

True Irish welcome extended to newcomers

Community turns out in force to support immigrants

By Ruth Hanna

Like responsible first-timers, we discussed logistics before actually trying to conceive. When our idea took, the timing was fortuitous – the government would help out financially. Last spring, Karl Gardner at the Irish Embassy provided professional advice for the baby fund. And, St. Patrick's Society kindly offered sponsorship as helping out new arrivals is part of its core mission.

At the beginning of the third trimester, we received the green light from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. As the initiative matured, we noted a slow but steady trickle of fresh Irish blood, confirming the need for our impending delivery. Close to our due date, we finalized the name: it would be called Irish Immigrant Integration Initiative or IIII for short. Mindful of the fact that it takes a village, we drew on multiple birthing partners for support: the extended community to provide a welcome mat, qualified practitioners, companies, and media partners to memorialize the moment.

D-Day was Thursday, February 3rd. At 7:30 p.m., the Irish Immigrant Integration Initiative (IIII) saw the light of day at the Irish Embassy Pub and Grill in Montreal. Armed with their curricula vitae, more than forty bright young Irish things turned up in fine networking fettle. A welcome party shy of one hundred persons was there to greet them.



Photo: Ruth Hanna

Matthew Barclay (new immigrant), Jimmy Heaslip, Andrea Bobkovicz and Katie Grennan (new immigrant)

And, what a welcome party it was! Aimed at helping newcomers network and integrate into the Montreal-Irish community, the evening also served to allow jobseekers to meet potential employers and obtain practical advice on visas and employment agencies. Although the evening kicked off later than expected, chairwoman Michelle Vahey opened the event and kept things ticking along.

President Patrick Shea introduced St. Patrick's Society and encouraged new arrivals to join or become involved in the many Irish societies in Montreal. Paula Molloy, Second Secretary of the Irish Embassy in Ottawa, summarized the embassy's services to Irish citizens and among others, urged them to brush up on their French.

In his dual role as Honorary Consul General of Ireland in Montreal and holder of the inaugural chair of Canadian Irish Studies at

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NUA

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A word from the President

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal has been on a roll recently, and is looking to end its 2010-2011 operating year with a bang. After a successful launch of the Society's five-year strategic plan at one of the best attended members' meetings in memory this past June, a hugely successful first annual family day in August and a fun wine tour of the Eastern Townships this past fall, the Society held its most successful Annual Christmas Concert ever in early December. I would like to recognize and thank Society director Carol McCormick for having led the planning and organization of this great evening at St. Patrick's Basilica with her new ideas and infectious enthusiasm. Because of the very hard work of Carol and her committee, the Society raised a record-breaking amount of money for its annual charitable activities and endeavours. Thank you, Carol!

In January, the members met to discuss and vote upon a comprehensive set of amendments to the by-laws of the Society that were proposed by the board of directors. I write in greater detail about the meeting and the amendments elsewhere (see p.10), but I do wish to note here that it was very rewarding – as president of the Society and as the chairperson of the by-laws task force – to see a good number of members take a very keen interest in our by-laws. I received numerous questions and comments in the month leading up to the meeting and I was delighted to see vigorous discussion and debate among the members at the meeting itself.

Some of you may have attended the Irish Immigrant Integration Initiative on February 3rd at the Irish Embassy Pub in downtown Montreal. After almost two decades of significant economic prosperity in Ireland that saw the number of Irish emigrants dwindle to a trickle (and saw Ireland benefit from net inward migration for the first time since the arrival of the Normans), Ireland is now in the midst of a serious financial crisis that quickly morphed into an

economic crisis marked by, among other things, high unemployment. As a result, many Irishmen and Irishwomen – particularly the young – are trying their luck by seeking employment in Montreal and other cities in Canada. Despite effecting significant changes to our by-laws last month, helping Irish immigrants remains a core value of the Society – the objects of the Society, which include “to aid whenever possible persons of Irish birth or origin, and particularly Irish immigrants,” have not at all been altered. So sponsoring this event, which was meant to help Irish emigrants find employment in the Montreal area and otherwise integrate into Montreal life, was a very natural fit for the Society because it allows us to remain true to our historic mission, and is something that further evidences our position as a mainstay of the Irish community in Montreal. My own ancestors arrived in Montreal from Ireland in the 1820s to 1860s and were very likely assisted by the Irish who had already arrived, including, from and after 1834, the Society and its members, and I know that other members can say the very same thing (or they are themselves immigrants). I would like to thank Society vice-president Paul Dunne for his hard work in helping to create the Irish Immigrant Integration Initiative and in helping to organize its inaugural event.

Two of the most prominent annual events in the Society's calendar will take place over the next few weeks: the annual charitable ball on March 11th at the Marriott Château Champlain Hotel and the annual luncheon on March 17th at the Hilton Bonaventure Hotel. These two events are always great fun and we are very fortunate to have, yet again, a prominent guest of honour and guest speakers at these events. The ball and the luncheon committees have put in hundreds of hours of hard work to make these events the successes that they always are, yet among the hundreds of people who attend each year there are often relatively few Society members. I therefore would like to extend a special invitation to all members who are able to do so to come join the fun and to attend either or both of the ball and the luncheon. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Deadline for submissions for next issue: May 1, 2011

Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh! Happy St. Patrick's Day to all of you!

Patrick M. Shea
February 2011



St. Patrick's Society wants you!

We have much to accomplish and we simply cannot do it without you. New members are most welcome. Any person of Irish origin or descent, who is 18 years or older and is interested in the promotion and welfare of the Irish Canadian community and the Irish tradition is eligible to become a Regular member. If you not meet the criteria of Regular membership, then you may become an Associate member without the right to vote or hold office.

The annual Regular membership dues are \$60 and only \$30 for those under the age of 30.

For more information, please contact Erin Matheson at the SPS office at (51) 481-1346 or email at office@spsmtl.com.

News from the Society

The 18th Annual SPS Christmas Concert raises the roof and the bar!

By Carol McCormick

With everyone's support, from the Board of Directors, members and non-members alike, the 18th Annual SPS Christmas Concert was once again a night to remember. From the performances to the attendance and to the funds raised, the SPS Christmas Concert came through as an evening of which all members can be proud to be a part.

Over 650 people attended the concert held at St. Patrick's Basilica on December 1st, raising over \$24,000. And this year, sponsorship and advertising and the sale of 80 poinsettia arrangements added another \$5,000 to the evening's fund-raising.

A wine and cheese party was included with the patron tickets sold at two for \$100.00 which I am sure was one of the reasons that we sold out our patron seats that night.

The performers were excellent. Kathryn Humphries, vocalist and harpist opened each act with a beautiful and soothing rendition of Christmas carols. A complete wood floor covering the width and length of the Basilica's sanctuary was a first for the Basilica, for the spectacular rendition of the "Lord of the Dance" by the Bernadette Short Irish Dancers.



Photo: John Gilroy

Some of Bernadette Short's youngest dancers

Four lovely young McGill students from the Chamber Music Without Borders called "Portrait of a Lady," mesmerized us with their interpretation of the Corelli *Christmas Concerto, Concerto Grosso in G Minor, Op. 6 No. 8* and selections of the *Nutcracker Suite*.

The second half of the show was devoted to the Imani Gospel Singers raising the spirit of the audience and the roof of the Basilica! Our traditional audience sing-a-long brought everyone to their feet, leaving the concert with a song in their hearts and a thought in their minds to be back again next year!



Special thanks should be given to Carol McCormick and her hard-working committee for the great efforts they made to make this evening memorable. In particular, the colourful programme with its many adverts is to be commended.

Christmas reception enjoyed by many SPS members at the Curling Club



Photo: John Gilroy

Michael Kenneally, Catharine McKenty and Patricia Burns

On Wednesday, December 9th, the Society held its annual Christmas Reception. This year, the weather cooperated and, despite snowbanks in abundance, there was no storm. Once again, the Montreal West Curling Club was the venue and a selection of appetising hors d'œuvres was prepared by Graham Lonergan and his staff. Ten musicians from Siamsa played many an Irish medley with great enthusiasm. Members were invited to take a contribution (canned goods, etc.) for the NDG Food Depot. There was also a raffle which raised \$275.00. Many thanks to Erin for organizing this fun event.

Society membership on the increase

The Society currently boasts over 260 members. Eleven new members were announced at a Board meeting held on February 8th (see names on p.21). The Strategic Planning Committee recognises that the new initiatives that began during Mary McDaid's term of office and accelerated by Alistair O'Hara are bearing fruit. Despite a large number of lapsed members over the past two years, membership is on the increase. This is in part due to the efforts of Julie Dunn and Ógra as more young people are joining as active and contributing members.

The Society's profile is now being promoted on Facebook. And, our totally bilingual website is fully updated with this season's upcoming events. Did you know that you can buy tickets for the SPS Ball and Luncheon on line? However, you don't need a ticket to walk in this year's parade on Sunday, March 20th. See you there!



Stop Press

Cosantóir, the SPS team competing in the ICCA Pub Quiz, February 17th, came first again, winning the McKeown Trophy! Congratulations to Tom Brady, Mary McDaid (it was her birthday!), Alistair O'Hara and Anne Forrest.

Dr. Ray Bassett: Guest of Honour at SPS Ball

By Anne Forrest

This year's Guest of Honour at the Ball is the new Irish Ambassador to Canada, Dr. Ray Bassett. The Ambassador has held a variety of diplomatic positions over the past 30 years, the most recent of these was that of Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Foreign Affairs, with responsibility for the consular and passport divisions. Prior to that, from 2001 to 2005, he served as a Joint Secretary in the British-Irish Secretariat based in Belfast. And from 1993 until 2001, he was heavily involved in both the negotiations and subsequent implementation of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. His areas of concern were equality and human rights issues and internal governmental structures within Northern Ireland. Earlier, in the 1980s, he enjoyed postings in London, Copenhagen and Australia.

A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, Dr. Bassett focused on the biochemistry of folic acid and vitamin B10 for his PhD thesis. After university, he became a research assistant in the TCD biomedical laboratories and spent a year as a clinical biochemist in Dublin's Mater Hospital. He left the medical profession in 1978.

Married to Patricia Howe, Ray Bassett is the father of five children and recently became a grandfather. A keen sports enthusiast, especially of Gaelic football, he also enjoys walking and bird watching.

Dr. Bassett is committed to listening to and understanding the needs of the various Irish organizations in Quebec. St. Patrick's Society welcomes him and hopes that he will enjoy his time in Canada.



