous manqueras.

Traduction par Lyse Bruneau



Patrick O'Hara



Irishman of the Year and a fine volunteer

By Anne Forrest

Walter “Wally” Gregory, the 2010 Irishman of the Year, is well known to citizens of Verdun. Born in Ste-Agathe des Monts to Anne Bazinet and Samuel Gregory (born in Belfast) and grandson of Ann Quinn, Wally is one of three sons.

His career of 39 years was spent at Canadian Pacific from which he retired as office manager in the Pension Department in 1989. Since that time, he has been secretary-treasurer of the CP Pioneers Association and is co-president of the Canadian Pacific Employees and Pensioners Charity Fund (in 2009, pensioners contributed \$18,786).

Wally is no slouch. During Canada’s centennial year, he was awarded the “1967 Centennial Medal” for service to the nation. In 1998, he was named “Man of the Year in Verdun” (Grand Verdunois), followed 10 years later by being named “Verdun’s Most Exceptional Volunteer.”

A devoted member of St. Thomas More Parish, he has spent the past two decades as treasurer, caretaker and sexton. He has been responsible for preparing Christmas Baskets for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and for the past 54 years has been the producer and MC of the annual St. Patrick’s Show at the church.

Wally is a member of two Boards of Directors in Verdun: Economic Forum (since 1999); and Health and Social Services Centre (since 2004).

In addition to his volunteer activities, Wally still finds time to enjoy sports. Hockey, soccer, football, curling and fastball are happy memories now that he boasts an artificial knee and hip, but he plays golf and goes fishing whenever he gets the chance. He is also a keen coin and stamp collector.

He loves to travel and has organized trips through his Pioneer Association. Two visits to Ireland have taken place. Trip no. 14 will head for France in April.

Married to Rose Alice Ann Moran, he is father to David, Sharon, Mark and Paul, and grandfather to Jennifer, Shauna and Rose.

Wally is very proud to be Irishman of the Year. He started acting in plays as a young student at Holy Family School and marched in his first St. Patrick’s Parade at age 17. He tells me that he will cherish this latest honour for the rest of his life.



Photo: Anne Forrest

Walter “Wally” Gregory

Erin Sports: another great presashing party



Photo: Anne Forrest

Some of the leaders in the Montreal Irish community: Peter Shea, John Gilroy, Ken Quinn, Barry Holdbrook, Walter Gregory, Paul Loftus, Alistair O’Hara and John Little

Erin Sports put on yet another great party on Friday, February 5th at their clubhouse on Hickson in Verdun. The presashing of the Irishman of the Year is an annual event that I always enjoy. This year’s celebration was not a disappointment and Walter “Wally” Gregory was fêted in fine style.

As usual, the evening began with drinks and hors d’œuvres generously provided by the Club during which background music was provided by the ever-talented Terry Clahane and Lisa Forget. After Francis Baddeley opened the proceedings with his rendition of the Irish and Canadian national anthems, the serious business got

under way. Master of Ceremonies, Tim Furlong, introduced Wally Gregory at which point last year’s Irishman of the Year, our own Dr. John Little, placed the sash over Wally’s head.

Wally claimed that he was not one for making long speeches ... and he didn’t. However, he amazed everyone by lip-synching a familiar Irish song that he’d brought along. He could have fooled anyone with this performance.

Following the presashing, we enjoyed the delicious food and were entertained by a medley of Irish songs presented by Lise Forget, Francis Baddeley, Elizabeth Quinn and others.

Congratulations again to Barry Holdbrook, Erin Sports president, who this year was not sporting his chain of office. However, he was wearing a new tuxedo that he’d got at a bargain price when Pat’s Menswear went out of business recently. Notably absent this year, alas, were the Queen and her princesses whose identities had yet to be determined.



United Irish Societies hand out two prestigious awards: the Liam Daly Heritage Award and the Simon McDonaugh Award



Don Pidgeon

Each year, the United Irish Societies present the **Liam Daly Heritage Award** to a deserving candidate. This year's recipient is Don Pidgeon who is renowned throughout the Montreal Irish community for his contribution to promoting Irish culture.

Don Pidgeon is a Griffintown boy who has been involved in the Irish community and heritage from his early youth. He comes from a family that is involved in charitable and humanitarian endeavours.

He has two sisters, Thelma and Rita, as well as a brother, William (Bill), who was honoured in 1996 with the Simon McDonaugh Award – an award that Don himself received in 2004.

Don has been active in the St. Ann's Young Men's Society, United Irish Societies of Montreal Inc., Irish Committee for Grosse Île, Knights of Columbus and St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen.

He successfully negotiated improvements at the Black Stone Monument on Bridge Street, has helped many students write "papers" for their education, assisted writers and has written extensively about local and North American Irish history. He is also involved in bridging the lines of communication and cooperation to the diaspora of the Irish worldwide.

In 2008 one hundred copies of Don's book, *The United Irish Societies of Montreal 1928 to 2008*, were published. The books sold for \$10.00 each and \$1000.00 was donated to the Shriners' Children's Hospital Transportation Fund.

His great love is his family, his wife Nancy, children Jennifer and Jim and granddaughter Romy. The opportunity to serve the needy is of special importance. St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen is where you'll find him most Fridays, serving coffee or meals and helping in the kitchen with a wonderful group of volunteers.

It is most fitting that Don should receive this award for after the passing of Liam Daly, he became involved in the Liam Daly Endowment Fund of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation.

Adrian Bercovici, recipient of this year's **Simon McDonaugh Award**, is an anti-poverty advocate, with broad practical experience. He is a recognized leader in charitable campaign planning and management with proven results while working at Canadian National Railways, the Old Brewery Mission and presently with the Generations Foundation.



Adrian Bercovici

While at Canadian National Railways, he and his wife, Natalie, raised a family while he attended night classes at Sir George Williams High School. In 1962, he was awarded a D.A. Budge Memorial Award for scholastic achievement and he received his Bachelor of Commerce "with distinction" from Sir George Williams University.

Mr. Bercovici's career at Canadian National Railways spanned 38 years where he developed extensive experience in directing administrative and financial functions. Adrian received the Merit Award for organization and achievement and the Maurice Auzat Memorial Award for dedication and exceptional service to the Employees' and Pensioners' Community Fund.

During his tenure as Executive Director at the Old Brewery Mission, he developed a variety of programmes that provided jobs for individuals to increase their self-esteem. The Patricia Mackenzie Pavilion, a women's centre, was built and opened under his watch and Camp Chapleau earned the "Prize of Excellence" from the Quebec Camping Association.

Adrian was awarded an outstanding Canadian Citizenship Award for unselfish service to the community, the Leavitt award from the Rotary Club, and other awards from the Police Department and learning institutions. Generations Foundation was founded in 1999 because Adrian Bercovici and his supporters refused to say no to hungry children. Generations Foundation focuses on feeding needy school children, teenagers and young adults at risk to motivate and empower them. The children are sponsored to summer camp each year and continue to learn and be challenged. Adrian Bercovici and supporters are devoted in their quest to provide support and opportunities for the underprivileged in our community.

You may reach Adrian (Executive Director, Generations Foundation) at www.generationsfoundation.com or by phone (514) 933-8585.



A great night for the Irish!

By Anne Forrest

UIS came through once again. On February 20th they hosted the 55th Queen's Selection Night. Seventeen talented young women presented themselves and gave the judges a difficult time. In between the competition phases, entertainment was provided by familiar

favourites such as Lise and Christine Forget, the Bernadette Short Irish Dancers and the Three Junior Irish Tenors (Matthew and Anthony Licursi and friend Zak). And as usual, Lori Graham was the emcee who kept everything moving along smoothly.

Time and space prevent a more-detailed report, but we promise to provide further details in our next issue of NUACHT.



