



World-famous author to speak at annual Society luncheon

By Anne Forrest

The 2012 Guest Speaker at the St. Patrick's Society's luncheon is probably best known to *NUACHT* readers as the creator of the Temperance Brennan novels and as producer of the acclaimed TV series, *Bones*.

In 1997, Kathy Reichs' first novel, *Déjà Dead*, a New York Times bestseller and winner of the Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel, began her luminary career as a novelist. The protagonist, Temperance Brennan, bears a striking resemblance to the author. They are both forensic anthropologists who divide their time between Charlotte (North Carolina) and Montreal. *Bones Are Forever*, due for publication in August, is the latest of these 15 novels. Reichs is also working on a series of young adult novels. *Virals* was launched in 2010 closely followed by *Seizure* in October 2011.

Born in Chicago, Dr. Reichs claims Irish roots from both her mother and father, with forebears named Daesee, Doyle and McCarthy. Two of her children are Kerry and Brendan – a testament to her Gaelic heritage. A frequent visitor to Ireland, she cites Dingle, Galway and Dublin as her favourite places.

When asked what motivated her to write a novel, Reichs said that when she became a full professor at university, she wanted to try something new. "Fiction seemed like a whole new universe." And so, in 1994,



Photo: Marie-Reine Matterna (Montreal)

Dr. Kathy Reichs – writer and forensic anthropologist

influenced by hard-boiled thriller writers such as Raymond Chandler, she began working on *Déjà Dead*. She claims that her favourite Brennan novel is *Bones to Ashes* in which she explores Temp's childhood and the Acadian culture. She also told *NUACHT* that Temp's Montreal love interest, Andrew Ryan, is a composite of many people with whom she has worked ... "And a little Harrison Ford..."

Bones, now in its seventh season, has helped to introduce viewers to her books. The downside is that reading 22 scripts per season takes a lot of time. As a producer, she mostly advises on the science aspects of the scripts.

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A word from the President

As members of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, we all know about the crucial role played by the Irish and by Irish-Canadians in the development of Montreal over the past two hundred years, whether economically, politically, artistically, socially or otherwise. The recent exhibition about the Irish in Quebec at the McCord Museum of Canadian History – which exhibition was the initiative of and was co-sponsored by the Society and the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society – was a very comprehensive summary and articulation of the very significant contribution made by the Irish to the development of our city and our province, and educated a good number of Montrealers who attended the exhibition and who did not previously know about this history. And there exist a good number of history books (though unfortunately not yet the definitive history), memoirs and scholarly articles that have been published over the past century that chronicle Irish-Montreal history in great detail.

But it has often occurred to me that a visitor to our fair city from elsewhere in Canada or abroad (including from Ireland) would not necessarily guess that the Irish once made up about 30% of the population of Montreal and contributed significantly to its growth and success. Such a visitor would likely catch a glimpse of the shamrock on the city's flag flying from a pole and maybe, if he or she found himself or herself in certain neighbourhoods outside of the Downtown-Old Montreal core in which tourists normally stay, would spot street names such as Hibernia, Dublin, Coleraine, O'Bryan, Doherty, MacMahon, Coffey, Hingston and Clandeboye, and may therefore guess that there were at least some Irish people here at some point

along the way. But, unless such a visitor was here on the day of the St. Patrick's Day Parade or to attend a lecture organized by the School of Irish Studies at Concordia University, he would likely not see much, if any, other tangible evidence of our forebears and of our vibrant community today. Other communities certainly have more tangible reminders of their history and existence than we do – such as the Scots' massive McGill University campus and other similar brick and mortar institutions downtown and neighbourhoods named "Little Italy" or "Chinatown."

I therefore call on us to consider at some point soon embarking upon a new project for our Society and our community: the creation of a tangible monument to commemorate our community and to be a visible reminder to all Montrealers and all visitors to Montreal of our past, present and future. Such a project would, of course, cost money, which means that right now – given the difficulties faced by our governments at home, the Irish government, many of our businesses and many of us personally – may not be the right time to begin fundraising for it. But it can be something we think about doing in the medium or long term.