Photo: Anne Forrest

*Dr. Ray Bassett,
the Irish Ambassador to Canada*

Jim Killin and Martin Spalding: Co-Chairs of Patrons' Fund

The Society is delighted that Jim Killin has agreed once again to be Co-Chair, Patrons' Fund, of the 2011 Ball. Jim, General Manager with L'Equipeur/Mark's Work Wearhouse, Eastern Canada, a division of Canadian Tire Ltd., is proud Dad to three daughters Ashley, Leigh-Ann and Stephanie. Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, he moved to Montreal in 1967.



Jim Killin

Jim was named a Paul Harris Fellow, by Rotary International and was made an Honorary Alumni of the Montreal Alouettes. 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 and last year joined performers and athletes as they entertained and spent time with our troops in Afghanistan.

For more information on the upcoming St. Patrick's Society Ball, please see p. 17



Matin Spalding

Martin Spalding represents the finest example of someone making it to the top of the broadcast industry by starting out in the business at a young age and patiently climbing the ladder. The newly appointed vice-president and general manager of Astral Radio's three Montreal English language stations — CJAD, Virgin Radio 96 and CHOM — likes to recall his humble beginnings. "I began my career more than 25 years ago

at CHOM," he says. "I was a remote operator, producer, on-air announcer, promo-guy / Mr. Giveaway and morning man Terry DiMonte's personal assistant."

Spalding ultimately wound up as promotions and later programme director for Mix 96, obtained his MBA from Concordia's John Molson School of Business and a Post-MBA in strategy from McGill and then got a high ranking executive post with the Grand Prix of Canada. He stayed there for 11 years before getting back into radio at Astral's head office. Several months ago he was recruited by a headhunter to assume the top job at CJAD, Virgin and CHOM.

*Courtesy of Mike Cohen
The Suburban*



SPS welcomes Louis Vachon as guest speaker

The Society is delighted to announce Louis Vachon, president and chief executive officer of National Bank Financial Group, as Guest Speaker at the annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon to be held in the Hotel Bonaventure on Thursday, March 17th.

Mr. Vachon is the only president and CEO of a major Canadian bank with a federal charter to have its head office in Montreal. As president and chief executive officer of National Bank Financial Group, a position he has held since June 2007, he is responsible for the strategies, orientations and development of the Group and its subsidiaries. He is supported by a team of senior officers who, with Mr. Vachon, make up the office of the president. At the time of his appointment, Mr. Vachon was chief operating officer, a position he had held since July 2006.

From January 2005 to July 2006, Louis Vachon was chairman of the board of National Bank Financial Group and of Natcan Investment Management. He also served as chief executive officer of National Bank Financial.

Mr. Vachon began his career in 1986 at Lévesque Beaubien. From 1990 to 1996, he worked for Bankers Trust, where he served, among other things, as president and chief executive officer of its Canadian subsidiary, BT Bank of Canada. Mr. Vachon rejoined the Bank in 1996 as president and chief executive officer of Innocap Investment Management. A year later, he was appointed senior vice-president – treasury and financial markets.

Louis Vachon serves as chairman of the Conseil des Gouverneurs associés of the Université de Montréal and co-president

of the major fund-raising campaign of the Fondation Cité de la santé. He holds a Master's degree in International Finance from The Fletcher School (a Tufts and Harvard University cooperative graduate programme), and a BA in Economics from Bates College. He is also a chartered financial analyst.



Louis Vachon, president and CEO National Bank Financial Group

In 2002, Mr. Vachon was named one of Canada's *Top 40 Under 40*.

Our guest speaker does have Irish ancestors: a great-great grandmother! Married to Chantal Carrier, Louis Vachon has two children – Maximilien (17) and Gabrielle (15). His hobbies are reading, history and travelling.

We look forward to hearing from him on St. Patrick's Day!



Irish welcome (cont.)

Concordia University, Dr. Michael Kenneally gave an overview of the Irish in Quebec, pointing out the cultural commonalities between the Irish and Quebecers.

Guest speaker, Quebec's Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, the Honorable Kathleen Weil extended a welcome to new Irish immigrants from herself and Premier Jean Charest. In 2011, Quebec hopes to welcome about 50,000 new immigrants so it is looking for talent from all over the world, she said, explaining it has 1.2 million jobs that need to be filled by 2018. She was delighted when Paul Dunne invited her to speak, she said, noting the importance of welcome evenings for immigrants. Her connection to Ireland is on both her father's and her mother's side, she explained.

In closing, Michelle Vahey thanked not only the cross-community group of volunteers who helped organize the night, but also the attendees who rallied round in support. She explained that the rest of the evening would be akin to an Irish speed-dating forum. Immigrants, whose name tags had green dots, were encouraged to seek out those with blue employer dots and make a speed presentation.

In the hours that followed, newbies did just that. Some lucky ones left with first interviews with those employers present, which included Bombardier, SAP, Ericsson, ECom Access, Novartis and IBM. Employment agencies like YES Montreal and Manpower, and immigration lawyers shared their expertise with jobseekers. Blow-ins who had been in Montreal for a few years and never met another Irish person rubbed elbows with those who had left the auld sod decades back. All this happened against the backdrop of a Comhaltas traditional music session.

Given Ireland's increase in quotas under the new Working Holiday Programme in Canada, we anticipate a further influx of immigrants to Montreal. IIRI intends to use this postnatal stage to evaluate specific needs before holding a sister event

This event was given national radio coverage by CBC on the Sunday Edition of February 13th. To listen to the programme, go to <http://www.cbc.ca/thesundayedition/> (hour 2, minute 42).



The United Irish Societies' awards for 2011

By Anne Forrest

This year's recipients of the **Simon McDonough Humanitarian Award** are Kelvin and Janice Berry, long-time residents of LaSalle. For the past 19 years the couple have been very active members of St. John Brébeuf Parish, volunteering with the HOPE programme, helping with the Meals on Wheels programme, and working on the parish's Christmas Basket campaign with a massive team of volunteers to assemble and distribute baskets to those in need in the local community.

Kelvin has coached Pop Harrigan hockey and LaSalle Colts football. He filled the role of Pee Wee Convenor for LaSalle Minor Hockey as well as being a referee. Janice joined the Girl Guides as a leader and has remained involved for the last 38 years as Guide Leader, Brownie Leader, Commissioner, and Chairperson of the Guide Camp at Lac Adair, a position she held for 17 years. When Janice became aware that local children were going to school without any breakfast, she coordinated a breakfast programme at Allion School, a programme that existed for six years.

Janice and Kelvin have been married for 47 years, have raised three children and now have five grandchildren.



Kelvin and Janice Berry

The Simon McDonough Humanitarian Award was established in 1993 to remember Simon McDonough's dedication to his heritage and humanitarian acts during his life. Simon's association with the United Irish Societies and the St. Patrick's parade resulted in his being Chief Deputy Marshal from 1940 to 1979. During those years he was the inspiration to the marshals and members for the successful implementation of the parades. For many years he took the responsibility, with his colleagues, to build the Reviewing Stands for dignitaries to review the parades. In later years, he was appointed an Honorary Life Member. His humanitarian lifestyle lives on through this award.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, Kathleen McAuliffe began her theatrical career at the Gaiety Theatre and was a soloist at the famed Medieval Entertainment presented at Bunratty Castle, Co Clare. She moved to Montreal in 1974 and added



Kathleen McAuliffe

a touch of Gaelic to Le Festin du Gouverneur's Banquet for some thirty four years.

Now a proud Canadian citizen, Kathleen has turned her attention to theatre and musical theatre and, although much of her work involves a wide spectrum of styles. Irish

music and Irish poetry have always been especially close to her heart. Music and performing are "in the blood," Kathleen says. "... at home, every one of us was expected to have our 'party piece' ready to entertain the guests. We were led and accompanied by my mother on the piano, a true artist herself." She firmly believes that her voice was a gift from God that should be shared.

Kathleen is humbled at being named the 2011 **Liam Daly Heritage Award** recipient and looks forward to the many festivities surrounding St. Patrick's Day.

A native son of Dublin, Ireland, Liam Daly, was proud of his Irish heritage. Liam volunteered his time to the continual presence of the arts and Irish culture in Montreal. As a tribute to him, the UIS created this award which is presented annually to a worthy candidate who exemplifies Liam's love of his heritage.



Brendan Deegan



Father John Walsh

The other two people who have been honoured by The United Irish Societies of Montreal for 2011 are Brendan Deegan (left) and Father John Walsh (right). Brendan is this year's Chief Reviewing Officer and Father John has the position of Grand Marshal.



Photos taken by Anne Forrest at the UIS Queen's Selection Night, February 5th, 2011, Buffet Sorrento in LaSalle.

A long but rewarding evening!

On Saturday, February 5th, La Salle's Buffet Sorrento was the venue for the United Irish Societies' 56th Queen's Selection Evening.

As usual, Lori Graham, the CTV weather girl, was the Mistress of Ceremonies who promised, unsuccessfully as it proved, to have everything wrapped up by 11 p.m. in order to cover the coronation on the late news. A neophyte sitting beside me was quite alarmed. Her husband had told her that it would be over by 9:30 p.m. How wrong he was! The ticket stated that proceedings began at 6:30 p.m. Not true. It was after 7 p.m. when Lori took to the podium. The programme announced Ann Forest (my name albeit misspelled) as a judge. Not true. It should have read "Ann Fortune." Thankfully, she was introduced correctly!

Graham Batty had the task of piping in the guests of honour, the judges and the contestants. Who cared if most of his tunes were of the Scottish variety. He did a fine job. The Irish and Canadian national anthems were sung with great gusto by Francis Baddeley, accompanied by Terry Clahane. (I should mention that throughout the evening, Terry was brilliant on the keyboard.)

Following the anthems, Ken Quinn, president of UIS, introduced Father John Walsh, the 2011 Parade Grand Marshal, and Brendan Deegan, the Chief Reviewing Officer. They were both appropriately "sashed" by their predecessors: James Killen and James Coleman. Each of them delivered speeches, and Brendan in particular tugged at our heartstrings when he talked about a trip he had made to New York with the Erin Sports Club. While there, he happened to be walking along Broadway with the late Father Tom McEntee. They came upon a monument dedicated to George M. Cohan (famous for "The Yankee Doodle Boy," and "Give My Regards to Broadway"). It was then that Father Tom decided to sing some of Cohan's songs. People stopped to listen as Fr. McEntee finally got to perform on Broadway!

The seven judges who had their work cut out for them. They were: Patrick Shea (SPS president); Fiona MacGeachy (family physician); Georóid ÓhAllmhuráin (Johnson Chair – Canadian Irish Studies); Andrea McGlynn (Parade Queen 2007); Mark Yerbury (president, Dale Carnegie Quebec); Ann Fortune (past president of Comhrá); and Mary McDaid (president English Speaking Catholic Council). Their advisors were Dr. Michael Kenneally and his wife Rhona, and the scrutineers were Andrea Mallette, Sheila Showers and Gerald Showers.