Photo: Paul Dunne

The 2010 Parade Queen and Princesses. (From l. to r.): Kelsie Murphy-Rusnak, Chelsea Wakeling, Queen Katherine McKendy, Sandra Evangelista and Kelly Taylor

NUACHT

Chief Reviewing Officer

The Chief Reviewing Officer for this year's Parade is James P. Coleman. Born in Montreal, he is the youngest son of the late Maude Burke and James Coleman, both of County Mayo, Ireland.

Jim grew up in St. Anthony's Parish and played hockey and football with considerable success for several clubs. Married 46 years, to Marilyn Edwards, he is the proud father of Chad, Kerri, and Kirk and has five grandchildren.

A recipient of the Governor General's Medal of Exemplary Service in 1987, he served for 28 years as a member of the MUC Police Department. Later, he worked with PJ Impex for a few years.

Jim was five in 1946 when he first marched proudly in the Parade with his father with the Innisfail Social & Sports Club.

Always active in the community Jim has been a member of many organizations, including the Knights of Columbus No. 284, Erin Sports Association, Innisfail Social & Sports Club, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Westmount Police Association, and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 212.

Jim's association with UIS of Montreal is long-standing as he has held the positions of Deputy Marshal, Director of Publicity, and President (1975-76) before being chosen as the Grand Marshal of the 1991 St. Patrick's Parade.



James Coleman

Photo: Anne Forrest

Grand Marshal



James Killin

Photo: Anne Forrest

James Killin, the Grand Marshal for the 186th consecutive St. Patrick's Parade, is associate VP Operations of Mark's Work Warehouse/L'Equipeur, Eastern Canada, a division of Canadian Tire Ltd.

A 35-year career retailer, Jim worked within several major department stores as well as with national retailers in various capacities before joining L'Équipeur.

Jim was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International, was made an Honorary Alumni of the Montreal Alouettes, and in 2009 served as St. Patrick's Society Patrons' Fund Co-Chair. His job has allowed him to meet and support many organizations in and around the Quebec and Atlantic regions, such as Air Canada's "Dreams Take Flight." For many years he has been involved with air shows across Canada, working with the Department of National Defense's Snowbirds and Skyhawks F18 Demo Teams. He is also committed to supporting the men and women of our armed forces as they entertain and spend time with our troops in Afghanistan.

Proud Dad to three daughters Ashley, Leigh-Ann and Stephanie, Jim was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and moved to Montreal in 1967.



PM announces investments in Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada

12 January 2010
Montmagny, Québec

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced investments in Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada to restore and improve the site's surrounding buildings and thus preserve an important chapter in Canadian history.

"This investment is a great tribute to our long-lasting relationship with Ireland," said Prime Minister Harper. "Many Canadian hopefuls lost their lives on this island, but those who survived contributed greatly to the foundation of our great country. By investing in projects to improve our historic sites, our government is fulfilling its duty to educate the public about events that have marked our history."

Grosse Île was a quarantine station for Québec City from 1832 to 1937. It served as the key point of entry for immigrants to Canada until the First World War. The history of the island is particularly

marked by the events of the Great Irish Famine and the emigration of thousands of Irish men, women and children in 1847.

The year 2009 marked the 100th anniversary of the Celtic cross, which was erected on the island in 1909 to commemorate the Irish immigrants who are buried at Grosse Île.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada is making investments to protect and preserve national parks and historic sites across the country.



Update: St. Columban Cemetery Restoration Project

By Fergus V. Keyes

This past summer we managed to complete about 75% of our restoration project of the Old Irish Cemetery in St. Columban (near St. Jerome), including building a very strong foundation and three walls.

However, the rain that was experienced almost every weekend this past summer prevented our volunteer bricklayer from fully completing the project. Therefore the descendants of the original Irish settlers in St. Columban have decided to start another fundraising campaign this March in the hope of raising the approximate \$5,000 needed to hire a full-time paid bricklayer and complete this effort.

Any company or individual that would like to donate to this cause can simply send a cheque to SPS (payable to St. Patrick's Society of Montreal) with a note indicating that it is for the St. Columban project. They also have the option of calling the SPS office if they would like to donate using a credit card. Please note that all or part of the donation is eligible for a tax receipt.

Our definite hope is that this project, started in 2005, will finally be completed this year to coincide with the 175th Anniversary of the founding of the Parish of St. Columban.

Additional details can be found on our site at:
www.stcolumban-irish.com



No lack of Irish pubs in Argentina and Uruguay

By Fergus V. Keyes

Depending on time and budget, I do enjoy travelling to different parts of the world, and have been fortunate to have visited many diversified countries over the years.

My most recent excursion was to Argentina and Uruguay this January. Both countries were great, the people friendly and interesting, and I did manage to see a number of Tango shows – such a fascinating dance movement! But, what I always find most interesting is that in almost every city that I have ever visited, I am likely to find an Irish pub.

And the recent trip was no exception.....

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, I did manage to have a wee Guinness at not one, but two, Irish pubs – The Kilkenny and The Glover.

The other interesting Irish connection was when we visited the cemetery in Buenos Aires. It is an unusual place with rows and rows of mausoleums – large structures – including the final resting place for Evita Peron. But what I again noticed was that although there were not many, there were certainly a few large structures with Irish names like O'Leary.

When we arrived in Montevideo, the main city in Uruguay, I was pretty sure that we would not likely find another Irish pub – but then I turned a corner in the downtown section and there it was – The Shannon Irish Pub.

So although we think of the Irish as having emigrated mostly to North America or Australia, it seems to me that the Irish settled in every corner of the globe and certainly offered their culture, including some great pubs, to their new country!





UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

Message from President McAleese

It is my great pleasure to offer my congratulations to the St Patrick's Society of Montreal in honour of its 175th anniversary in 2009. This remarkable achievement is evidence of the importance of the Society not only to the local Irish community but also to their fellow citizens in Montreal.

During the long history of the St Patrick's Society of Montreal, the city has warmly welcomed many thousands of immigrants from the island of Ireland, most of whom left their homeland in search of a better life for their families. Thanks to the support and care of the Society, these new arrivals were given the opportunity to integrate into their adopted home and to make a valuable contribution in all walks of life in Montreal. Today, the Society continues to offer valuable assistance to the Irish community, whose influence can be felt in the cultural, political, economic and religious life of the city.

The St Patrick's Society has performed an equally valuable service in keeping Irish culture alive in Montreal. This has helped to create a strong sense of identity within the Montreal Irish community, and has also allowed our Irish heritage to be shared with people of other cultures and backgrounds in what is a truly diverse and multicultural city. The Society can be proud of the role it has played in adding an Irish element to that melting pot.

It is therefore a great privilege to congratulate the members of the St Patrick's Society of Montreal on their enormous success over an impressive 175 years, and to offer you my best wishes as you continue your good work into the future.

MARY McALEESE
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

Cine Gael's 18th season

By Dana Hearne

My article for *NUAcht* in November spoke of the films we were hoping to have for this year's line-up. Now I can confirm that we managed to get every film we were looking for and are satisfied that we have a great programme for our members and supporters.

By the time you read this our opening film will have come and gone. We were very happy to have been able to screen Ken Wardrop's debut feature documentary *His and Hers*. Cine Gael audiences who have attended our short film evenings will have remembered Ken Wardrop's fascinating short documentaries, such as *Undressing my Mother*, *Useless Dog*, and *Farewell Packets of Ten*. In his debut feature, Wardrop keeps his signature style (and, of course, a cameo from his beloved mum!). This beautiful film won the "Best Irish Film" award at the Galway Film Fleadh last July and came to us hot off the projectors at the Sundance Film Festival where it took the World Cinema Documentary Cinematography Prize for Kate McCullough and Michael Lavelle. The film lets us into the lives of 70 women in the hallways, living rooms and kitchens of the Irish Midlands as they talk about their relationships with men with animation, grace and candour. It has been described as "extraordinary, humorous, and insightful." Our guest speaker for our opening film was John Griffin, film critic for the Gazette. A glass of wine was enjoyed by all after the screening.