There exist in other cities a number of examples of such a monument. Ireland Park and the Toronto Famine Memorial was inaugurated in 2007 and received significant Canadian and Irish governmental financial support. The Irish Hunger Memorial in Battery Park City in Lower Manhattan opened in 2002. The Irish Memorial at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia was dedicated in 2003. The Boston Irish Famine Memorial was unveiled in 1998. And there are a number of people raising money to build what is being called the Ireland Canada Monument in a park in Vancouver. A historian could very reasonably argue that the Irish played at least as important a role (and likely a more important role) in Montreal than their brethren did in all of these other cities. The time has come for us to consider memorializing this in a similar way.

Many of these North American Irish monuments are entirely or largely memorials to the Great Hunger of the late 1840s. Montreal is certainly a very important part of the historical narrative of this most tragic event in the history of Ireland and of the Irish. We too could choose to focus partially or largely on this, or perhaps not. Arguably, we already have a famine memorial, albeit a somewhat cryptic and largely hidden one: the Black Rock, which is located in the median of the on/off ramp of the Montreal side of the Victoria Bridge and the inscription on which mentions neither the word "Ireland" nor "Irish." My father, who is the Society's historian, recently forwarded to me a paper written by a local history student that argues that the Black Rock should be moved to a more central (and peaceful) area. This is certainly an idea that can be debated, though I suspect that it would be a divisive

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Disclaimer:

NUAHT occasionally publishes material of a controversial nature. It wishes to state that one of the purposes of this newsletter is to share opinions submitted and it welcomes comments from readers.

News from the Society

19th Annual Charity Christmas Concert

By Carol McCormick

St. Patrick's Society celebrated another successful and memorable Christmas Concert on Dec. 1, 2011, at St. Patrick's Basilica. The audience came from every corner of the island of Montreal, the South Shore, Laval and even from south of the border.

It seems everyone wanted to attend the concert to hear four very different but very exciting groups to put us into the spirit of the season.

The evening's opening of the 15 Pipes and Drums from the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment of Canada) was resounding to say the least! This military band was greeted by close to 700 people standing in amazement to the thunderous sound that filled the basilica. The audience was in awe at the regiment's strict discipline and impressive Scottish dress.



Photo: John Gilroy

Say it with "Flowers from SPS"

By Carol McCormick

A new idea to help St. Patrick's Society raise funds in a unique way was launched at the Annual Christmas Concert.

A beautiful four-colour insert and an order form was placed in the concert programme. A few people took advantage of this opportunity to have beautiful flowers to decorate our homes and give as gifts. The fact that part of the purchase went towards the endeavours of St. Patrick's Society was a bonus.

Unfortunately, this was introduced late in the year and as the on-line ordering feature did not function (only those placed by phone worked), it was difficult for the project to gain speed in sales.

This year, with the help of our SPS office working steadfastly in getting the on-line payments to be effective for the ordering of flowers, we will promote this service in the Fall and hope you will all take advantage of it.

If it proves to be a success, we may expand this to the Valentine's Day and Mother's Day events.



This year, the St. Gabriel's Parish Choir, directed by Mr. Terry Clahane, was the guest choir. If there were any group to set the mood, it was this wonderful choir that sang with heart and beautiful harmonies that reminded us of our childhood Christmases with songs such as "Silver Bells," "Winter Wonderland," "White Christmas" and so many more.

Once again, the Bernadette Short Irish Dancers danced elegantly and reverently through the church, each carrying a lighted candle down the aisles.

A very different sound of Christmas, but enjoyed by many of our guests, were the Sheldon Kagan Instrumentalists and Vocalist – "Off the Record." Their rendition of "Carol of the Bells," "Christmas Time Is Here" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" was soft and mellow putting everyone in a very relaxed mood. They also got the audience to join in their finale of "Christmas in Killarney."

This was the first year that SPS asked everyone to bring one non-perishable food item. It was a great success because at the end of the evening, 18 boxes of food were collected and transported to the NDG Food Bank. We hope to continue this at all future concerts.

December, 6th of this year, marks the 20th Annual Charity Christmas Concert. Plans are already in progress to make this the best concert ever. We count on all of you to make it the success it can be for your St. Patrick's Society and for the community it serves. See you all then!



Ógra Habs Night a hit!