For the uninitiated, let me give you an overview of the proceedings. The contestants were divided randomly into three groups and each girl introduced herself. In between the three group presentations, we were entertained by some wonderful individuals beginning with Kathleen Mc Auliffe (the Liam Daly Award Winner) who sang a few delightful Irish tunes. Once the 20 girls had made their presentations, the judges adjourned to determine the ten semi-finalists. What a task! Never have I listened to such articulate young women. Most years there are always a few (dare I say it?) "duds." This year was exceptional. Each one should be commended.

Each of the semi-finalists delivered a prepared speech on a selection of topics. The most popular of these was: The Quebec Government



Photo: Peter McCabe

Ashley Trainor, Whitney Mallett, Olivia Crawford, Sarah Shahani and Keira Kilmartin

now makes it possible for students to spend an exchange year at a university in Ireland. If you were to go on such an exchange, at which university in which part of Ireland would you study? Explain the specific attractions for you of that university and its region. Needless to say, Trinity College was a favourite!

Throughout the evening, Lori, true to form, gave us an on-the-spot weather report. It seemed there was a storm brewing outside. However, this disturbing news did nothing to dampen our spirits. Also throughout the evening, we enjoyed the lovely voice of Megan Smith – a student at St. Thomas High School, Vincent Griffin on guitar, the Marlow sisters – Fiona and Shannon, Jamie Orchard of the Comedy Nest (good clean humour for a change), and the incomparable Bernadette Short Irish Dancers.

When, the five finalists were announced (by now well after Lori's predicted time of termination), I was delighted to discover that I agreed with most of the judges. In fact, I picked the winner, Olivia Crawford, from the moment that she addressed the audience.

Olivia's Irish ancestry stems from her father (Belfast) and her mother (Co Wicklow and Belfast). Now 21, she is in her second year at Concordia University taking a degree in the School of Community and Public Affairs and a minor in the School of Canadian Irish Studies.

Keira Kilmartin's Irish roots come from her father's side (Co Roscommon). Keira is in her first year at McGill University studying Physiology and hopes to pursue a career in medicine. This 20-year old has been a competitive Irish dancer with the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dance for over ten years.

Sarah Shahani's (23) Irish heritage comes from her mother (Co Meath). She is doing an MA at McGill University in Occupational Therapy. Her volunteer experience consists of physiotherapy ward aid at the Montreal Neurological Institute and the Royal Victoria Hospital. She is also a community worker at Face à Face.

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Erin Sports presents sash to Jeff Mahar

By Alistair O'Hara

Friday, February 11th saw a crowd of approximately 120 gathered to witness the pre-sashing of this year's Irishman of the Year, Jeff Mahar. This took place at the Erin Sports Club on Hickson Avenue in Verdun. President Tim Furlong welcomed everyone during this special year: 2011 marks the 80th anniversary of the Club.

Many of Montreal's finest were in attendance including several former Irishmen of the Year, current and past-presidents of the sister societies and members of the Point St. Charles Hall of Recognition. Also present were Bill Hurley (Hurley's Irish Pub) and Paul Quinn (The Irish Embassy Pub). Ken Quinn, president of the United Irish Societies, introduced the recently crowned Parade Queen and her Court (Olivia Crawford, Keira Kilmartin, Whitney Mallett, and Ashley Trainor – unfortunately, Sarah Shahani could not attend).

Visiting from Ottawa was Ambassador Dr. Ray Bassett who lauded Erin Sports as an example of a genuine Irish grass-roots organization serving its community. Such organizations are again very relevant given a new exodus of young people from Ireland in the aftermath of the financial crises in Ireland. He also acknowledged that, after Margaret Healey's greeting, he would never again wear a red tie to this establishment. Green is the colour and that's that!

During the evening, entertainment was provided by Lisa Forget with Terry Clahane on the keyboard. Later, both Geraldine Clahane and Elizabeth Quinn sang some Irish favourites. And Mike Kennedy did a fine job as Master of Ceremonies.

Last year's Irishman of the Year, Wally Gregory, had the honour of placing the 2011 Irishman of the Year sash over the head of Jeff Mahar.



Photo: John Gilroy

2011 Irishman of the Year,
Jeff Mahar

Possibly the loudest applause of the night was for Mabel Fitzgerald. Could she be a future Irishwoman of the Year?



The UIS raises the St. Patrick's Parade flag

By Anne Forrest

Although the temperature was around -15°, many of Montreal's Irish braved the cold and marched outside Place Ville Marie for the annual flag-raising ceremony at noon on Tuesday, February 15th.

This was another of the United Irish Societies' scheduled events leading up to St. Patrick's Day. It was my first experience of such an event and, to be honest, it was of fleeting duration. Maybe I shouldn't complain given the chilly weather.

Proceedings began outside the entrance to the Royal Bank. Sashes were draped over the shoulders, top hats tilted to the appropriate angle, and white gloves donned. Then the procession made its way outside led by Jeff McCarthy and members of



Photo: John Gilroy

The St. Patrick's Parade flag

the Black Watch to the strains of "Bonnie Dundee." Ken Quinn looked particularly magnificent wearing his sparkling chain of office. And, of course, the Queen and her

Court added a touch of glamour with their velvet robes and coronets. Also present were the Irishman of the Year, the Grand Marshal, the Chief Reviewing Officer, the recipients of the Simon McDonough Award and the Liam Daly Award, and representatives of St. Patrick's Society. Arriving at the flag pole, we watched as the flag was raised into place, replacing the City of Montreal flag. There were no speeches, or if someone said anything, I didn't hear it!

As soon as the flag was in position, the procession marched back inside Place Ville Marie and did a circuit of the mall. I'm sure many of the lunch hour shoppers wondered if the Irish had changed the date of their parade.

Congratulations again to the UIS on yet another successful event.



Photo: Anne Forrest

Jeff Mahar, Brendan Deegan and
Father John Walsh

Ciné Gael's season now underway

By Tim Hines

Friday February 4th saw an impressive start to Ciné Gael's 19th season with Risteard O Domhnaill's *The Pipe*, a documentary about a community in County Mayo that took on Shell Oil and their plans to lay an oil pipe from the sea through local villages. The film, which has won awards at the Galway Festival, TIFF and others, was introduced by Ezra Winton, founder and programmer of Cinema Politica. Ezra praised the film for its powerful message and spoke of the importance of documentaries in this age of information. Despite the serious nature of its subject, which includes the brutality of the Gardaí as they seemingly take their orders from Shell to beat and arrest the protesters whilst using their first names, highlighting the close relationships in the community, also had the audience laughing out loud at the humour and resilience shown by the community.

A notable absence from his ticket-taking duties at the front door was Patrick Valley, a co-founder and stalwart of Ciné Gael's nineteenth season. Patrick is currently battling serious illness at the Jewish General Hospital. He is surrounded by his wife, Marie, his three amazing children, who have come back to Montreal from their homes across the country, as well as his brothers who have come over from Ireland and England. He is facing these difficult times with the same strength and formidable wit that has made him so valuable to Ciné Gael over the years. The audience showed their appreciation of him and sent messages on two giant cards of photographs and his Ciné Gael t-shirt designs, beautifully constructed by fellow committee member Antoine Maloney. He is able to read email so anyone reading this who knows Patrick is invited to send him words of encouragement at patrickvalley@hotmail.com.

Our special Cyril Cusack Tribute on March 26th, an event conceived and designed by Patrick, features two screenings with a reception at McKibbin's in between. Before that, our next regularly scheduled event is a special surprise film from Kevin Tierney of *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* renown. That will be screened on February 25th. Shortly after that, on March 13th, we will be collaborating with Brian McKenna in the premiere showing of his latest hour-long documentary *Famine and Shipwreck* - an Irish Odyssey. Unusually for us, it will be a Sunday 3 p.m. afternoon screening.

The balance of our season will include *The Secret of Kells*, a New York Times Critic's pick on Saturday, April 9th at 2 p.m. We're hoping our audience will bring along their children and grandchildren to enjoy this film with them. That will be followed on April 15th by our always-popular Evening of Recent Award-Winning Short Irish Films, selected by Heather McDougall and Kester Dyer.

We close our 19th season with our Gala, the screening of *Swansong: The Story of Occi Byrne*, directed by Conor McDermattroe and based on his critically acclaimed one-man play. He will be our guest speaker on the night, with a reception to follow.

For complete information on our season please visit: www.cinegaelmontreal.com

See you at the movies.



Montreal's Irish enjoy dinner and the Centaur production

By Fergus Keyes



Photo: Haleema Mini

Kyle Gatehouse, Daniel Brochu and dinner guests!

On Wednesday, February 9th, members of the Montreal Irish Community attended a special "Irish Dinner with Friends" at the Centaur Theatre in celebration of the opening of the play *Stones in His Pockets* by Irish playwright, Marie Jones.

The event started with an excellent dinner at Bonaparte Restaurant, on St. François Xavier Street, next door to the Centaur in Old Montreal. His Excellency, Dr. Ray Bassett, the Irish Ambassador to Canada, was scheduled to be in attendance but, unfortunately, due to illness, was not able to make it. However, the Embassy was well represented by his envoy, the delightful, Paula Molloy, an undersecretary.

After dinner, the guests watched the actual performance which was then followed by dessert and coffee in the Seagram Gallery. They also had an opportunity to view a series of photos of Ireland, entitled "Irish Grandmother," by Montreal photographer, Kate Hutchinson, which will be on hand, in the Gallery, until the play closes.

Stones in His Pockets tells the story of a number of characters in a small town in Kerry – when Hollywood decides to use the location for a big American movie production. The play is directed by Andrew Shaver and stars Daniel Brochu and Kyle Gatehouse – each of whom play many roles as different characters.

After the play, the guests had an opportunity to meet with Daniel and Kyle and speak to them about the difficulty of playing so many diverse roles at the same time and to ask general questions of both of these actors, as well as, Roy Surette, the Artistic Director and CEO of the Centaur. The questions and answers gave all the guests a special opportunity, generally not available to the audience, to understand what goes on "behind the scenes" of a Centaur professional production.

Everyone appeared to really enjoy the experience.

Stones in His Pockets runs until February 27th, 2011. To reserve, or for any additional information, call the Centaur Box Office (514) 288-3161



The Point History Society has a new updated website

By Fergus Keyes

The Société d'histoire de Pointe-Saint-Charles (Point St. Charles History Society) has announced that they now have a completely new and updated website, along with a brand-new logo.

You can find the new site at www.shpsc.org.