The free event on Wednesday, February 24th is a co-presentation with Concordia Irish Studies – *The Boys of St. Columb's* (directed by Tom Collins, 2009). In 1947 Northern Irish children were granted free secondary education for the first time. This film tells the story of eight schoolboys from this first generation who were born into social division and low expectations and who would become some of the most important figures in Irish culture in recent history. These included Seamus Heaney, Seamus Deane, Phil Coulter and Eamonn McCann. The guest speaker will be Dr. Maurice Fitzpatrick.

On Friday, February 26th, we will be screening *Shalom Ireland* (57 mins) and *The Vines of Inis Meáin* (25 mins). *Shalom Ireland* (directed by Valerie Lapin Ganley) is a documentary which tells the remarkable story of how Irish Jews participated in the creation and the development of both Ireland and Israel. Our guest speaker for this film will be Dr. Anne Vallely. The *Vines of Inis Meáin* (directed by Deirdre Ni Chonghaile) tells the story of James Concannon who immigrated from Inis Meáin (in the West of Ireland) to America in the 1860s. After trying his hand at many trades, he finally found success when he learned how to grow grapes and make wine. His Concannon wine is still thriving today. The film is in Irish with English subtitles.

On Saturday, March 13th, there has been a change of play. We will not be screening *Child of the Dead End* and are currently in discussions for a possible alternative for that evening. We will give you an up-date on our website as soon as a decision

has been reached. It is possible that we might have to cancel this date.

We are holding our Weekend of Short Films on Friday, March 26th and Saturday, March 27th. The line-up will be as follows: on Friday evening (March 26th) we have our evening of award-winning short films (this is the programme where you get to vote for your top favourites); and on Saturday, March 27th, at 3:15 p.m. we have a programme of "family-friendly" and "classic" shorts suitable for all age groups. (This afternoon programme will be followed by a reception at McKibbin's Pub.) At 7:15 p.m. we are screening a retrospective of past Cine Gael short film winners.

On Friday, April 16th, we will see Director Vic Sarin's (2009) cinematographically beautiful feature film *A Shine of Rainbows*. This is a heart-warming tale of kindness, love and magic set on the west coast of Ireland.

Our closing film (followed by a reception) on Thursday, April 22nd, is Jacob Tierney's hilarious feature film *The Trotsky*. The film follows Leon Bronstein (the phenomenal Jay Baruchel, in a star-making performance) as a precocious Montreal teen who fervently believes himself to be the reincarnation of Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky. He's determined to duplicate every aspect of Trotsky's life, including being exiled, at least twice, and ultimately assassinated. His most pressing issues right now, though, are finding his Lenin and an older wife, preferably named Alexandra. One critic has suggested that *The Trotsky* is "possibly the most intriguing creation in recent English-Canadian cinema." We are delighted to have the director, Jacob Tierney, and his father, our very own Kevin Tierney (the producer of this film), as our guest speakers for this screening.

It's a great line-up as you can see and we look forward to seeing you all for our next screenings on February 24th and 26th.

NOTE: All screenings take place at the de Sève Cinema, Concordia University, 1400 de Maisonneuve West, at 7:15 p.m.

Admission for non-members will be \$10 for the Opening and \$7 for each of the remaining four regular evenings. Our Weekend and our Gala Closing will be \$20 each.

ALL INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP! is \$60 annually and includes ALL Cine Gael functions in 2010: all film evenings and our film weekend in the series; opening reception; closing reception; member-appreciation evening(s) at Hurley's Irish Pub; movie preview passes if available.

Check out our website for continual up-dates:
www.cinegaelmontreal.com



Yet another “feather” in the SPS cap!

By Anne Forrest

On February 4th, the Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce hosted the sixth annual Irish Community Pub Quiz at Hurley's Pub. This was also my sixth ICCC quiz and third at Hurley's. Once again I was fortunate to represent the Society and, to my great delight, our team (Mary McDaid, Matthew “Rooky” Rooney, Ed Stokes and I) came out on top once more. Not only did we walk away with bottles of Irish whiskey, but we also will have our names engraved on the McKeown Memorial Trophy.

Jonathan Sullivan, ICCC Director, organized this event and did a splendid job. Everything ran smoothly and 49 participants spent almost two hours racking their brains and having fun. As usual, the quiz master was Sean Murphy assisted by his sidekick, Igor.

Questions varied from “easy” to “very challenging.” One round focused on Oscars past and present, and another on rivers. Of course, the final round was devoted to questions about Montreal's Irish community when we were expected to remember the name of last year's Queen and know how many Quebecers were of Irish descent (the answer is 40%).

In attendance were many SPS members including Tom Mulcair who was able to compete as he wasn't needed in Ottawa now that parliament is prorogued! Before the contest got under way, Hurley's set out a table of appetising finger food that together with a beer or glass of wine was included in the price of admission (\$20.00 for ICCC members and \$25.00 for guests).

Prizes were in abundance – almost one for every participant. I counted 14 door prizes that included a book token, ledgers, tickets for Comedy Works, tickets for the Irish O'Québec exhibit at the McCord Museum and a free consultation on how to get rid of clutter. Then, of course, there were gifts for the winning



Photo: Alistair O'Hara

Matthew Rooney, Ed Stokes, Mary McDaid, Anne Forrest and Gary McKeown (with Igor in rear)

teams. Fourth place finishers – Colleen Bronson, Paul Dunne, Richard McConomy and Pierrette Sevigny – received bags of fudge and shortbread courtesy of Gryphon d'Or. The third place team of Ruth Hanna, Murad Hannoush, Peter Looits and Irene Tremblay, garnered gifts from the Treasure Chest in Valois. And the second place team of Ken Anderson, Vivian Doyle Kelly, Marlene Shoucair and Alistair O'Hara earned gift vouchers for Hurley's.

It was a great evening and because the quizzes have become so popular, look forward to another on May 6th.

N.B. Special mention should be made that Alistair O'Hara nobly stepped down from the SPS team because we were five and joined another one. He claims that it was thanks to him that our team nudged out the second place finishers, *The Repeat Grand Slammers*.



Québec City plans its parade with pride


By Catherine McKenna

The committee for the Défilé de la St-Patrick in Québec City is very honoured and proud to announce Marianna O'Gallagher as Grand Marshall of our parade scheduled for March 20th. It had been our idea from the very beginning of our planning, but we waited for things to start to come together before Peter Farrell finally spoke with Marianna. We do not harbour the slightest doubt that her decades of invaluable dedication to the history, genealogy, and culture of the Irish in Quebec will be recognised for many generations to come, and we are indebted indeed to continue to offer our appreciation and thanks to her in whatever way we can do so.

Many young québécois and québécoises working for the return of the parade visited Grosse-Île for the first time this past summer, and came away deeply moved and inspired. We cannot lose sight of the fact that it is Marianna who deserves credit for the solemn and reverential atmosphere that has been maintained on this, our hallowed ground. Marianna has not only tirelessly worked

to document and preserve the history of the Irish in Quebec, she is our history. She is our pride.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome and invite all of our confrères and consœurs in Montréal to join us – whether as participant, volunteer,

or heartener on what we hope will be a historic day. Details regarding participation and the parade will be available online following the official launch of our Web site: (www.qcpatrick.com) on February 16th. Parade founder and president Peter Farrell can be reached at: (418) 456-8378. 



Marianna O'Gallagher

What you may have missed from the Irish papers!

By Paul Dunne

“And here’s to you, Mrs. Robinson....”

There’s nothing juicier than a scandal linking money, sex and politics, but the headline writers couldn’t believe their luck when Iris Robinson, wife of Northern Ireland First Minister Peter, admitted to an affair with 19-year-old businessman, Kirk McCambley, two years ago when he prominent DUP member was herself 59 years of age. Until then, Iris’s image wasn’t a hair short of prudish. She was known outside Northern Ireland mainly for her very strong anti-gay comments reminiscent of those emanating from America’s Christian Right. However, it was money that finally did her in and almost ended the career of her husband. It transpired she had secured loans in excess of €50,000 for her toy boy and these undeclared transactions broke Assembly rules. It ended her political career but, who knows, maybe she could write the screenplay for a sequel to “The Graduate” – “The Post-Graduate” perhaps?