By Julie Dunn

Ógra's 2nd Annual Habs Night Out was a huge success! A big thank you to those who came out to cheer on the Montreal Canadiens as they took on the Columbus Blue Jackets in early December. Although the Habs lost in a shoot out, the night was a success none the less and everyone joined together after the game at Hurley's Irish Pub for a pint or two.

All Junior members (and those interested in becoming members) are invited to join us at the Annual Charity Ball on March 9th at the Marriott Château Champlain Hotel. The night promises to be filled with fine food, entertainment, a live band and of course Hurley's Irish Pub which opens at midnight. Junior tickets are only \$125 and are now available for purchase online.



Jim Flaherty: Guest of Honour at SPS Ball

By Marilyn Meikle



Minister James Flaherty

The Guest of Honour for the St. Patrick's Society Annual Charity Ball is Canada's Minister of Finance, James M. Flaherty.

Minister Flaherty is a third-term Member of Parliament for Whitby-Oshawa (Ontario) and is also Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area. He is a Governor of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Our Minister of Finance was recently awarded Euromoney Magazine's Finance Minister of the Year award. Euromoney credited him with enhancing Canada's reputation for sound fiscal policy while taking full account of social justice and overseeing a strong regulatory regime that has kept the financial sector out of chaos.

In 2010, Minister Flaherty was chair of the G-7 Finance Ministers and chair of the annual Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting. Previously, for more than 10 years, he served as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Whitby-Ajax (Ontario). He served as Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, Attorney General and Minister of Labour. He graduated from Princeton University cum laude and then graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School. He was called to the Bar in Ontario with honours and practised law for more than 20 years before being elected to public office. Minister Flaherty was born in Lachine, Quebec and graduated from Loyola High School. His ancestors hail from County Galway and landed at Partridge Island in Saint John Harbour when they came to Canada. He and his wife Christine Elliott, Member of Provincial Parliament for Whitby-Oshawa, live in Whitby with their triplet sons.

In accepting our invitation to the Ball, Minister Flaherty said, "As a proud Irish-Canadian from Montreal, I'm looking forward to returning to my hometown to celebrate the long and important Irish presence in this city and in Canada at large."

The Society looks forward to welcoming him and his wife Christine to the Ball on March 9th.



Introducing Pamela McGovern: Honorary Chair of the Ball

By Marilyn Meikle

The Organizing Committee of the St. Patrick's Society Charity Ball welcomes Pamela McGovern, General Counsel of Hydro-Québec, as Honorary Chair of the Ball. Pamela graciously accepted the role and has worked tirelessly to reach out to members of the Society, and to individual and corporate contacts to increase contributions to the Patrons' Fund.

Says Pamela, "I am proud of my Quebec Irish heritage. I attended grade school and high school in the French school system (Saint-Clément and École Secondaire Pierre Laporte) at a time when French immersion was not possible. I have always been aware of the strong ties which the Irish hold to this Province." Pamela graduated from McGill University with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1978, followed by a bachelor's degree in civil law from the University of Ottawa in 1982.

Before joining Hydro-Québec in 2009, she was a partner with Lavery, de Billy where she served for seven years as Group Manager, Commercial Litigation. She also sat on the firm's board of directors. A member of the Barreau du Québec since 1983, Ms. McGovern has given presentations or presided over conferences on a wide variety of subjects, including construction, collateral security and alternative dispute resolution. She has also taught surety law in the construction sector at Montreal's École de technologie supérieure.

Ms. McGovern sits on the board of Maison Biéler, a retirement home for Canadian Forces veterans. She is also involved in a project designed for soldiers returning from Afghanistan with post-traumatic stress disorder. In addition, she offers legal advice to several Irish community organizations, including the St. Patrick Foundation.

Ms. McGovern plays an active role in the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) as a board member of the IADC as Vice-President of International and as a board member of the IADC Foundation.



Pamela McGovern

Pamela's Irish roots stem from Ballymagauran, Templeport, County Cavan, Ireland. Her great-grandfather Peter Magauran and his brother Edward arrived in Montreal in the late 1820s. Peter married Ann Logan (from County Cavan) at Notre Dame Church in 1834. After their marriage, Peter ran a grocery store/tavern on the corner of Notre Dame and Wolfe. He and Ann had three children; Ann, Mary and Edward. They lost everything in the fire of 1852 and followed the railway, moving to Danville, Quebec.