This improved site is the result of more than a year of work by a variety of volunteers from the Point, and elsewhere, to update information concerning the very interesting and varied history of the neighbourhood of Point St. Charles

A major effort has also been made to translate as many pages as possible from French to English; or in some cases, from English to French – with the hope of making the site as bilingual as possible. However, it is, and will continue to be, a real work in progress.

So please do take a moment to visit the new Point history website and of course, consider becoming a member of the society.

It would also be much appreciated, if you could contribute copies of any photos, or other historical documentation, concerning The Point that you might have.

The Société d'histoire de Pointe-Saint-Charles is a non-profit organization whose membership presently totals about 150 members. A historical committee was started on April 26 1993, with the aim of promoting the area's history and heritage. Five years later, the Société historique de Pointe-Saint-Charles came into existence when it was granted a provincial charter, on June 18 1998. In 2000, the Society adopted its present name, the Société d'histoire de Pointe-Saint-Charles. Since 1998, the Society has been governed by an Executive Board whose members are elected by the Society's members at the annual assembly. The Society still adheres to its original mission of promoting and protecting the local heritage.

For more than 15 years now, several committees, made up of members, have been assisting the Society in fulfilling its mission. The Society can be justly proud of its accomplishments to date: exhibitions, publications, and community events, among others. Most recently, the Society has launched its series of Cahiers which give its members the opportunity to publish their research.

Once you review the new site, please feel free to forward any suggestions or comments that you might have to the Society. Again, this may be found at www.shpsc.org.



St. Columban Cemetery restoration project continues

By Fergus Keyes



Msr. Bruchési's pastoral visit to St. Columban, June 13th, 1902

On July 3rd, 2010, the descendants and friends of the original Irish settlers at St. Columban completed Phase I of their project to repair the local cemetery and honour their ancestors. This major achievement resulted in a ceremony to unveil three walls in the cemetery where tombstones, broken beyond repair, were installed. Although this was the largest and most important phase of their efforts, there still remains work to be done.

The second phase will include the design, manufacture, and installation of a plaque dedicated to the memory of the settlers that records indicate were buried in the cemetery – but where no tombstone, or other marker, can be found. These missing tombstones may be the result of their having been removed, and relocated somewhere else, or perhaps these settlers never had the funds or opportunity to have a tombstone. But whatever the reason, the descendants have conducted extensive but unsuccessful searches in the area for these missing tombstones.

More than a year ago, the group of descendants applied for a grant from the Irish Government in Dublin to help finance this effort and they were very pleased when, in December, they received a positive reply. The Irish Foreign Affairs Emigrant Support Programme (2010), agreed to donate \$2,000.00 towards the creation of this plaque.

However, it should be noted, that the funds could never have been transferred to the project without the help of the current executive at St. Patrick's Society of Montreal. It accepted the funds and completed the necessary documentation on behalf of the St. Columban descendants and friends. Ever since the project began, SPS has acted as an intermediary for the group and offered its services as the registered non-profit organization with which

Cont. p.11

2nd edition of the Défilé de la St-Patrick, Vieux-Québec

By Catherine McKenna

It is with great pleasure that President Peter Farrell and the committee of the Défilé de la St-Patrick would like to announce the second edition of our St. Patrick's Day parade in Quebec City, to be held on March 26th, at 1:30 p.m.

As a young and certainly "green" organisation in many senses of the word, we continue to develop planning and strategies, build our base of volunteers, and seek partnerships and sponsors with an eye to "Continuing the Tradition" for future generations.



Photo: Jay Quellet

The 2010 St. Patrick Parade, Quebec City



Photo: Andrée Lemieux,
Irish Heritage Québec

(l. to r.) Félix-Antoine Paradis, Peter Farrell,
Joe Lonergan - president, Irish Heritage Québec,
Catherine McKenna, and Laura-Lee Bolger

Hailed as a great success after its return in 2010 following 84 years' absence, the Défilé promises to boast interesting new and returning participants this year, along with a few surprises...

On January 24th, the Défilé was honoured by Irish Heritage Québec with a plaque thanking us for bringing back the parade. We are heartened by this appreciation and support, and hope to have one and all join us for the 2011 edition.

For information regarding the parade route, volunteer and participant forms, news and updates, please visit our website at: www.qcpatrick.com.

Take a close look at the above photo. Our own Society was well represented at this event and is surely featured above. If you missed last year's trip to Quebec City, plan to join the 2011 contingent when it hits the road. Check the SPS website for details.



St. Columban Cemetery (cont.)

donations and funds could be deposited. It is difficult to imagine how the project could have progressed without this tremendous support from the Society.

The descendants hope to have this plaque ready for installation sometime in the spring and then will start another fund-raising effort for the third and final phase. Minor repairs are needed as well as putting stones upright that need some attention before it is too late.

So, the descendants and friends of St. Columban thank St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, the Irish Government in both Dublin and Ottawa, and all of the Montreal Irish community for believing that this effort to remember some of the earliest Irish settlers in Quebec was important.



Members meet to adopt a comprehensive set of amendments to the Society's by-laws

By Patrick M. Shea

On January 26, 2011, approximately 50 members of the Society attended a very important meeting of the Society held at Montreal West Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to consider, discuss and vote upon a comprehensive set of amendments to the by-laws of the Society proposed by the board of directors to the members. In December 2010, documents were mailed to each member containing the text of the proposed new by-laws and a summary of the most significant changes included in such proposal.

One of the six strategic planning task forces created at the June 17, 2008 annual general meeting of the members was a by-laws task force. The objective of this task force was to ensure that the by-laws of the Society – which have been amended several times during the Society's history, and most recently in 1999 – reflect best governance practices and keep up with current legal and social trends, including with respect to certain of the matters that were the subject of questions in the survey of members conducted in 2009. I chaired the by-laws task force and the other members of the task force were director Thomas Brady and past-presidents Lynn Doyle and Peter Shea. The goal of the task force was to arrive at by-laws that serve as the pillars of a soundly governed, twenty-first century charitable organization.

The by-laws task force submitted a proposed set of amended by-laws to the board of directors in April 2010. Such proposed amendments were discussed by the directors at a meeting of the board of directors on October 12, 2010. The board of directors made some changes to the amendments proposed by the by-laws task force and approved the draft that was sent to all members in December 2010.

Almost the entirety of the discussion and debate that took place at the members' meeting was about the proposed amendment that would have allowed members of our Society who are neither born in Ireland nor of Irish descent to vote at meetings of the members and to hold Society office. The old by-laws permitted (and the amended by-laws continue to permit) non-Irish people to become members of the Society, and we currently have non-Irish members. The board of directors had proposed that any person who is interested in the promotion and welfare of the Irish Canadian community and the Irish tradition should be eligible to become a voting member if such person's membership was accepted by the board of directors. This proposal, however, did not receive the support of the requisite two-thirds of the voting members present at the January 26th meeting, so this change to the by-laws was not enacted. So non-Irish (without any explicit requirement that they be interested in the promotion or welfare of the Irish Canadian community or the Irish tradition) remain eligible to be members of the Society, but without voting rights and the right to hold office.

All of the other proposed amendments to the by-laws were approved by all but two of the members in attendance at the January

26th meeting, with such two members abstaining from voting either in favour or against. Some of the amendments include:

- New members to be voted upon at a meeting of the board of directors, rather than at a meeting of the members.
- Members to be deemed to no longer be in good standing when their dues are more than 90 days in arrears, rather than 12 months in arrears.
- The addition of a general clause to the effect that the board of directors – rather than the executive committee – has the power to administer the property and affairs of the Society.
- The addition of the ability to send a notice of a meeting of the board of directors or of the members via mail, courier, fax, e-mail or other means of telecommunications.
- The addition of the obligation to hold at least four meetings of the board of directors each year.
- The addition of the ability of the board of directors and the members to meet by any such means, including by telephone, that permit all directors participating in the meeting to hear each other.
- The immediate past-president, who is currently a member of the executive committee, to be also an ex officio voting member of the board of directors.
- The elimination of the requirement that the nominating committee be composed primarily of past-presidents of the Society.
- The transfer of the assumption of the entire responsibility for the management, administration, investment and disbursements of the endowment of the Society from the committee of trustees (to be renamed the audit committee) to the board of directors.
- The elimination of the requirement to hold a meeting of the members each February, June, September and November. One annual meeting to be held each year, and the president, the board of directors or 15 members to be able to call one or more special meetings of the members at any other time of the year.
- The addition of the ability of a member to vote at a meeting of the members via a proxy.
- The addition of customary provisions with respect to the indemnification by the Society of its directors and officers in connection with liabilities incurred in the execution by them of their duties, except in the case of dishonesty, wilful misconduct and gross negligence.

It should be noted that the objects of the Society set forth in the preamble to the by-laws – namely (1) to promote and foster Irish tradition, (2) to aid whenever possible persons of Irish birth or origin, and particularly, Irish immigrants, and (3) to speak, when necessary, on behalf of the Irish Canadian community – were not amended.

If anyone has any questions about the new by-laws of the Society, please feel free to contact me at patrick.shea@blakes.com.



Pam Cotter: *prima ballerina e coreografa*

By Pam Cotter

Last semester was a blur of essays, classes, driving, and dancing. I was splitting myself between two counties and had my finger in so many pies it amazes me that I did not get an ulcer! While life was racing past, there was one event that was unforgettable: choreographing and dancing in a show in Italy. I had my doubts for a while as to whether or not I would be able to manage an MA programme, along with TCRG classes, and choreographing dance pieces for the band *Scéala*. Somehow, things came together in the end, and believe me, the experience was worth all the stress.

Scéala was founded in 2007 by six musicians, each playing a different instrument: fiddle, uilleann pipes, bodhrán, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, and flute. The group has already had much success as a musical band; however, for some time now, members have been toying with the notion of introducing dancers into the show. I came to know *Scéala* when my friend and classmate at UL joined the group in 2008. It was through his recommendation that the band came to watch my Final Year Performance last May and decided to hire me as choreographer.

While it was an absolute honour just to be asked, I never dreamed the idea would actually get off the ground. Things being the way they are here, rehearsals began last minute and I was only given the music in November to choreograph five pieces for the December gig. After the initial excitement wore off, panic set in. I spent the next three weeks listening to *Scéala*'s CD everywhere I went, trying to mentally choreograph while still attending classes at UCC and studying for the TCRG. I am serious, I even left the CD playing during the night in hopes inspiration would come in my dreams!

Rehearsals were held in Limerick, which meant more driving for yours truly, but the experience of being 'in charge' was phenomenal. I spent time with the musicians arranging cues and variations in the music that would be reflected in the dance steps. Compared to previous performances in which I've participated, this process was quite different. There was no separation between musicians and dancers, but instead, a continuous interchange of ideas. *Scéala*'s main goal was to demonstrate a close relationship between music and dance, and I do believe this was achieved.