Bond girl killed over rubbish argument

When the papers had their fill of Mrs. Robinson’s “toy boy,” they quickly replaced him with “Toytown” which was the name Celine Cawley (46), ex-model and bit-part actor in a Bond movie, gave to her advertising film production company. Celine was bludgeoned to death by her husband, Eamonn Lillis (52), in December 2008 following an argument about his failure to take out the rubbish (which my sister insists should be a capital offence anyway). Eamonn at first concocted a story about surprising a burglar when he returned from taking the dogs for a morning walk but later admitted there was none and that he hid the bloodied clothes he was wearing before calling for an ambulance for his dying wife. What kept this in the headlines was the public interest in a story that seemed to echo the excesses and failures of the Celtic Tiger era and threw in Eamonn Lillis’ obsessive infatuation with his mistress, a 30-year-old beautician called Jean Treacy. Eamonn Lillis was ultimately convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to seven years.

Policing will devolve to Northern Assembly

Some may wonder if the childish petulance of politicians in Northern Ireland will ever end. Such thoughts must have infiltrated the minds of Brian Cowen and Gordon Brown as the two Prime Ministers were forced to rush to Belfast in late January to avert yet another existential crisis for the Northern Assembly over the final devolution of powers to Stormont. There were the usual all-night sessions with immovable objects confronting irresistible forces ending in the inevitable stalemate. There were the veiled threats by Westminster to impose a solution and then finally, in early February, some white smoke. An agreement was reached, at last, that will see policing powers transferred to the Northern Ireland Assembly closing what everybody hopes is the last chapter in the protracted peace negotiations.

Winter woes

No matter what the weather is in Ireland, you’ll always be assured it’s a “grand day” or, if torrents of rain are tumbling from the heavens, it’ll be a “soft day.” The so-called temperate climate in Ireland means it never suffers from extremes – the weather just sucks all the time. However, after the worst floods in living memory in November, the follow-up act was the longest cold spell in January in over 60 years. That there was a little snow was not unusual but that it didn’t melt inside 48 hours was. It outstayed its welcome by over two weeks resulting in airport closings, road blockages, numerous traffic and pedestrian accidents and an awful lot of bad temper. We may smirk at the chaos a couple of centimetres of snow and minus five temperatures may cause, but in Montreal we have equipment in the thousands and dollars in the millions to keep the metropolis moving during our normally harsh weather. Ireland is devoid of all this and simply cannot cope with unusual winters. And unusual is exactly what everybody hopes they will be!

And economic ones too

I don’t need to repeat that the Celtic Tiger has packed his bags and returned to Asia but the only good news for the government was that the bad news referred to above took the economy off the front pages for a few days at a time. There was a general outpouring of sympathy for finance minister Brian Lenihan who, at the relatively young age of 50, announced in January that he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Generally considered to be the most or, perhaps the only, competent minister in the current cabinet, Mr. Lenihan vowed to continue the tough work of rebuilding the shattered economy and get Ireland out of the basket-case group of European economies collectively known as the “PIGS” (Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain). However, unemployment crept up to 12.7% and the public service unions began their rotating days-of-action and work-to-rule protests. It’s going to be a tough year for Mr. Lenihan and the economy. We can only wish them both the best of luck and a very speedy recovery.

Keeping up with the news yourself

I read the Irish and Canadian newspapers using a subscription service called www.pressdisplay.com but all the Irish newspapers have their own online versions. The two majors can be accessed at www.irishtimes.ie and www.independent.ie. You can stream radio and television broadcasts at www.rte.ie and RTE also has an iPhone app through which you can listen live to Radio One. I plug my iPhone into my car speakers and catch Joe Duffy’s “Liveline” on the way to work in the morning!



Loyola: looking ahead

By Matthew Eramian



Matthew is currently serving as the past-president of the Loyola High School Alumni Association and will be a regular contributor to NUACHT, giving St. Patrick's Society updates on what's going on over at the school.

Adopted from Peru at birth by an Armenian father and an Irish mother, he was introduced to the Gaelic language early on by his grandfather, and anyone who knows Matthew will tell you that he is indeed blessed with the Gift of Gab.

When 2010 rolled around last month, many news outlets and bloggers gave their impressions on the past decade and all of the big stories that occurred. It is definitely interesting to think that the ubiquitous iPod didn't exist 10 years ago, that the Boston Red Sox were still cursed by the Great Bambino, and that there weren't any glorified karaoke shows on television. It was a simpler time where the phrase "you've been voted off the island" meant nothing to most mainlanders and the words "weapons of mass destruction" had not become part of everyday lexicon.

On a more local level, 10 years ago, Loyola High School was just in the planning phases of expanding its premises and two residential cottages stood in the area that now houses the school's atrium and Centre for the Performing Arts.

But unlike all of the other pundits, I don't want to use the article to focus on the past. Instead, I want to take a glimpse into the future and examine what the next 10 years will bring for Loyola.

When it comes to looking at the future of the school, I'm not simply talking about how GPS technology will prevent kids from playing hooky or how Loyola will finally go co-ed by admitting its first extraterrestrial student. I simply

hope that the school's mission, of educating and preparing its graduates to be "men for others" isn't lost in a world that is constantly changing.

Don't get me wrong, the world has seen change before, but it has never been this quick, and not necessarily for the better. When you turn on the news these days and all you hear about are bailouts, recalls, outsourcing and ponzi schemes, it's hard not to believe that so many people are only thinking about the almighty dollar: how to earn it and how not to lose it to anyone else.

Now before I go any further, I want to convey my goal is not to get too deep with this article. (Trust me, ask anyone who knows me and they'll tell you that I'm quite the happy-go-lucky go-with-the-flow individual!) I just simply hope that in addition to producing Guinness-loving, intelligent individuals, Loyola's graduates will still go out into the world and try to do good.

I have a lot of hope for Loyola's motto of *Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam* to continue to be relevant in 2020 and so does the entire Alumni Association. That is part of the reason why we introduced the Loyola Post-Secondary Award and are planning to present it to an ideal candidate this coming spring.

The Loyola High School Alumni Association has established an award of up to \$1,000 to be given to a deserving graduate of the school who is involved in a programme that exemplifies Loyola's "Men for Others" philosophy; in other words, a dedicated commitment in the service of others. This could be as a participant in an international development or missionary project in a third world country, or in a programme designed to help the needy, or a position with an NGO (non-governmental organization), or even someone helping to run a soup kitchen in his community.

The Association is hoping that in addition to attracting a lot of applicants the award will generate some serious interest and promote the continuation of Loyola's philosophy for years to come.



Support Generations Foundation

In our September 2009 issue of *NUACHT* (p.11), we published an article written by Kathleen Dunn which featured Catharine McKenty. The subject was *Polly of Bridgewater Farm*, the history of Catharine's aunt and ancestors. The writer made copies of her book available to Quebec-based groups as a fundraiser.

On p.8, we feature Adrian Bercovici, this year's recipient of the Simon McDonaugh Award. Adrian is always looking for opportunities to help fund Generations Foundation of which he is the Executive Director. His wife, Natalie, has come up with one means of raising money for his organization.

Natalie has several copies of Catharine's book for sale at \$20.00 each. Personally signed by the author, the book includes beautifully illustrated pictures of 19th century Montreal and Toronto.

Please contact Natalie Bercovici at (514) 933-8585 if you would like to purchase a copy. You won't be disappointed!



Bob Rae (cont.)

people meet him, they recognize he is a politician with experience and significant expertise through years of public service. He has proudly served the people of Toronto Centre in Ottawa as their Member of Parliament since March 2008, has been elected 10 times to federal and provincial parliament, and was Ontario's 21st Premier, from 1990 to 1995. He has experience at the highest levels of government in Canada and was an active participant in some of the most important constitutional talks of the day.