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2012 Irishman of the Year: Bill Hurley

By Anne Forrest

Bill Hurley, a well-loved figure in Montreal's Irish community, was born 62 years ago in Deux Montagnes (Two Mountains). His great grandparents hailed from Donegal, Limerick and West Cork. Married to Irene, he boasts a large extended family but has no children other than Murphy (6), his miniature schnauzer and his sister, Madison (2).

Bill is best known for Hurley's Irish Pub which he opened in July 1993 as a home for the Irish and Irish at heart and as a place to share with others the sounds, tastes, spirit and energy of the Irish Pub experience right here in Montreal. He claims that the pub's mission statement is simple: to strive to be the best Irish pub in the world. He says that he and his staff focus on this goal every day. (It is well on its way to reaching its objective!) Friends can gather together to share the music, craic, food, and fabulous pints, leaving the worries of the world outside for a while, in a place whose staff understands what it means to appreciate and enjoy this home away from home. It is hard to believe that when this popular pub first opened, Hurley's could only hold 87 people, but it has expanded: now after years of chipping the stones away, it has reached a capacity of nearly 600. Nonetheless, the traditional and authentic atmosphere that is Hurley's continues to thrive.

The Irish of Montreal welcomed the creation of Hurley's; it is their direction and guidance that have helped to make the pub so successful. Bill recognizes this support and in turn he gives back to the community. Over the years, Hurley's has been involved in or with the following Irish activities or organizations: St. Patrick's Ball; St. Patrick's Luncheon; St. Patrick's Golf Tournament; the Irishman of the Year Breakfast; The Queen's Selection Night; the

St. Patrick's Parade; the UIS Parade Banquet; the AOH March to the Stone; the Jeanie Johnston Foundation; the Feis; the Irish Open Charity Golf Tournaments; the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce; the Montreal Irish Rugby Club; Cine Gael; the Montreal Irish Shows; the Montreal Celtic Festival; and Concordia's Canadian Irish

Studies programme. Hurley's also has links with the Montreal Scottish community and has contributed to the St. Andrew's Ball, the 78th Fraser Highlanders (of which Bill is a Lieutenant), the Sons of Scotland, and the Highland Games. The list goes on. However, Bill is most proud to be a major supporter of UIS and St. Patrick's Society.

In 2004, Bill Hurley was chosen to serve as Grand Marshal for the 180th St. Patrick's Day Parade. Now, in 2012, he has been selected by Erin Sports as the Irishman of the Year, a position that he is honoured to accept.



Photo: Anne Forrest

Bill Hurley smiles proudly, Feb. 10th

... is "pre-sashed" by Erin Sports

On Friday, February 10th, Bill Hurley was duly pre-sashed by Erin Sports. As usual, the evening was one of warmth and friendliness. Tim Furlong, president of the club, handed over the job of MC to past-president Barry Holdbrook who performed his duties in a humorous and competent manner.

The evening began with Francis Baddeley's renditions of both national anthems followed by the presentation of this year's royal court. The Queen and her four princesses each introduced themselves. Another attendee who warranted a round of applause was Mitzi Hurley, the 90-year-old mother of Bill. She celebrated this milestone birthday earlier in the week.

Bill Hurley was duly sashed by outgoing Irishman of the Year (2011), Jeff Mahar. He was flanked by half a dozen or so former recipients of this honour.

Barry next introduced the Erin Sports Athlete of the Year, a female for a change! Jennifer Dytynshyn (yes, I got her to spell this for me) is an 18-year-old rower and Dawson College student (see photo p.21). Later, the presidents (or representatives) of the sister societies posed for their annual picture.



Photo: John Gilroy

Presidents (or representatives) of several of Montreal's Irish societies

Music played a large part in the festivities with Terry Clahane and Lisa Forget on stage for most of the time. They were joined briefly by Jeff McCarthy (Liam Daly Award winner) who entertained us with his brilliance on the highland pipes.

The women, not members of this male-only club (!), provided us with hors d'œuvres and a delicious buffet. Thank you, Erin Sports, for yet another great evening.



Author (cont.)