Sarah Byrne, Pam Cotter, Mairead Geaney and Helena Moore (left to right). Musicians behind are Kevin Jones, Dermot Sheedy, Cillian O'Dalaigh, Mike Coult, Martino Vacca, and Conal O'Kane.

we all boarded a bus to Dublin airport. From there, we flew to Milan, took a bus from the airport into the city, and then a train to Turin. We finally arrived at the conservatorio at 4 p.m., exhausted and hungry. Luckily for us, we were in Italy and proceeded to the nearest pizzeria where we parked ourselves for a four-course dinner. Looking back, it seems like the majority of our time was divided between rehearsals and eating!

The performance itself was fantastic. Every seat in the conservatorio was filled which added to our excitement. While every moment of the show was thrilling, the part I will treasure forever was the inclusion of my solo from my Fourth Year Final Performance. As part of my final performance I had choreographed a dance to the Johnny Doherty tune "March of the Meenatoitean Bull." In my choreography, I use my rhythms to fend off the bull, which, in this case, was the fiddle player on stage. This piece has always been my favourite, but I never imagined it would be seen outside the university. The band chose to incorporate this piece into the show since the bull is the national symbol of Torino.

Boasting a BA (First Class Honours) in Irish Music and Dance from the University of Limerick, Pamela Cotter still finds time to share her adventures with us.

Now attending University College Cork where she is taking a Masters in Ethnomusicology, in December, she travelled to Turin as a choreographer.

Being able to dance this piece in front of hundreds was an honour and as I left the stage, the leader of the band shouted out "Pam Cotter, *prima ballerina e coreografa*" (lead dancer and choreographer). It may have been in another language, but those words will stay with me forever.

After the performance, the band agreed that having dancers added another level to the show. *Scéala* has just hired a manager and things are in the works for hopefully setting up more gigs for the coming year. Of course, I am not counting my chickens before they hatch. Even if

nothing comes from it, I still had an amazing time and will cherish the memories of my first gig as choreographer.



Tara Golf Club celebrates fifty years: 1961-2011

By Diane Moore Liben

Tara is looking forward to an exciting year in 2011. It is our 50th anniversary and we hope to make it a memorable one. A special anniversary party is planned for this summer and we are inviting the Montreal Irish community to join us in celebrating this unique milestone. The Irish Ambassador, Ray Bassett, is on our special list of invited guests.

Our 2011 Tara Golf tournament schedule is included in the Calendar on p. 24.

We will never give Tiger Woods a run for his money, but we really enjoy playing golf in an atmosphere where all levels of golfers are welcome to participate in our tournaments. If you are not a member of Tara and would like to join, please contact Pat O'Shea, our membership chairperson, at (514) 697-8889.



Photo: Carole Déry

Marcel Déry holding the prestigious Mike Cooney trophy for Tara's Golfer of the Year for 2010



Innisfail kicks off the season

By Sandy McDonough

Irish festivities for 2011 Parade began with a grand party sponsored by the Innisfail Social and Sports Club at the NDG Legion on January 21st.

In attendance were this year's Grand Marshall, Father John Walsh, Past President of UIS and current Executive Director of Innisfail, Marlene Demers, and Treasurer, Sandy McDonough. Also in the crowd were this year's Irishman of the Year, Jeff Mahar, and Chief Reviewing Officer, Brendan Deegan, and his wife. A good time was enjoyed by all.



Photo: John Gilroy

Fr. John Walsh, Sandy McDonough and Marlene Demers



Photo: John Gilroy

Jeff Mahar, Sandy McDonough and Ann Broden



Indoor training has started for the MIRFC

By Mark Gallagher

The Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club is pleased to announce that indoor practice has started for both men's and women's teams.

After a very successful 2010 season – the Montreal Irish are keen to develop and strengthen the club and to this end have added to their already solid coaching staff by securing the services of Ian Bailie (provincial coach) as men's head coach and Maureen MacMahon (ex-Canada International) as the women's assistant coach.

We encourage all players of all levels to come out and train with us on Wednesday evenings at the Black Watch Armoury located at 2067 Bleury Street, Montreal, QC H3A 2K2 near Place-des-Arts metro station.

Wednesday Evenings

Women 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Men 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Just bring; trainers, shorts and a t-shirt and some water

Cost: \$2 per session for gym rental.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

The Irish



Montreal, *oui* – a new immigrant’s perspective

By Joe Cully

Like many fellow Irishmen (for I refer to those who have come from Ireland itself in very recent times), I found myself seriously weighing up my options this time last year. If I’m honest, there are two mistruths here. One, I really had been thinking about it much longer than that and two, I didn’t really have all that many options to weigh. To be blunt about it, the total number of opportunities I had encountered since finishing university was so sparse that I doubt there is a system of measurement in existence that could quantify it.

By early 2010, many friends had lost their jobs or struggled to find work in Ireland. Many had already left and those who remained seemed to be in precarious situations with their employers. I realised that for those without a mortgage or worse, those who stood to lose their homes, emigration was once again on the cards. So being without ties, I thought of Germany. I always had an interest in that country and given its vastly superior economy, it remained, within Europe, the most logical option. I even bought a Rosetta Stone language programme and took classes in German, but it was at this point in early January, that two friends of mine in Montreal began to entice me with offers of hospitality.

My father, who has worked in the construction industry from the age of 14, was entering his third consecutive year of a severe work shortage. The industry had already collapsed officially a year and a half before (and probably, in reality, much earlier than that) and he was certain it was nowhere near rock bottom yet. This, he attested even then, was the worst that industry had ever seen in Ireland – far worse than the 1980s when he would often not even be paid for a month’s work, though at least “there was work to be done.” It was he who told me about the ad. he had seen in the newspaper for the USIT Under 35 Programme and told me to go as “there was clearly nothing doing here.”

So it was that I began the application process that was to result in my flying to Montreal in the final days of November. And now, just over two months later, armed with a powerful array of German vocabulary, I am almost settled – though still in the process of job hunting and looking for French lessons instead. I was very fortunate to gain five weeks of temporary work over the Christmas period, something that gave me valuable experience of working here. Now too, I am volunteering as much time as I can to CJAD’s The Irish Show, which keeps me busy. If I was fortunate in those ways since arriving, I have been blessed in others. The hospitality I have received has been beyond compare. As I write this, I think of the *filíocht* of old who were graciously welcomed into any Gaelic household, but who would often take advantage of a systematic hospitality that was enforceable by law. There is no such law here, but the Scottish-Canadians amongst whom I now find myself are every bit as generous. Indeed, they are perhaps the kindest people I have ever met and the openness and friendly spirit with which they conduct their lives is evident in so many of the Canadians I have met so far.

Here in Montreal, Canadians come in many shapes and sizes, from many ethnic and religious backgrounds and also several political standpoints. In Ireland, we are perhaps now used to a microcosm of this, but in Canada, multiculturalism is everywhere, even, as it is in Quebec, within an intercultural framework. It is perhaps the most

fascinating thing about the people who call this place home.

And that brings me to my next point, because the reason I made the distinction of ‘Irishman,’ is that there is already a firmly established Irish community here in Québec, one that predates the last generation by as far back as the Great Famine, in some cases even earlier. There are 161,235 *Irlande-Québécois* in Montreal alone, with approximately 48.5% of these being English-speaking Irish-Quebecers.

Some historians claim a startling number of *Québécois* who are of Irish descent, though it may not seem obvious at first today. These Irish were followed more recently by those who came here in the previous generation; and here I am. At first, it seemed as though I were alone here, but there really was no need. There is a strong Irish presence here in Montreal, as there has been for many generations.

It is early February, and the city is already gearing up for St. Patrick’s Day, which, in terms of activities across the province, lasts for a little over a month. Beyond these, there is so much to see and do in this exciting and vibrant place. Never before have I seen an Olympic stadium attached to a four-season bio-dome. So far I have skied for the first time, built the largest and longest lasting snow fort in my life and finally found an opportunity to understand the Canadian obsession with ice hockey. There is a real cultural collision here between the old and new worlds and the advantages that come with existing in a truly bilingual city would be a shame to waste.



... rewarding evening (cont.)

Whitney Mallett is 21. Her maternal ancestry stems from Co Armagh. In her final year at McGill University, Whitney will graduate this summer with an Honours degree in English Literature. At university, she researched literary topologies of French, English and German novels from the 17th century. One of the major topics of her study was the relationship between London and Dublin.

Ashley Trainor’s maternal and paternal ancestries are from Co Cork. This 24-year old graduated from the University of Ottawa with both her civil and common law degrees and is presently working in a Montreal law firm before officially becoming a lawyer in March.

Thank you, Ken Quinn, and your committee (Colleen Murphy, Elizabeth Quinn, Jane Skelton and Sheila Showers) for organizing this event. This is my ninth Queen’s Selection Evening and I hope to be back for more! The calibre of this year’s 20 contestants is enough to convince anyone that many young women of Irish descent and living in Montreal are truly impressive. And, lest we should forget, Olivia has won a trip to Ireland, courtesy of the UIS. I look forward to seeing more of her and her four princesses during this Season.



Ireland awaits a new government

By Neil McKenty

If most commentators are correct, there will be a wholesale change of government in the Irish election on February 25th. The current Fianna Fail administration will be turfed out and some combination of Fine Gael and Labour (last in power in 1987) will take over. Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams, has resigned his seat in the British House of Commons and will almost certainly be elected to the Dail.

The weak economy and the loss of sovereignty will be two of the main issues in the campaign. This is underlined in a concise analysis of the Irish situation in The Guardian.

“As much as a fifth of the economy has been washed away, but the bedrock is becoming visible and Ireland is inching out of recession. If the collapse of the boom is complete, the collapse of the politics it once supported is only just beginning. The principal victim could be the most successful party in western Europe.

The eternal fixers of Irish politics, Fianna Fail – who have dominated the Dail since the 1930s – have now got themselves in a fix. Having cashed in on the bubble it presided over, the party was hit hard by the bust, delving to historic lows even before the hung over radio interview that sparked months of muttering about Prime Minister Brian Cowen’s leadership.

Recourse to the IMF compromised economic sovereignty, tainting the ethos of the self-described ‘republican party,’ and at the start of the year a respectable poll gave it just 14%. Even worse, Cowen’s extraordinarily maladroit manoeuvring over cabinet posts persuaded his Green coalition partners to walk away...