From 1996 to 2007, he was a partner in the law firm Goodmans LLP, one of Canada's leading international law firms. His clients included companies, trade unions, charitable and non-governmental organizations, and governments themselves. He has extensive experience in negotiation, mediation and arbitration, and consults widely on issues of public policy both in Canada and worldwide. He remains connected with the mediation and arbitration firm of ADR Chambers.

Bob Rae's interests are legend. He is the past president and founding Chairman of the Forum of Federations and served as Chairman of the Institute of Research on Public Policy (IRPP). He was chair of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and is the Chairman Emeritus of the Royal Conservatory of Music, as well as National Spokesperson of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada. As well as being the Chief Negotiator of the Canadian Red Cross Society in its restructuring, he also

served as a member of the Canada Transportation Act Review and the Security and Intelligence Review Committee for Canada. He has served on the boards of a number of public companies and charities and was Chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University from 2002 to 2007.

In 2004, Premier Bob McGuinty appointed Bob to review strategies to improve higher education. In 2005, Bob completed his report entitled "Ontario: A Leader in Learning," which led to significant policy and budgetary changes and significant investments for students, universities and community colleges. In the spring of that same year, Bob was appointed special advisor to the Canadian Minister of Public Safety on the Air India bombing of 1985. His report, "Lessons to be Learned" was published in November of 2005 and led to his further appointment as Independent Counsellor to the Prime Minister of Canada.

Bob Rae's books From Protest to Power, The Three Questions, and Canada in the Balance are published by McClelland & Stewart.

A Senior Fellow of Massey College in the University of Toronto, Bob is married to Arlene Perly Rae and has three daughters, Judith, Lisa and Eleanor.

St. Patrick's Society is honoured to have Bob Rae as this year's Guest Speaker at the Luncheon and promises that those listening to the speech will not be disappointed.



Treacy's Irish Tour

Our 9th Tour of Ireland

June 25 – July 10, 2010

Tour Includes...

- Airfare Toronto / Dublin / Toronto
- Transportation throughout by modern touring coach with experienced driver / guide
- 14 nights accommodation in 1st class hotels – all rooms ensuite
- 14 full Irish breakfasts, 11 *table d'hôte* evening meals in hotels, farewell dinner and cabaret
- Admissions to Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, Belleek Pottery, Kingdom of Kerry Museum, Cahir Castle, National Museum of Country Life, Muckcross Traditional Farms and The Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens
- Guided walking tour of the Walls of Derry
- Tour highlights – Dublin City, Boyne Valley, Belfast City, Glens of Antrim, Giant's Causeway, Dunluce Castle, Derry City, Belleek Pottery, Drumcliffe, Sligo, Westport, Kylemore Abbey, Galway City, Burren of Clare, Cliffs of Moher, Bunratty Village, Limerick City, Adare Village, Dingle Peninsula, Ring of Kerry, Killarney National Park, Lakes of Killarney, The Golden Vale, Kilkenny City and Cahir Castle

For more information and reservations, call Jim or Josephine Treacy at 905-471-9592 or email Jim at: jimtreacy@rogers.com

The life of Pam: another episode

By Pamela Cotter

With my 3rd year co-op complete, the finish line was starting to come into sight. The semester after co-op was filled with new classes designed to challenge us further and prepare us for life after graduation. We were now expected to not only develop our own choreographies, but also notate their floor and lighting patterns. Musicians and dancers were also required to take ethnomusicology and ethnochoreology lectures that included large amounts of fieldwork, interviews, transcriptions and visual representations. While this new level of work demanded a lot more time and patience, the results were also very rewarding.



Photo: Pam Cotter

Looking for Nessie, November 2009

After surviving third year, I spent another unforgettable summer in the Irish music and dance show Brú Ború before returning to UL in September 2009 for my final year. The focus during fourth year is divided among three major requirements: a minor dissertation, a vocational project and a final performance. While this may seem like very little, let me assure you these three tasks are very lengthy and time-consuming. Not only will they take all year to accomplish, but they are also combined with a full course load of regular classes such as dance, fitness, fiddle, history, and sociology. The minor dissertation itself has to be 15,000 words on a topic of our choice and the final performance is 30 minutes at the end of the year. In preparing for the final performance, we are required to choreograph all pieces in the show, rehearse dancers, coordinate musicians, devise lighting plans and provide costumes for everyone. This show will be our debut into the world of the arts and the guest list is quite intimidating. Luckily for me, I will have a cheering section of Canadian relatives sitting in the front row on the day.

Most fourth year university students have to deal with the pressures of writing and researching; UL's Music and Dance students have the extra pressures of balancing academics with the after-hours practical workload, including dance rehearsals and keeping fitness levels high. How do I cope

with this madness? I simply remind myself that I am in Ireland! In between the library and the dance studio, I still attend some of the best gigs in the country, including Buille's CD launch and Ottawa Valley's very own Tread. I was also invited this November to dance at Strathspé Away, Scotland's largest dance festival in Kingussie. I got to spend a week in the beautiful Highlands of Scotland where I met some of the nicest people. The festival provided master classes in everything from Set dancing to Flamenco and we got to participate in nightly ceilidh that lasted until 3 a.m. We even had the chance to hunt for the Loch Ness monster on our day off. The trip came at a perfect time and gave me a chance to take a break from the workload at UL.

Pamela Cotter is now entering her final year at the University of Limerick, Ireland, where she is taking a BA in Irish Music and Dance. Pam has been sharing her interesting experiences with NUA^{CH}T readers as she pursues her dream of becoming a professional dancer upon graduation. Here is her latest contribution.

Having just returned from a trip to London, I now enter my final semester as a fourth year. I realise how much work waits ahead, but I am determined to still enjoy my time abroad and get the most out of the next few months. I chose to use my Christmas break wisely and got a significant amount of school work done so I will have free time to travel this semester. What's in store for the future? There are talks of Paddy's Day in Achill Island, Easter in Italy and weekend trips to Cork, Derry and Belfast. All this assuming that I have not suffered a meltdown from organizing my final performance...



Photo: Pam Cotter

Tower Bridge, London: Pam and friend



Antoinette's Irish Diary

By Antoinette Taddeo

Antoinette Taddeo is a Montrealer of Italian descent whose career spanned 36 years teaching in both the English and French sectors at Villa Maria. Recently retired, she made a long-anticipated trip to Ireland in the fall of 2009 and shares her observations with us.

I saw their faces on the streets of the towns – the Connells, Corriganes, Duffins. I read their names on storefronts everywhere – the Donnellys, Dunns, McGraths. I heard the lilt of Murphy and Sullivan's Irish laughter. I felt the Irish people's fierce attachment to the land of their ancestors – Shaughnessy, Tierney and Walsh. My visit to Ireland was the emotional re-incarnation of my childhood, my adolescence, and my adult life. During the week I spent in Ireland, I came to realize how deeply my friends of Irish descent had played a part in colouring my life green.

The Ireland I was now seeing, however, was not the Ireland conjured up many years ago by my Irish teachers in elementary and high school. As we drove into the city from the airport the signs read: Jamua: Indian Restaurant; Magic Wok: Take Away; Domino's Pizza. Finally, my eyes spotted a sign which actually read: Patrick McCarthy and Sons.

More surprises were in store. St. Patrick's Cathedral was Protestant, God help us and save us, and the anchor-woman on the news station was Japanese. So it was with a sigh of relief that I finally turned to a channel with an actual Irish personality – Dr. Phil, no less, from the U.S.A. The global village had made its way here as well.

Finally, the Dublin of Joyce, Yeats and Shaw began to surface as we visited Trinity College, saw the Liffey River, and drove through Phoenix Park. It was touching to drive by the President's Palace and see a candle shining in the upper window commemorating the Irish diaspora, those millions who, in the 1800s, left Ireland forever, only to shape the future of North America and Australia.