However, it was her primary career that brought her to Concordia University in Montreal in 1989 as part of the National Faculty Exchange (NFE). She has taught how to detect and recover human remains, and how to separate and identify commingled body parts. For Reichs, the most rewarding moment is solving a case and identifying a previously anonymous corpse. Equally gratifying is testifying in a trial involving a violent accused. In response to the question as to which career gave her the more satisfactions she responded, “Both. And it is very much a feedback situation, one phase of my life informing the others.”

Dr. Reichs presently consults for the Laboratoire de Sciences Judiciaires at de Médecine Légale here in Quebec, a role that she previously performed for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in North Carolina. She has travelled to Rwanda to testify at the UN Tribunal on Genocide, and has helped exhume a mass grave in Guatemala. As part of her work at JPAC (Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command), she aided in the identification of war dead from the Second World War, Korea and Southeast Asia.

Reichs is also one of 88 forensic anthropologists ever certified by the American Board of Forensic Anthropology. She served on the board of directors and as vice-president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and is currently a member of the National Police Services Advisory Council in Canada. A full professor in the Department of Anthropology at University of North Carolina-Charlotte, she holds MA and PhD degrees from Northwestern as well as an honorary LLD from Concordia University.

Despite her busy lifestyle, Kathy Reichs finds time for her favourite sports of golf and tennis. Summers are spent swimming laps and in winter she hits the gym. Above all she is an avid reader, especially of thrillers. Although her home base is Charlotte, she returns to Montreal every six to eight weeks. When here, she enjoys the city’s multi-cultural atmosphere, great restaurants, the nightlife, with Hurley’s Irish Pub being a favourite haunt. Alas, she will never settle here permanently because the Quebec winters are too harsh for her southern soul!

NUA^{CH}T has it on very good authority that Kathy Reichs is an acclaimed speaker. Those of you who plan to attend the March 16th St. Patrick’s Society lunch will not be disappointed. We look forward to an interesting and informative speech.



President (cont.)

debate for our community. But a new monument would not require this specific debate and could take whatever shape (both physical and narrative) we wanted.

Such a monument would, however, not necessarily be free of controversy. Some people may argue that the million (or two or three) in funding that would be required would be better spent endowing another professorship at the School of Irish Studies or helping to fund the operations, activities and charitable endeavours of Irish organizations in Montreal. Others may wish to pursue alternative or additional monuments – such as, perhaps, the erection of a statue of Thomas D’Arcy McGee to join those of John A. Macdonald, Wilfred Laurier and Robbie Burns (the last of whom, I assume, never stepped foot in Montreal) in Dominion Square – and there is nothing wrong with that. But I encourage all of us to consider such a project. And I would appreciate hearing your thoughts about it.

* * * * *

I strongly encourage all members to attend the upcoming Ball and Luncheon and to encourage their friends and family members to attend as well. These events – the oldest ones the Society organizes and the longest-running of their kind in Montreal – will be a lot of fun, feature wonderful guests of honour, guest speakers and honorary chairpersons and together are the most important of the Society’s fundraisers. They are each covered in this issue of *Nuacht*. I look forward to seeing you at them.

Patrick M. Shea
February 2012



McGovern (cont.)

In Danville, Peter and Ann were integral in creating Saint Ann’s Parish; their front parlour was used to celebrate mass while the church was being built. The church is named St. Ann as a tribute to Ann Logan. The family stayed in Danville with both Peter and his son Edward serving as mayor. The McGovern’s (Magauran had become McGovern) Coat of Arms is incorporated in the Coat of Arms of Danville.

Peter and Ann’s son Edward married Bridget O’Brien and their son Edward moved to Richmond, Quebec, where he owned the Grand Central Hotel. He married Marie Delphine St-Onge Park in 1915. Pamela’s father, Edward McGovern, was their third child. Her mother, Annabel Pearson, is also of Irish descent.

Pamela’s great-uncle Dr. J. McGovern was one of the first doctors at St. Mary’s Hospital and his patients were primarily from the Irish community. His son, Dr. Jack McGovern was a surgeon at St. Mary’s until his retirement.

“Our family has always been attached to our Irish roots and I visited Ballymagauran in 1997. My eldest daughter Dominique McGovern Lefebvre was a Princess in the St. Patrick’s Parade in Montreal in 2005. She graduated from Concordia in 2008 with a degree in Film Studies with a minor in Canadian Irish studies.