Mr. Cowen has surely done for his party, no matter what his successor, Michael Martin, can do. The party that allowed bankers, builders and landlords to gamble away a nation’s prosperity deserves to be swept from power. But how much will truly change with the administration is unclear. Few believe a change of political personnel will alter their personal circumstances. That scepticism is well founded.

‘There is no alternative’ is a somewhat stronger argument across the Irish Sea from the UK. Euro membership restricts the options, while the sheer size of bank debts and the past dependence on tax revenues on vanishing sources, such as rising property values, make pain inevitable. The question is who adjusts – and bankers, their creditors and indeed Dublin’s own lenders all have a part to play alongside the mass of the people.

If Ireland’s ossified party system cannot see to the pain being shared around, then within an election or two it could be consigned to the dustbin of history.”

Excerpted from *The Guardian Weekly*
4-10 February 2011



News from the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society

The Irish Protestant Benevolent Society is on a campaign of renewal. We would like to expand our membership and would ask you to encourage your friends to become members. This is the only way we can remain a solid, growing organization and avoid the membership shrinkage afflicting other clubs and organizations.



Photo: Olivier Samson Arcand
OSA Images

Tony Wait, President of IPBS

Please consult the IPBS website www.irishpbs.ca for information about upcoming events.

Tony Wait
President

IPBS Council 2010-2011

Tony Wait	President
J. Michael Nelson	Past President
Robert Ouellette	Vice-President
Bill Boyd	Treasurer
Brian Mitchell	Honorary Solicitor
The Most Reverend Bruce A. Stavert	Honorary Chaplain
Rev. James Armour	Honorary Chaplain
David Clendenning	Rev. James McDermott
William R.S. Eakin	John Perry
Robert W. Faith	Edna Ralston
David Hannaford	Richard Waring
J. Arthur Madill	



La tradition irlandaise to be launched on October 15th, 2011



The publication of *La tradition irlandaise* by Carl Beaulieu, MA, is a unique opportunity to celebrate Irish culture and success in Quebec. Local, provincial, national and international figures, as well as major events such as the longest-standing and exceptional St. Patrick’s Parade of Montreal, provide links in the sharing of Irish culture with others.

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Make Friday, March 11th a night to remember

By Patrick M. Shea

Mark your calendars for the marquee annual event of our Society. The St. Patrick's Society's Annual Charity Ball takes place on Friday, March 11th, at the Marriott Château Champlain Hotel in downtown Montreal. We hope that you will be able to attend Montreal's longest-running social event.

Tickets to the Ball are \$195 per person (or \$125 if you are under 28 years old) and, as always, the price includes a cocktail party before dinner (which starts at 7 p.m.), a four-course dinner (which starts at 8 p.m.), wine throughout dinner, an orchestra in the ballroom, Irish pub entertainment adjacent to ballroom and great fun until late in the night/early in the morning. Corporate tables are available at \$2,700 per table of 10 people (and come with special perks, including recognition in the printed programme for the evening and other signage, premium wine and premium seating).

Tickets can also be purchased directly on our website: www.spsmtl.com. The dress code is black tie.

The net proceeds of the Ball provide very important financial support to our Society and our charitable endeavours. As you know, SPS is one of the oldest cultural and charitable organizations in Canada. The purpose of our Society is to provide support for Montreal's Irish community via charitable, cultural and educational initiatives. Each year, the Society organizes and sponsors a large

number of cultural and educational activities that are open to all and makes dozens of much-needed donations to other Montreal charities and not-for-profit organizations that serve the less fortunate, homeless, children, families and elderly of our city, both Irish and non-Irish.

Please note that the price of a regular Ball ticket pretty much only covers the overhead costs of the evening and does not contribute to the charitable aspect of the event. That is why the ticket price is hundreds of dollars less than the price of tickets at many other charitable balls in Montreal. The purpose of this pricing is to encourage as many members and other people to attend as possible. Whether or not you are able to make it on March 11th, perhaps you or your firm or company would consider making a donation to the Ball's Patrons' Fund. All donations are welcome and are tax deductible. All donors will be recognized as "Patrons" of the event in the printed programme for the evening and will be invited to attend a special VIP pre-dinner cocktail party on the 36th floor of the hotel. 100% of all Patrons' Fund donations will go to our Society and its charitable endeavours. Also, if you or anyone you know is able to donate an item for the silent auction that will be held during the Ball, would you please let Erin Matheson, our office manager, know -- all proceeds of the silent auction also go to our Society and its charitable endeavours.



La tradition irlandaise (cont.)

According to *Wherever Green Is Worn*, by Tim Pat Coogan, the Irish diaspora has had a significant impact on the foundation and development of the world. Canadian and international Irish achievers such as Connolly (explorers), Forrest, Price, Donohue, Flynn, Kane, Cane, Lévesque, Monohan, Edwards and Walsh (businessmen), D'Arcy McGee and Riel (political figures), scientists (Kerwin), O'Gallagher (heritage), McCartney and Travers (literature and music) are all discussed in this biography written by historian, Carl Beaulieu.

This two-hundred page history book, will be launched at a memorable cultural event presented by Heritage Publishing at the Holiday Inn Saguenay Hotel (now the Delta Saguenay Hotel), 2675, boul. Du Royaume, Jonquière, on October 15th, 2011, at 5 p.m. in the Chomina-Ounaniche room. In addition to the launch of *La Tradition Irlandaise*, guests of Irish origin will receive an award, the Order of St. Patrick. Hosted by Larry Smith and Stephen Burke, the following guests of honour will be present: Pierre Monahan, a well-known corporate executive; Evan Price, a major entrepreneur and owner of the world-famous Auberge Saint-Antoine; and Gilles Bérubé, Chairman of the Board, and CEO of Waskahegen Corporation, one of the true entrepreneurial aboriginal flagships in North America.

This event will have an Irish musical setting as its backdrop. Prior reservations are requested and can be made at the following number: (418) 698-4554.



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What you may have missed from the Irish papers!

By Paul Dunne

Skinning the Tiger

The final demise of the endangered species that was the Celtic Tiger tragically plays itself out. I wrote an article on it recently which the ICCC deemed too controversial for the sensitive eyes of its members but you can read an even more hard-hitting (and certainly better written) version of how the Irish government protected the investments of international fat-cat financiers in Irish banks in an article entitled, "When Irish Eyes are Crying," penned by Michael Lewis in the March edition of *Vanity Fair*. My favourite bit is the anecdote about the Wall Street investor who had sensed that Irish banks were in trouble in 2008 and offered a particular bank the opportunity to buy him out at 50 cents on the dollar but was rebuffed. Imagine his delight when he woke up one bright morning in September 2008 to the news that the Irish government had just guaranteed the liabilities of the Irish banks and he would get his full dollar back. I don't know what was going through his head but "there's one born every minute" is probably close. You can read the full article on www.vanityfair.com.

Now you see him - now you don't

Under serious pressure from inside and outside his party to resign in January, Brian "Hosni" Cowen refused to step down as leader of the Fianna Fáil party and Prime Minister arguing essentially that the people needed him to lead them out of the septic tank he had just led them into. Contender Micháel Martin, who was then Foreign Minister, called for a leadership review which Cowen balked at and instead convened the parliamentary party to secure a vote of confidence in his leadership which he won and that should have been the end of the story. However, as his first post-challenge act, he boneheadedly asked for the resignations of those ministers not continuing beyond the next election. Six resignations in hand he took a bus to the Phoenix Park (OK, a Merc limo, whatever) had them signed off by the President and the job was done. All he had to do now was choose their replacements except that it had totally slipped his mind that he might want to check with his coalition partners, the Green Party, on whether they supported the whole idea. You've guessed it, they didn't, and now he was down six ministers that he could not replace. So what to do? Easy, just get the other ministers to double up. Like "when you're not doin' anything in Tourism and Fisheries, would you mind havin' an oul' lash at Foreign Affairs"? Even his most loyal supporters looked like they'd just had a vision of him stark naked and after a few Mubarak moments, he was gone not one week since securing his party's vote of confidence. And the winner of the poisoned chalice? The dashing Micháel Martin will now lead the Fianna Fáil party on to the rocks of political oblivion.

A tragic honeymoon

It is hard to imagine a more perfect specimen of young Irish beauty. A former Rose of Tralee contestant, Michaela Harte was the gorgeous, non-smoking, non-drinking, regular-churchgoing daughter of her adoring dad, Mickey Harte, celebrated manager of the Tyrone GAA (gaelic football) team. She married her sweetheart, John McAreavy, who was a star player on the Down GAA team in January and they took off to a five-star resort in Mauritius for their

honeymoon. Within days of their arrival Michaela was found in the bathroom of the couple's hotel suite strangled to death.

The husband finds the body and raises the alarm. Statistically, in the vast majority of these kinds of murders, you need look no further than the partner. However, in this instance, the police in Mauritius, after interviewing McAreavy for a couple of hours, determined he was innocent. Within a few days and without waiting for DNA evidence to be processed, they had extracted "confessions" from three hotel employees who apparently had been surprised by Michaela while trying to rob her purse. Why the cleaning staff of a five-star hotel who had no previous criminal record would engage in purse stealing and murder a guest who surprised them, I guess we may never know if the confessions mean there will be no trial. One thing is for certain, however, if you are the government of Mauritius with an economy heavily dependent on foreign tourist dollars, you don't want a long drawn-out scandal splashed across the international press which is what will happen if a foreign tourist is arrested, charged and tried for murder. Maybe it's better if there's a plausible alternative that can be handled locally and quickly. Perhaps it's just me but I don't think we've heard the end of this one yet.



Photo: PA telegraph.co.uk

John and Edward Grimes (aka "Jedward")

Ireland's hair-raising Eurovision team

If there ever was a cultural reason to emigrate from Europe to North America, being spared the annual Eurovision song contest is close to top of the list. The Eurovision is like a car crash – painful and tragic to watch but hard to turn away from. Ireland used to be a regular winner and indeed the Riverdance phenomenon was spawned by a five-minute showcase of Irish dance during the intermission of a Eurovision contest hosted in Dublin in the 1990s. In fact Ireland, with 7 wins, has taken the trophy more times than any other European country. However, for many the whole contest is still a bit of a joke and nothing personified (or "puppified") that more than the 2008 Irish entrant, a glove puppet called "Dustin the Turkey." This year Ireland will be represented by a set of identical twins with gravity-defying hair collectively called "Jedward" (amalgamating their first names, John and Edward). I listened to their entry on YouTube and while it sounds pretty dreadful to my ears, what do I know? As my version of another saying goes, no-one ever lost money by underestimating the musical talent of Eurovision song contest winners. So I think it's worth a flutter on PaddyPower.com. Here's to number 8!