As we drove past the statue of Daniel O'Connell, I was alternately puzzled and dismayed at why the history books had not acknowledged him as the first great proponent of non-violence. On October 8, 1843, a full 100 years before Ghandi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, he called for a mass assembly to protest unjust laws. The English heard about it and amassed troops. O'Connell's creed was: "human blood is no cement for the temple of liberty." He ordered the people to go home. The vast crowds dispersed and no disturbance occurred.

As our tour took us through the countryside of Kilkenny and Waterford, what a pleasant surprise it was to hear the tour guide acknowledge the immense debt that today's Ireland owes to the priests, brothers and nuns who – despite discrimination and penal laws – ensured that the flame of education and health care was kept alive. This is not to ignore or deny the scandals and abuses which were also part of the legacy, but to virtually silence and/or ignore the thousand others who lived lives of dedication, selflessness and service is, to my mind, unfair and a distortion of the truth.

If God were a golfer, Ireland would be his private golf course. It is a country where the grass seems greener, the sky more blue. There is an austere magnificence to this countryside. It is as if the Buddhist monks of the Orient had packaged a measure of Zen and sent it over to a corner of the Western World so that it too, could have its Zen landscape.

We visited the Ring of Kerry and the exquisite town of Killarney. Mere words cannot describe the breath-taking views unique to Ireland. It demands total, utter monastic silence as one looks out at the stupendous grandeur. The only way to recover from all this beauty was to feel close to the music of the angels by having a glass of Harp Ale, 10:30 a.m. notwithstanding. This was followed by a sampling of Irish coffees at Muckcross House, of which I imbibed three, in honour of the Trinity.

The literal high point of the day was sitting on a bench overlooking the sensational and famous Dingle Bay and singing "Danny Boy," accompanied by an elderly Irish gentleman who happened to be sitting on a bench with his button accordion. What could have been maudlin kitsch in one circumstance seemed so movingly appropriate in this one.

As we crossed the Shannon River on a ferry, accompanied by fierce winds and an ethereal spray of light rain, I was reminded of the seven summers I had spent in St. Pierre et Miquelon. There are many similarities between Ireland and St. Pierre – rocky coastlines, a tiny population, dazzling views of the Atlantic. The one major difference is size. St. Pierre is the postage stamp on the top right-hand corner of an Ireland which is the 8 1/2 by 11 page. When we arrived at the stupendous Cliffs of Moher, shrieking winds awaited us. The walk up to, and along the cliffs is not advised after imbibing spirits of any kind.

Next was a visit to Bunratty Castle and on to Galway Cathedral, whose building was funded, in large part, by Irish-Americans in the mid-20th century. I paid homage at the tomb of Patrick Pearse, hero of the Easter Uprising of 1916, who came to represent for me the indomitable spirit of the Irish in the face of centuries of hardship.

Still reeling from this concentrated exposure to Irish geography, history and current life, we prepared to fly back to Montreal via Dublin and Heathrow. Inevitably, there was a certain feeling of frustration. As with any brief visit to any country, we had merely touched the tip of the iceberg. Unseen, unexamined, unknown was to remain the entire northern part of the country – both west and east. I smiled at the particular brand of humanity's irrationality as expressed by the Irish. They are the software leaders of the world, but the autoroute from Galway to Dublin had to be deviated from the architect's original plan because it would have meant uprooting a clump of fairy trees, and this was absolutely "verboden" to the people living in that particular area. I appreciated the particular mix and match of Irish virtues and vices. I came to applaud their heightened sense of social justice and concern for others. It is a custom in Ireland to send a donation, on one's birthday, to a famine-stricken country. What a beautiful way to honour one's past.



News from the School of Canadian Irish Studies

By Mary Katherine Carr

Upcoming Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Lecture in Canadian Irish Studies

- Dr. Paul Bew (Lord Bew), School of Politics, International Studies & Philosophy, Queen's University Belfast will lecture at Concordia on Wednesday, May 26th.

Summer Courses

- Field Studies in Ireland
- Gender & Nation: Irish women in politics, culture & society
- A history of Ireland: from the age of the Tudors to the age of O'Connell, 1485-1830 (to be taught by Visiting Scholar Prof. Maurice Bric)

Study Abroad Options for Students

- IRST 290, Summer Field Study Course: a 3-credit independent study project abroad
- Exchange with University College Cork: for undergraduate or graduate students for 1 or 2 semesters

Planned Courses for 2010-11

Fall 2010

- Introduction to Canadian Irish Studies
- History of Ireland
- The Irish language and its culture
- The Irish short story tradition
- Irish literary revival: the uncreated conscience of my race
- Contemporary Irish literature: fiction 1960s to 2000
- A history of the Irish diaspora through music, song and dance, 1750-2000
- The making of the Irish landscape
- Voices from the past: Irish immigration, oral histories and story telling

Winter 2011

- The Troubles in Northern Ireland
- Cinema and Northern Ireland
- A cultural history of Irish traditional music in Canada, 1750-2000
- The Irish Revolution, 1913-1923
- Rebellion in Ireland and Quebec
- Stage Irish: representations of Irishness in English-language dramatic literature

2009 Scholarship Winners

Entrance Level Scholarships

Geraldine O'Loughlin Stanford Scholarship
Thomas D'Arcy McGee Scholarship
Arthur Meighen Scholarship
Francis Hincks Scholarship

Gabrielle Machnik-Kekesi, History \$1000
Angelica O'Brien, Film Studies \$500
Allison Beazley-Paré, History \$500
Angela Dawn Parker, History \$250

Undergraduate In-House Scholarships

Irene Mulroney Scholarship
Stephen Dowd Scholarship
J. Armand Bombardier Scholarship
Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Scholarship
Moirra Ann Snow Scholarship
Timothy Edward McIninch Scholarship
Gerard Keyes Scholarship
Mary Travers Scholarship
Sean Treacy Scholarship

Natasha Forgues, Linguistics \$3300
Geoffrey Aucoin, Film Production \$1000
Cameron Fenton, Anthropology \$1000
Jenny Leigh Dancer, Creative Writing \$750
Melissa Auclair, Literature \$700
Joseph Donnelly, History \$250
Lauren Sexton, Religion \$250
Amber Griffith, Political Science \$250
Marissa Stimpson, Literature \$250

Graduate Scholarships

St. Patrick's Society Scholarships

Fr. Shaun Gerard McCarthy Govenlock Scholarship
Fr. Thomas Daniel McEntee Scholarship
Matthew Hamilton Gault Scholarship
City of Montreal Scholarship
United Irish Societies Scholarship

Kathryn Rose Sawyer, Theology \$3000
Antoine Guillemette, History \$2000
Heather MacDougall, Humanities \$1500
Kathryn Fitzpatrick, History \$1500
Jean-Marc Leduc, Études françaises \$1250
Sonya Ocampo-Gooding, Theology \$1000
Jessica Joyce Mills, History \$1000



Les fêtes celtiques / An Ceiliúradh Ceiltis

Alexandre Boulet



Another in what has become a regular series of articles in French.

Dans le creux de l'hiver, les Celtes, plongés dans l'année des ténèbres, célèbrent la vie, la Terre et l'éternel cycle des saisons. Malgré le manque de ressources, caractéristique de cette période de l'année, ils festoient avec le fruit de leur récolte. Après Samhain, Yule et Imbolc rythment la vie des Celtes pendant la saison hivernale jusqu'au printemps.

Samhain est passée. Les esprits sont repartis dans leur dimension respective, à travers la brèche qui s'était formée. Les Celtes, qui avaient voyagé dans le royaume des esprits, sont de retour. Après avoir partagé une partie de leur récolte avec les esprits, le temps est venu de se rassembler pour célébrer pendant qu'ils survivent aux affres de l'hiver.

Les fêtes celtiques sont le sujet des prochains articles. Voilà une belle façon de vibrer au diapason des Celtes. Ces célébrations servent à diviser l'année en huit étapes marquées par des festivals. Les fêtes de Yule et Imbolc, avec les célébrations des solstices, remplissent l'année des ténèbres de leurs activités. Yule correspond à la fin de notre année tandis qu'Imbolc représente la venue du printemps.