I urge all members of the Society to donate to the Patrons’ fund to ensure that the Society can continue its charitable works.”



Five bright young women chosen as royal court

By Anne Forrest

My 10th Queen's Selection Night ... and I keep coming back! The United Irish Societies has been organizing this event for many years and, once again, the venue was the Buffet Sorrento in LaSalle. The format of the evening rarely changes, yet there was one major difference this year as Christine Long replaced Lori Graham as MC. Christine, who has worked at CTV Montreal for the past 14 years, previously travelled the world, and finally settled here in her home town. She often donates her time to help Montreal's charities and did a fine job in keeping things moving along.

This year's panel of judges consisted of Andrew Fogarty (St. Patrick's Foundation), Carol McCormick (Choir Director – St. Patrick's Basilica), Erin Matheson (St. Patrick's Society), Francis Scarpaleggia (MP Lac-Saint-Louis), Gavin Foster (Professor, Concordia Irish Studies), Katherine McKendy (Parade Queen 2010) and Patrick Short (Bernadette Short Irish Dancers). As usual, Dr. Michael Kenneally and Gerry Showers ensured that the results were correctly tallied and scrutinized.

Before the actual competition began, UIS's president, Michael Kennedy, presented the 2012 Grand Marshal (Paul Loftus) and 2012 Chief Reviewing Officer (Danny Doyle) with their sashes. Also acknowledged were Ernie Presseau, the recipient of the Simon McDonaugh Humanitarian Award and Jeff McCarthy, recipient of the Liam Daly Heritage Award. (See pp. 9 & 10 for profiles of these deserving individuals.)

Finally, it was time for the 18 talented contestants (all of Irish descent) to present themselves in this public speaking competition. In groups of six, each young woman introduced herself. The field was then narrowed down to 10 semifinalists, each of whom spoke on one of 10 assigned topics. This year's favourite was the contribution D'Arcy McGee had made to Canada! Then the judges had to determine which five contestants would constitute this year's royal court.

In between the activities outlined above, we were entertained by some of Montreal's finest. Tied for first place (in my opinion and shared by many) were the Bernadette Short Irish Dancers and singer Jennifer Ardit. Others included Francis Baddeley, The Melotonz, the McGee family, a comedian from the Comedy Nest, and ... not to be forgotten ... Terry Clahane who worked his keyboard the entire evening.

The Selection Night is a very long evening and the "regulars" have learned that the small basket of chips gracing each table of 12 doesn't quite cut it. This year we enjoyed a veritable feast at our table: an elaborate platter of cheeses, nuts, grapes and crackers; Pringles; nuts and raisins; veggie chips; shortbread; and Irish crisps (i.e., potato chips) imported from Belfast.

Shortly before 11:00 p.m. the five finalists each had to respond to a question posed by one of the judges. This was the basis for the selection of the Queen. Kiera Kilmartin, who spoke confidently about volunteerism, proved to be the winner and was crowned

by Olivia Crawford who had earlier spoken about what her one year as the 2011 Queen had meant to her. She had told me during the break that she was very sad that her time was now up. Keira, who was a 2011 princess, has four delightful and talented young women to support her. They are: Abbey Lacroix; Charlotte McLeod; Hannah Quinn; and Sheila Shakibaian.



Kiera Kilmartin (Co. Roscommon) taking BSc in Physiology, McGill



Abbey Lacroix (Co. Laois) studying Classical Studies and History at l'Université de Montréal



Charlotte McLeod (Co. Tipperary) holds a BComm from McGill



Hannah Quinn (Co. Armagh) studying International Development Studies and Anthropology at McGill



Sheila Shakibaian (Co. Louth), holds a BComm from Concordia

Congratulations to the UIS for making this yet another memorable evening, especially the committee of Chairperson, Colleen Murphy (who opened the proceedings), Elizabeth Quinn, Jane Skelton, Sheila Showers and Jennifer Ardit. 🍀