News from the School of Canadian Irish Studies

By Matina Skalkogiannis

School of Canadian Irish Studies continues to expand

Recent developments and plans for the coming months all signal a new and important stage in the development of the SCIS at Concordia. Here are some of the highlights as the School prepares to mark its second anniversary this Spring.

New programme: A major in Canadian Irish Studies

In January, Concordia University's Senate gave its unanimous approval for the creation of a Major in Canadian Irish Studies within a bachelor's degree. We expect the program to be launched in September 2011 and once in place, the Major will be the only programme of its kind in Canada offering students the opportunity to receive a degree that will focus on the history and culture of Ireland, along with aspects of the Irish experience in Canada.

Courses in Irish Studies for the 2011/12 academic year

As part of its expansion and in preparation for the Major, the School is planning to offer the following 20 courses in the coming academic year, beginning with two courses this summer.

Irish Short Story
Early Modern Irish History, 1500-1800
Field Studies in Ireland
James Joyce
Irish Literary Revival
Contemporary Irish Literature
Irish Gothic Literature
History of Ireland
Celtic Ireland: Archeology, Myth and Folklore
History of the Irish in Canada
Irish Plays I: Dramaturgy
Irish Plays 2: Scene Study
Reading the Irish Landscape
Introduction to Canadian Irish Studies
Irish Language and Culture
Studies in 20th-Century Irish Literature
Writings of the Irish Diaspora
Irish Traditional Music: A Global Soundscape
Film Culture in Ireland
History and Memory in Ireland
The Great Famine
Celtic Christianity

Members of the Irish community can audit these courses or take them for credit within the Certificate. For further information contact Matina Skalkogiannis at (514) 848-2424, ext. 8711 or email: cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca.

Scholarships for students in Canadian Irish Studies

A series of scholarships will be made available for incoming students who enroll in the programmes offered by the School (Major, Minor, Certificate) as well as Graduate Studies. Check the School's website for current information and the list of this year's winners: www.cdnirish.concordia.ca

Visiting Scholars in 2011

The CSIS will welcome four visiting scholars in 2011: Dr. Maurice Bric – Early Modern Irish History, 1500-1800 (May to

June); Dr. Noèmi Beck – Celtic Ireland: Archeology, Myth and Folklore (fall semester); an Irish-Canada University Foundation Scholar – Irish Language and Culture (fall and winter); and Dr. Claire Connolly, the 2011 Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar – The Irish Literary Revival and Irish Gothic Literature courses (fall).

Two major conferences to be held in July

The SCIS and Concordia's Department of Design and Computation Art will host two conferences this summer organized by Dr. Michael Kenneally and Dr. Rhona Richman Kenneally. The Canadian Association for Irish Studies Conference (CAIS) July 6th to July 9th, with the theme Text and Beyond Text in Irish Studies: New Visual, Material and Spatial Perspectives. Keynote speakers include eminent folklorist Henry Glassie and Paige Reynolds. Irish novelist Patrick McCabe and musician Pierre Schryer will participate in readings and musical presentations. Immediately following the CAIS conference, the SCIS and the Centre for the International Study of Literatures in English (CISLE), University of Innsbruck, will sponsor a conference from July 10th to July 13th. Organized by Dr. Michael Kenneally, Dr. Rhona Richman Kenneally, and Dr. Wolfgang Zach, the theme is Literatures in English: New Ethical, Cultural and Transnational Perspectives. The conference will include participants from Austria, Australia, England, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Fiji, and the United States and will examine how globalization, with its cross-cultural encounters, has influenced the way writers in English have dealt with subjects such as law, religion and racism. Papers are invited for presentation at both these conferences; the deadlines are February 15th for CAIS, and March 21st for CISLE.

Award-winning novelist coming to Concordia

Roddy Doyle, Man Booker Prize Winner, author of *The Barrytown Trilogy* (*The Commitments*, *The Snapper*, and *The Van*) as well as *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, *The Woman Who Walked into Doors*, *A Star Called Henry*, and *Paula Spencer*, will speak at Concordia in October as part of a programme sponsored by the English Department's Writers Read Series and the School of Canadian Irish Studies. Check our website for more details as they become available: www.cdnirish.concordia.ca

Irish Protestant Benevolent Society lecture to continue

At a recent meeting, the Council of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society agreed to support an annual lecture again this year, although it will now be held in the fall. An announcement regarding the speaker and details of the event will be announced later in the spring.

For information about Canadian Irish Studies courses, programmes, and scholarships, contact: cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca or (514) 848-2424, ext. 8711 or visit www.cdnirish.concordia.ca



Les druides : demi-dieux du savoir / Na Draoithe: leathdhéithe an fheasa

Par Alexandre Boulet



Another of Alexandre's popular French articles

Les druides...des êtres porteurs de la sagesse ancestrale. Ils trônaient aux côtés des rois qui régnaient avec suprématie sur l'ensemble de leur royaume. À l'intérieur de cette caste d'érudits, diverses spécialités existaient : les hauts druides, sages incontestables, les bardes, qui chantaient les exploits de leur clan, et les ovates, des êtres doués de dons surnaturels. Même s'ils ne conservaient pas leur savoir par écrit, tous connaissaient l'alphabet oghamique.

Ces druides, désireux de préserver leur suprématie intellectuelle et spirituelle, préféraient sauvegarder, dans leur mémoire, les instructions de leur maître. Le moment venu, ils léguaient aux néophytes, par voie orale, les acquis de leur ordre pour la postérité. Les apprentis devaient assimiler la totalité de leur enseignement et l'enregistrer dans leur mémoire pour la conserver toute leur vie. Cette technique leur permettait de pratiquer leur faculté intellectuelle et de développer leur cerveau. Ces gardiens de la connaissance ancestrale n'enseignaient pas; ils incarnaient le savoir! Savoir qu'ils communiquaient selon les besoins. Leur présence était donc indispensable. Cette manière d'utiliser leur intelligence apportait aux hauts druides de nombreux droits et privilèges qui les élevaient au rang de demi-dieu. Ils jouissaient d'une immunité à l'égard des lois, des conventions sociales et des formalités imposées par le roi. De plus, leur position hiérarchique leur permettait de voyager à travers l'Irlande sans se soucier des zones occupées par l'ennemi. Ce statut social privilégié leur donnait une totale liberté d'action et de pensée.

Si les hauts druides incarnaient la sagesse ancestrale, les bardes étaient les témoins du passé. Par leurs chants et la musique émanant de leur harpe ou de leur lyre, ils évoquaient les exploits accomplis par les héros et les péripéties des guerres passées. Les ovates, troisième caste d'érudits, possédaient le don de l'écoute et de la voyance et représentaient les psychothérapeutes de l'époque qui avaient développé leurs capacités extrasensorielles à un niveau élevé. Ce groupe se constituait de voyants, de clairvoyants et d'autres médiums. Le roi utilisait leurs pouvoirs pour prévoir l'avenir et les stratagèmes des clans ennemis.

L'ogham, un alphabet magique

Seuls les Celtes érudits (la royauté, les druides et les héros) en connaissaient les rudiments, mais rare était son utilisation puisque cette forme d'écriture était liée à la magie. L'ogham est aussi appelé l'alphabet arborescent, car on le lit de bas en haut de la même manière que l'on grimpe aux arbres.

Les diverses utilisations de l'ogham

Les Celtes utilisaient cet alphabet incantatoire lors de moments importants. Les héros et les druides inscrivait des formules magiques en oghams sur les pierres et les arbres qui longeaient le chemin emprunté par l'ennemi. Ces charmes servaient à les effrayer et à ralentir leur progression. D'autres sortilèges avaient pour but de modifier l'énergie d'un lieu ou d'obliger l'ennemi à effectuer certaines actions sous peine de punitions ensorcelantes. Les Celtes lettrés utilisaient aussi les oghams pour relater les péripéties de célèbres luttes ou pour honorer les actes de bravoure des héros morts aux combats.

Ces inscriptions sont restées gravées à travers le temps, comme un témoignage du passé mystérieux et magique de l'Irlande préchrétienne. Toujours présente en terre d'émeraude, sa magie continue à s'exercer, mais son influence demeure énigmatique.

Mon blogue possède une nouvelle section. Elle regroupe l'ensemble des vidéos reliées à mes articles écrits dans *NUACHT* : <http://lesbuzzculturels.over-blog.com>.

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People in the news ...

By Pat Short

As the holiest of Irish seasons approaches it seems fitting to look back over the past few months and fill you in on the recent happenings to our members and non-members alike. We had a nice letter from prolific accordionist **Johnny Maloney** telling us he had moved out of the big city to a small community in Cornwall, ON. He is settling in and looks forward to commuting to visit his old friends and play at the various functions he has been associated with over the years.



Photo: Anne Forrest

Johnny Maloney at the 2010 St. Patrick's Society Luncheon

The Beauharnois chapter of the international children's organization "Maison des Enfants" recently put on a play about the Irish who settled in the area in the 1840s. Members of SPS were pleased to assist them with props and the play was very well received. It is based on the book, *La Sueur des Autres*, by Roland Viau who was in attendance and hopes the children can bring the play to the CEGEP in Valleyfield in the near future.

Society past-president **Peter Shea** (and Society member since 1974) and **Margaret Shea** (member since 2010) had their 40th wedding anniversary on February 6th. They celebrated by spending a long weekend in the Laurentians at the same resort at which they honeymooned in 1971.

Joe Mell, the SPS 1994 Community Award Winner, keenly believes in giving back to his community. Fifty-nine (59) years and still counting!!! His involvement with the Point St. Charles Legion Branch 127 in organizing the Irish Show at St. Anne's Veterans Hospital is a long, long story that began 59 years ago on his return from the Korean War. He and the late **Frank Monroe** began a ringing endorsement of bringing pleasure to the patients at the hospital. Year after year, each New Year's Eve afternoon he engages many of the Irish entertainers in the community to amuse the patients. This year marks the 65th Annual New Year's Eve Veterans Hospital Show. Joe's achievements bring honour to us all and it is fitting that we acknowledge such commitment. Bravo, Joe!

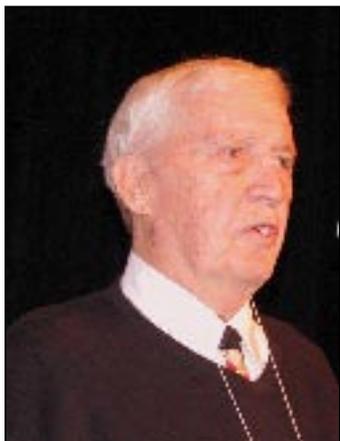


Photo: John Gilroy

Joe Mell addressing the audience on New Year's Day

After over forty years as legal advisor to the United Irish Societies, **Richard McConomy** has indicated he would like to step down after a transition period in which **Catherine Eustace** will be groomed for this honorary position.