Yule se caractérise par un froid intense, une noirceur angoissante et l'absence de ressources. Elle correspond au milieu de l'hiver celtique. Aucune issue possible, les Celtes doivent survivre à cette saison avec les ressources qu'ils ont en main. Pour patienter avant le retour de l'année de la lumière, ils organisent un festival qui dure près de deux semaines. Durant cette célébration, ils mangent et boivent le fruit de leur labeur.

Plusieurs activités ont lieu durant ce festival. Par exemple, les druides passent de porte en porte et donnent des branches

de houx aux habitants de chaque maison. Cette branche est un symbole de protection contre les difficultés entourant Yule. Une autre activité consiste à jeter au feu une bûche capable de brûler pendant douze heures d'affilée. Cette bûche symbolise le soleil, par la lumière et la chaleur qu'elle dégage. Le soir, les habitants se réunissent autour du feu de camp et écoutent les druides leur réciter des contes, des histoires et des légendes.

Puis les mois passent et l'année de la noirceur cède bientôt sa place à la venue de la nouvelle année. Les Celtes se préparent alors pour Imbolc qui marque le retour du printemps. Avec le Soleil qui rallonge les journées et la nature qui se réveille, les temps difficiles tirent à leur fin. Le printemps, montre le bout de son nez et bientôt beaucoup de travail se pointera à l'horizon. Ils coupent du bois et fabriquent de nouvelles chandelles pour regarnir leur provision. Ils s'assurent que tous leurs outils sont en bonne condition et réparent ce qui est brisé. D'ici peu, leurs champs devront être cultivés, leurs moutons devront être tondus. Les vaches devront être traites et les chèvres donneront naissance à leurs petits. C'est une période de gestation. Comme un agneau qui se prépare à naître dans le ventre de sa mère, les Celtes se préparent à la venue de la belle année.

Vous aimez me lire ? Retrouvez-moi sur <http://www.vitablogue.com>, toute sorte de formes d'écritures vous attendent. Venez en grand nombre !



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People in the news...

By Patrick Short

Once again the Irish season is upon us and you will be glad to hear that members of our community are all very busy in their own way preparing their participation in order to keep our community in the spotlight in an ever increasing multi-ethnic population that is Montreal.

Concordia Rugby Star scrum half, **Conor O'Hara**, has just been named "rookie of the year" by The Stingers. Conor is recovering from knee surgery and will be back in the line-up in the spring.

Congratulations to local Irish champion dancer **Stephanie Coull** who has been selected to tour with Magic of the Dance. The tour started in The Netherlands in January and tours throughout Europe in the spring and summer.

St. Patrick's Society would like to welcome the following new members: **Andrew Byrne; John Casey; Gavin Foster** – Prof. School of Canadian Irish Studies; **Alex Nuta; Lorraine O'Donnell**, McCord Museum "Being Irish O'Quebec" Guest Curator; **Christine Molson**; and these Junior Members – **Katherine Boushel** – one of last year's princesses; and **Maria Cook; Shannon Keenan**.

Concordia graduate and former Short dancer, **John Grimes**, is currently touring with the North American 2010 show of *Riverdance*. John studied in the John Molson School of Business and took many courses in the School of Canadian Irish Studies.

Still with the dancing scene, 10 members of the Bernadette Short School who have qualified for the World Championships are very busy practising for this prestigious event. Each family is busy helping to raise funds for this very expensive trip to Glasgow, Scotland from March 28th to April 4th 2010. Good luck to all the dancers.

Co. Tipperary-born **John Furlong** was a man with a secret. He alone knew whom he appointed to light the Olympic Cauldron

at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Winter Games in Vancouver. Furlong has been involved with athletics all his life, having competed at the international level in basketball, European handball and squash. He captained Gaelic football teams, at the highest levels in his native Ireland.



From l. to r.: Tara Carroll, Meghan Duheme, Fred Appleby, Rachel Janick, Anne Marie Keenan.

At the recent Queen's Selection Evening held by the Chateaugay and Valley Irish Heritage Association, **Meghan Duheme** was chosen as Queen of their parade along with princesses **Anne-Marie Keenan, Tara Carroll** and **Rachel Janick**.

Daughter of the late **George O'Reilly** former mayor of Verdun, **Kerry Rose O'Reilly**, is busy preparing for the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in Hudson. This event supported by Cunningham's Pubs is to be held on..... And so far have 20 floats registered to participate.



St. Patrick's Society hands out its annual grants

At the SPS General Meeting in November, held in St. Patrick Square's McCormick Hall, the Society handed out grants to those listed below. The presentation was followed by a wine and cheese reception. Many of the groups got to speak to each other and a good representation of Board members and SPS members met with the various groups.

AOH Bus for Grosse Ile
Chateaugay Academy of Irish Dancing
Comhaltas
Comhra Montreal
Field Trip Theatre
Irish Dancing All Schools
Championship Fund
Montreal Gaelic Athletic Association
Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club
Moran Academy of Irish Dancing

Siamsa School of Irish Music
Ville Marie Feis
Loyola High School
Marianopolis College
Thomas More Institute
Villa Maria High School
Benedict Labre House
Camp Caritas
Dawson Community Centre
Generations

LOVE
Mini-Prix Council of Churches
Newman Centre
NOVA
Refuge Juan Moreno
Share the Warmth
St. Leonard's House
St. Willibrord's Soup Kitchen
Veterans' Fund



The NEW Irish Show on CJAD

With the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade fast approaching, the NEW Irish Show has been busy in the community talking to people and helping them get some exciting projects off the ground. We are committed to bringing you a community-oriented show that gives you, our listeners, a platform to share the stories and discuss the issues that are important to you.

With the NEW Irish Show, our goal is to create an interactive forum within the Irish community in Montreal. We want to support the various cultural projects, businesses and increase our visibility in the city. To do this, we hope that you will support us in this venture and in our future goals for the show. To learn more about us or to contact us, visit www.cjad.com or you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter. We are eager to hear from you all and we hope you will share your stories and thoughts with us!



Available in February on The NEW Irish Show podcast

The NEW Irish Show will be co-hosting the Irish Open Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament on Feb. 28th benefiting the West Island Community Shares & Place Coco.

Come on down, play some poker and join us!

Tickets can be purchased at McKibbins locations or e-mail

ken.doran@sympatico.ca for more info.

February 1st Podcast

- Melina Soochan a local Montreal singer/songwriter is in studio with us.
- Comedian and funny man Jocko Alston tells us about his DVD launch coming up.
- Ken Doran tells us about the Irish Open Poker night.
- Erin Purnell tells us what it's like to be a pageant queen in the Chateauguay & Valley Irish Heritage Association Queen's Pageant.

February 15th Podcast

- Local Montreal Musician Sule is in studio with us.
- We will be talking with a representative from Cine Gael about the upcoming film festival
- Juliette Patterson will be discussing the Griffintown Horse Palace Museum.



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

I was most interested to read the informative article on Senator Frank O'Connor's heritage home in Toronto. I wonder if most of your readers know that Frank O'Connor began making chocolates in his home in Peterborough, Ont. From this modest beginning, he founded a candy empire that included the Laura Secord company in Canada and Fanny Farmer in the United States.

I also encountered Frank O'Connor again when I was researching the biography of Mitch Hepburn, the Liberal premier of Ontario from 1934 to 1942. The wealthy O'Connor paid for the suite of rooms Hepburn lived in at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto. He also strongly supported Hepburn's attempt to give Ontario's Catholics a better financial deal for their separate schools.

Frank O'Connor was appointed to the Senate by Liberal Prime Minister Mackenzie King. He also received many honours from the Church for his philanthropy. Sadly Senator O'Connor died at the early age of 54 on August 21, 1939, the feast of Ireland's Our Lady of Knock.

Neil McKenty

Chers amis,

je tiens à vous dire que j'aime beaucoup les articles d'Alexandre Boulet publiés en français. Ils sont aussi intéressants que bien écrits. En plus je crois qu'ils symbolisent bien la longue amitié des francophones et des Irlandais.