Photos: Michael Green

The United Irish Societies presents its 2012 parade officials

Grand Marshal: Paul Loftus

Since his arrival in Canada some 40 years ago, Paul Loftus has become a prominent member of Montreal's Irish community. In 1991, he co-founded the Montreal branch of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) of which he has been president for the past 13 years. He has also served as a director of St. Patrick's Society, president of the Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club, captain of the Montreal Shamrocks, co-founder and director of the Montreal Trainers' Group, vice-president of the Montreal Press Club and co-host of the Montreal Irish Show. Possessing seemingly boundless energy, Paul also has memberships in the Quebec Association for Adult Learning, the American Society for Training and Development, and the American Management Association. With degrees from University College, Dublin, Concordia University, Montreal, and Lamar University, Texas, as well as many academic certifications and professional assignments, Paul is the owner and president of Paul Loftus and Associates Inc., a firm of international management and organizational development consultants. As a well-known speaker, he conducts training seminars and addresses conferences throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia. He is also co-author of *Time Well Spent – Getting Things Done Through Effective Time Management* and has written numerous articles for international journals and business magazines. One of seven children, Paul was born



and raised in Ballina, Co. Mayo, Ireland. When speaking at a conference in Indonesia, he met his future wife, Vivi. They have a daughter, Mary Lynn, now in her second year of high school. The United Irish Societies is honoured to name Paul Loftus as the Grand Marshal of the 2012 St. Patrick's Parade.



Chief Reviewing Officer: Daniel "Danny" Doyle Sr.



A native of Griffintown, Daniel Doyle was the sixth of 12 children born to Muriel and Daniel Doyle in 1957. Raised in the working-class neighbourhoods of Griffintown and Point

St. Charles, Danny learned to celebrate his Irish heritage from an early age. For many years, following in the footsteps of his father and paternal uncles, he participated in the St. Patrick's Parade as a member of the St. Ann's marching unit and also hosted annual post-parade gatherings for friends and family. In 1998, Danny's father was named Irishman of the Year by the Erin Sports Association. Danny has worked for the Canadian National Railway for over 36 years, nevertheless he has found time for numerous volunteering activities. These include serving as: coach for over 10 years with the Verdun Minor Football Association; co-chair of the 2010 United Irish Societies Post-Parade Banquet; Parade Deputy Marshal for four years; member of both the Knights of Columbus and the Erin Sports Association; and member of the following organizing committees – the Point St. Charles Hall of Recognition, the St. Gabriel's Parish Gary Clahane Memorial Golf Tournament, and the St. Gabriel's Parish 2011 Irish pub night. And as a child, Danny served as an altar boy at St. Ann's Parish in Griffintown. Married for 31 years, Danny and his wife, Catherine, have three sons: Danny Jr., Shawn, and Brandon to whom they have passed down their strong family values. They are continuous supporters of charitable events within the Irish community and beyond. The United Irish Societies is proud to welcome Daniel "Danny" Doyle as Chief Reviewing Officer for the 2012 St. Patrick's Parade.



UIS Award winners

Simon McDonaugh Humanitarian Award: Ernie Presseau



Ernies Presseau well deserves the **Simon McDonaugh Humanitarian Award** for 2012. His parents were of Quebec-Irish and francophone extraction and raised their seven children to appreciate their heritage. From a very early age, Ernie participated in the St. Patrick's parades with his father and St. Ann's Parish. Later he convinced the Ryder Trucking Company to provide trucks to pull the parade floats. As a member of UIS, he has served as co-chair and chairman of the entertainment committee and chairman of the pageant committee (now known as the Selection Evening). He was also a member of Montreal's Canada Day Parade organizing committee. For the past nine years, Ernie has been active in the Chateauguay Irish community where he lives. In 2004, he was instrumental in getting the name "Chateauguay Irish Society" changed to "The Chateauguay and Valley Irish Heritage Association" in an effort to garner more support from the Chateauguay Valley. Today he serves as Parade Director of the Chateauguay St. Patrick's Day Parade that he helped to create in 2005. He is also a board member of the Chateauguay Civitan Club and a member of the Chateauguay Canada Day committee. Despite health problems, he never slows down and soldiers on. A proud husband to Anne, father to Paul and Laurie and grandfather of four, this quiet and unassuming man is known for his reliability and dependability.