Heading off to Killarney are six members of the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing. They are Montrealers **Orla Mahon, Kelsey Crone, Capri van Olm, Gabrielle McBain** from Shannon, QC and **Sarah McNally** from Plattsburgh, N.Y. We wish them the best of luck.

In December 2010, Society president **Patrick Shea** left Ogilvy Renault, the law firm at which he had worked since he moved back to Montreal from New York City in 2004 and of which he had been a partner since 2008, to join Blake, Cassels & Graydon, the Canadian law firm, as a partner. Patrick's practice is focused on mergers and acquisitions, private equity and general corporate and commercial law.

The Society extends a warm welcome to the following who have joined SPS since our last issue was published. They are: **Emily Bellman, Stephanie Bright, David Dubeau, Anne-Marie Keenan, Marissa Keenan, Peter McQueen, Kathryn Phelan, Charles A. Pitts, Lynda Premerl, Stephen Sheppard** and **Marie Short**.

Finally, this just in from Quebec City. **Desmond O'Neill** has been named as their Grand Marshal for the March 26th parade. Congratulations, Des! And we'd like to congratulate **Joe Lonergan**, president of Heritage Quebec, who travelled up to Montreal for the February 15th Flag-Raising. Joe got up at the crack of dawn to take a 5 a.m. train! He'll be walking behind Des next month.



Desmond O'Neill, Grand Marshal

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The Irish Show on CJAD

By Amber Lebrun

The Irish Show has been as busy as ever gearing up for March Madness! We have some exciting interviews lined up with this year's Irishman of the year, the Parade's Grand Marshal and the Queen and her court! You won't want to miss out on any of the fun!

Irish Show co-host Kate McNally has become our music guru digging around to find all sorts of interesting and unique musical groups both here in Montreal and in Ireland. Her love of arts and cultures creates a drive that adds new character to the show.

The Irish Show would also like to welcome Joe Cully from Ireland. He's working on the Irish Show during his one-year stay here in Canada. With his background in theatre, he has also been a student of Irish history, literature and Celtic culture as a whole. This, combined with his experience as a drummer, has given him a profound interest in the arts in Montreal.

As always The Irish Show is committed to bringing you a community-oriented show that gives our listeners a platform to share stories and discuss issues that are important to the community.

We also want to hear from you! Got a story idea, or suggestion? We want to hear about it! And let us know what you think of the show theirishshow@cjad.com

We at the Irish Show believe in the work that we do in promoting the endeavours of the Irish Community and are always open to receiving support from the community. If you feel that your company would benefit from advertising with the Irish Show, please contact us.

Coming up on the Irish Show...

March:

The Irish Show will be at the St. Patrick's Society Ball and Irishman of the year Breakfast. You can also be on the lookout for us in Quebec City for the Parade!

April: In April, you can find us attending many of the films at Cine Gael.

So Join us on the 1st and 15th of every month, for the best of the Irish Community in Montreal! <http://www.cjad.com/>



Please note: we welcome your opinions and would appreciate feedback on the contents of *NUACHT*. Send your comments to nuacht@spsmtl.com.
Editor

Save the date!

Once again, the St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Golf Tournament will take place on June 14th, 2011. This, our 16th consecutive tournament, has been a sellout almost since its inception, so book early!

The tournament features a shot-gun start at 12:45 p.m. Included for \$125 are a golf cart, green fees, roast beef dinner along with two carafes of wine per table and prizes for all. Last year we gave away close to \$10,000 worth of prizes, all of which were donated.

With great support from companies like Hurley's Irish Pub, L'Équipeur, McAuslan Brewery and Trihey Financial, it's bound to be a great success once again.

The tournament is held at the Belle Vue golf club (members' course). And don't forget to book early, as we are limited to the number of players we can accommodate.

For more information, visit our website at www.spsmtl.com or contact Erin Matheson, SPS Office Manager at office@spsmtl.com or at (514) 481-1346.

Paul Doyle
 Chairman



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Around town

St. Patrick Square struts its stuff ...

A Fashion Show will take place on Sunday, February 20th at 2:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Square, 6767 Côte St. Luc Rd., Côte St. Luc. The St. Patrick Square models will be on hand to show off the latest in fashion and comfort. Join them for a fun-filled afternoon with live musical entertainment and refreshments to follow the show. FREE and open to all. Please call to register for seating is limited (514) 481-9609.

... and helps you get organized!

The Upside of Downsizing (seminar) has been planned for Friday, February 25th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., again at St. Patrick Square, 6767 Côte St. Luc Rd., Côte St. Luc. Professional organizer and de-clutter expert, Jane Guest, presents interesting and informative solutions. FREE and open to all.

Irish language classes – ranganna gaeilge

Would you like to learn the national language of Ireland? Private and semi-private lessons now available for adults and children in downtown Montreal. A series of Irish language afternoons will also be held for children from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tentative dates: February 26th, March 5th, March 26th, April 9th, and April 23rd. (Location: TBA) For further information or bookings please call (514) 848-2424 ext. 5123

Do you want to invest in Ireland?

The board of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce and the Ireland Canada Business Association invite you to a special lunchtime event at the University Club, 2047 Mansfield Street on Wednesday, March 9th. The welcome reception begins at 11:30 a.m., after which lunch will be served. There are to be three presentations: Doing business in Ireland (PwC); Why Ireland? (IDA Ireland); and Ireland's Green Economy (ByrneWallace). A question and answer session will follow. The cost is \$55.00 (ICCC members) and \$65.00 (non-members). Please RSVP by March 7th and for further information email contact@icccmtl.com.

Brush up your Irish!

Comhrá (Irish for conversation) is a community-run Irish language study circle where students of all ages come together to learn the Irish language in a friendly and social environment. No tests or exams! Classes are held every Monday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. at Loyola High School, 7272 Sherbrooke St. West. Registration for the winter semester is \$80 or \$5 per class – new students are welcome to come and try the first class before registering. Classes are taught at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. No previous experience is necessary. For more information, contact Claire Cooney at claire.cooney@gmail.com

Walk in the St. Patrick's Day Parade!

Sunday, March 20th, is the date of this year's big parade. As always, the Society will be marching proudly, wearing green sashes, and smiling and cheering with the crowds lining St. Catherine Street. If you want to participate (and we invite all members and their friends to do so), plan to arrive at Fort Street below St. Catherine, no later than noon. For further information, contact Erin Matheson at (514) 481-1346 or check out the SPS website: www.spsmtl.com.

In celebration of Irish-Quebec musical traditions

On May 29th, at 4 p.m., the Chœur des enfants de Montreal, directed by Andrew Gray and Amy Henderson, will present its annual spring concert at the Eric Maclean Centre for the Performing Arts at Loyola High School. For the first time in their ten-year history, the choirs of the CEM will come together to perform with dancers and a full Irish Band to celebrate Quebec folk music. Piano, accordion, bass and percussion will complete the band and young dancers from the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dance will present two numbers during the evening. The project brings together a host of performers and organizations that are passionate about this type of music, and also reaches out to the large Irish community here in Montreal. For more information and tickets: Andrea Cooper at (450) 458-7129 or a.cooper@sympatico.ca. 

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Please Note:

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

2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2011

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION	
Feb. 20	St. Patrick Square, Fashion Show, 2 p.m., 6767 Côte St. Luc Rd., Côte St. Luc.	Georgia Remond	481-9609
Feb. 24	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Feb. 25	St. Patrick Square, Seminar: The Upside of Downsizing, Feb. 25, 2:00 p.m. 6767 Côte St. Luc Rd.,	Georgia Remond	481-9609
Feb. 25	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:15 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 09	ICCC Ireland-Canada Business Association Lunch, University Club, \$55.00 or \$65:00	ICCC	845-0973
Mar. 11	SPS Annual Charity Ball, Château Champlain Hotel, 7 p.m.	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 12	Irishman of the Year Breakfast, Centre Sheraton Hotel	Mabel Fitzgerald	989-1539
Mar. 13	UIS General Meeting, St. Gabriel's Church Hall (following Mass of Anticipation)	Ken Quinn	247-3296
Mar. 17	SPS St. Patrick's Day Luncheon, Hilton Bonaventure Hotel, 11:30 a.m.	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 20	St. Patrick's Day Parade, noon	Beverly Murphy	932-0512
Mar. 24	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Mar. 25	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:15 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 26	Cine Gael, "A Tribute to Cyril Cusack." De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 3:15 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 26	St. Patrick's Parade, Quebec City, Vieux-Québec, 1:30 p.m.	Peter Farrell	(418) 575-0449
Apr. 2	UIS Parade Awards Banquet, Buffet Sorrento, 6 p.m.	Shawn Doyle	240-0569
Apr. 6	"Doing business in the UK and Ireland," Delta Hotel, Montreal	ICCC	845-0973
Apr. 15	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:15 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 15	Innisfail Pasta Night, \$12.00, NDG Legion, 7 p.m.	John Faherty	365-0449
Apr. 28	Cine Gael, Closing Night and Reception, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7:15 p.m.	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 28	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
May 1	UIS General Meeting, St. Jean Brébeuf Parish Hall, 7777 George St., LaSalle, 1:30 p.m.	Ken Quinn	247-3296
May 26	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
May 28	Mass for deceased members & 3 rd Anniversary Mass for Fr. Thomas McEntee, St. Patrick's Basilica, 12:15 p.m.	John Faherty	365-0449
May 28	Tara Golf Tournament, Valleyfield Golf Club, QC	Diane Moore Liben	457-3148
June 14	SPS 16 th Annual Golf Tournament, Club de Golf Bellevue, \$125 p.p./\$500 foursome	Erin Matheson	481-1346
June 16	SPS Annual General Meeting	Erin Matheson	481-1346
June 18	Tara Golf Tournament, La Cité, Hawkesbury, ON	Diane Moore Liben	457-3148
June 30	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
July 9/10	Tara Golf Tournament, Craig Wood, Lake Placid, N.Y.	Diane Moore Liben	457-3148
July 28	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Aug. 13	Tara Golf Tournament, Glengarry Golf Club, Alexandria, ON	Diane Moore Liben	457-3148
Sep. 10	Tara Golf Tournament, Adirondack Golf Club, Peru, N.Y.	Diane Moore Liben	457-3148
Oct. 1	Tara Golf Tournament, Caughnawaga Golf Club, Kahnawake, QC	Diane Moore Liben	457-3148
Oct. 22	Erin Sports 80 th Anniversary Celebration, Il Gabbiano (more information to follow)	Tim Furlong	762-1882



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