Meilleurs vœux à tous,

Jean Chatillon,
compositeur et conteur
Bécancour
(16 décembre 2009)

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Around town

Open House planned for the Square

St. Patrick Square invites you to its OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, February 28th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Discover a unique, affordable community environment designed for autonomous individuals 55+ and young at heart. Join us for a building tour of the swimming pool, saunas, library, gym, billiards, guest rooms and activity rooms. In the summer you can enjoy the 9-hole putting green, shuffleboard and our award-winning gardens. Well located near banks, shopping and bus lines. 6767 Cote St. Luc Road (entrance via King Edward). Information: (514) 481-9609.

MIRFC hosts an Italian wine-tasting evening

You are cordially invited to join MIRFC for another social fundraiser in support of MIRFC and the Montreal Children's Hospital. This will take place on Thursday, March 4th, from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at L'Oeufrier Westmount, 4785 Sherbrooke St. West. The theme for the night will be Italian wine. Representatives from at least three different organizations will share 15-20 different great Italian wines in a relaxed and informal environment. Food and water will be provided. A souvenir Riedel wine glass will also be included. The club is donating half of the proceeds to the Montreal Children's Hospital. Raffle prizes will include tickets for the Habs, Impact and Alouettes, as well as wine from the tasting and an Executive Health medical exam from Westmount Square Medical Centre. Tickets are \$50 and for more information check rugby.3macs.com or contact Jim Kellett at jkelleth@3macs.com or (514) 394-2633.

Erin Sports breakfast not to be missed

This year, the Irishman of the Year Breakfast returns to Le Centre Sheraton, 1021 boulevard René-Lévesque West on Saturday, March 6th from 9:00 a.m. until noon. In addition to honouring Walter "Wally" Gregory, Erin Sports will be presenting the Willie Lambert Trophy for Amateur Athlete of the Year to Anthony Barrett from Concordia's football team. This prestigious trophy is donated by Doorcorp Inc. Once again, Joey Elias will be the emcee and special guests include Tony Proudfoot, Anthony Calvillo, Scott Flory, two as yet unnamed members of the Montreal Canadiens, and comedian Scott Patterson. Tickets (\$60.00) are available from Mabel Fitzgerald at (514) 989-1539.

Lorraine O'Donnell to speak in Pointe Claire

Dr. Lorraine O'Donnell, curator of the Being Irish O'Quebec Exhibit at the McCord Museum of Canadian History, will be speaking at the Pointe Claire Public Library, Central Branch, on Tuesday, March 16th, at 7 p.m. She will explore the integration of Irish immigrants and their contribution to the social, cultural, political and economic fabric of Quebec from the era of New France to today. For more information, contact the Library at: Pointe Claire Public Library, Central Branch
100 Douglas-Shand Avenue
Pointe-Claire (Québec) H9R 4V1
Tel.: 514-630-1218
http://www.ville.pointe-claire.qc.ca/en_1046_index.php

Public conversation @The McCord Museum

On Thursday, March 22nd from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the topic "When does history become heritage?" will be explored by guest curator, Lorraine O'Donnell. She will examine the challenges of relating a community history through a museum exhibit. Guests of this public conversation will be given free access to the Being Irish O'Quebec exhibit between 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. There is no charge.

Could this be the trip you've always wanted to take?

It's not too late to sign up for Father Joe Sullivan's 16-day (May 12-27) tour of Ireland. He still needs three or four more individuals to complete the group. The cost of this unique trip is \$3,300.00 double occupancy or \$3,900.00 for single accommodation. The tour originating in Montreal with a direct flight to Dublin is a Shamrock Royal from the Royal Irish Tours. You will visit traditional sights and landmarks of both Northern and Southern Ireland. Father Joe hopes to attract as tour guide and driver a former professor of history (this is a person he has spent time with and who really knows his stuff!). Don't delay if you are interested. Contact Father Joseph Sullivan at Transfiguration of Our Lord Church, (514) 334-0531, for further information.

Daniel O'Donnell returns in May

If you missed seeing Daniel O'Donnell when he was in Montreal last August, he will be performing with Mary Duff at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga Springs, New York, on May 24th, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. Pathway Productions of London, Ontario, is offering groups an opportunity to see this live concert at a package rate of \$149.00 p.p. which would include: gold-section reserved seating; motorcoach transportation; buffet meal (lunch or dinner); all taxes. These rates are available to all clubs and organizations and would be ideal for fund-raising. A donation of \$15.00 per person sold would be generated and two passengers on each coach would be complimentary. Buses will return to the Montreal region at approximately 10:00 p.m. For further information please contact: Bob VanKleek 1-800-265-7900.

NUA CHT Advertising Rates

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Business Card	\$75.00	\$250.00
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Half Page	\$250.00	\$800.00
Full Page	\$400.00	\$1,300.00

Please Note:

If you are receiving *NUA CHT* and have not paid your annual subscription or would like to be put on the *NUA CHT* mailing list, please remit \$25.00 to Erin Matheson at the Society Office.

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2010

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION	
Feb. 20	Queen's Selection Evening, Buffet Sorrento, LaSalle, 7:00 p.m.	Colleen Murphy	426-4588
Feb. 23	UIS Flag Raising Ceremony, Place Ville Marie, noon	Ken Quinn	247-3296
Feb. 24	Cine Gael/ Can. Irish Studies, <i>The Boys of St. Columb's</i> , De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:15 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Feb. 25	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Feb. 26	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:15 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Feb. 28	St. Patrick Square Open House, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., 6767 Côte St. Luc Rd.	Georgia Remond	481-9609
Mar. 6	Erin Sports Assoc. Irishman of the Year Breakfast, Sheraton Centre, boul. René Lévesque, \$60.00	Mabel Fitzgerald	989-1539
Mar. 7	Mass of Anticipation, St. Gabriel's Parish, 11:30 a.m.	Mike Kennedy	983-6107
Mar. 7	UIS General Meeting, St. Gabriel's Church Hall, 1:30 p.m.	Ken Quinn	247-3296
Mar. 12	SPS Charity Ball, Chateau Champlain	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 13	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:15 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 14	St. Patrick's Parade, noon, Fort and Ste-Catherine Sts.	Beverly Murphy	932-0512
Mar. 17	SPS Luncheon, Hilton Bonaventure	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 20	Québec City St. Patrick's Day Parade (first parade in over 90 years!)	Catherine McKenna	(418) 692-4764
Mar. 20	Irish Céilidh, Royal Canadian Legion, 3015 Henri Dunant, Lachine, 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. \$5.00	Harold Griffin	(450) 455-5009
Mar. 25	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Mar. 26/27	Cine Gael, Weekend of Short Films, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:15 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 27	UIS Parade Awards Banquet, Buffet Sorrento, LaSalle, 6:00 p.m.	Shawn Doyle	240-0569
Apr. 12	UIS Mass for Deceased Members, St. John Brebeuf Church, LaSalle, 7:30 p.m.	Mike Kennedy	983-6107
Apr. 16	Cine Gael, <i>A Shine of Rainbows</i> , De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:15 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 18	UIS General Meeting, St. Jean Brebeuf Parish Hall, 7777 George St., LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	Ken Quinn	247-3296
Apr. 22	Cine Gael, <i>The Trotsky</i> , Closing Film of Season, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:15 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 29	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
May 6	ICCC Pub Quiz, McKibbin's Pub, 1426 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m. \$20.00 or \$25.00	ICCC	845-0973
May 22	Ville Marie Feis, John Abbott College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, 9:00 a.m.	Patrick Short	697-4343
May 26	IPBS lecture, Canadian Irish Studies, Concordia	Mary Carr	848-2424
May 27	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
June 15	SPS 15th Annual Golf Tournament, Club de Golf Bellevue, \$125 p.p./\$500 foursome	Erin Matheson	481-1346
June 17	SPS Annual General Meeting (location TBC)	Erin Matheson	481-1346



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