Simon McDonaugh

The Simon McDonaugh Humanitarian Award, established in 1993, acknowledges Simon McDonaugh's dedication to his heritage and humanitarianism. From 1940 to 1979, as a member of UIS, he was the Chief Deputy Marshal and inspired many successful implementations of the parades. He was later appointed an Honorary Life Member. His humanitarian lifestyle lives on through this award.

Liam Daly Heritage Award: Jeff McCarthy



This year's recipient of the **Liam Daly Heritage Award** is no stranger to Montreal's Irish community. Jeffrey Charles McCarthy, CD, has been playing his bagpipes on important occasions for nearly 30 years. He became attracted to the intriguing sounds of the pipes at the Old Fort on St. Helen's Island where he had his first summer job. The rest is history. He joined the Old 78th Fraser Highlanders and performed with them for 10 summers including two as Pipe Major. He also enlisted in the Canadian Army Reserves with the Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment and has spent 20 years working and teaching as a Master Corporal with the regiment's pipes and drums. The list of functions at which he has performed is impressively endless and includes: the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo, the 55th Anniversary of the POWs of Hong Kong; the 60th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands; birthday celebrations for the late Queen Mother in London and Edinburgh; and 17 St. Patrick's Day parades. Jeff has composed and self-published Quebec's first collection of local and original pipe music and has developed an instruction manual in both English and French. In 2003, he was awarded the General John de Chastelain Award for services to piping in Quebec. Of Celtic descent on both sides of his family, Jeff is married to highland dancer, Heather McNabb. They have two children, the eldest of whom began playing the pipes at the age of five.

Liam Daly

Born in Dublin, Ireland, Liam Daly was proud of his Irish heritage. With his talent, love and devotion, he volunteered his time to the arts and Irish culture of Montreal. As a tribute to him, UIS created the Liam Daly Heritage Award which is presented to someone who exemplifies Liam's love of his heritage and promotes the Irish heritage through the arts.



How to start an Irish film production company

By Tom Bauer

I never thought much about my Irish background (McKenty's on my mother's side), which is odd: my business partner is Irish and a member of Siamsa, half my friends are Irish, and when I studied modern lit., Joyce was a favorite. Some of my favorite filmmakers are Irish (John Ford), and I drink copious quantities of Irish breakfast tea (Bewley's, I might add, available at Hogg Hardware in Westmount, tell Wilder I sent you!). Because my business partner, Kelly, is in the Siams céili band, I get to hear band practice every couple of weeks from Kelly's flat below mine. And when I myself played violin, I took a brief but passing interest in learning to play Irish fiddle tunes, though I never did pursue it. All my life, really, the Irish echo has floated around me, on the perimeter of my experience and I never thought much about it. But that's all changed now.

The way it happened is this: Guinness Rider, a local Montreal director, asked at Siamsa for someone who might be willing to provide an Irish soundtrack for a short film he was making. They recommended Kelly, which was a good thing, since she's got a degree in music theory from McGill, composed plenty, and even taught Irish whistle classes in the past (not to mention playing piano regularly in the aforementioned Siamsa céili band). Guinness and Kelly met and Kelly agreed to do the music for Guinness's film. She also happened to mention that she knew this script-writer fellow (me) who had expressed interest in knowing a bit more about the project. A few days later Guinness called me up and we arranged to meet.

Turns out that offering my interest as a script-writer was a good move. Guinness was excited about his ideas for his film, and he'd written a bit of a script, but there wasn't a clear story as yet. So we talked a bit and I came up with a few new ideas, a bit of narrative direction, and off I went with Guinness's heartfelt blessing and proceeded to hammer out a scenario, then script, for *Storyteller*. With the story as I'd written it, Guinness felt ready to start crowd-funding to raise money to make the film, as well as sending out an application to Bravo for network funding and support. We also went on radio to talk about the story, which is about Griffintown, a neighborhood in Montreal that is changing rapidly. The idea of capturing Griffintown as it is today on film, using a story set in the past, in the Irish Griffintown of the past, before the condos go up, is what appeals so much; linking the Irish memories to the neighborhood before the neighborhood becomes too unrecognizable from what it was when Irish were there.

We had so much fun coming up with this fresh incarnation on Guinness's original idea, that in my excitement I further went off and wrote a few more short scripts of my own devising, stories that are grounded, it so happens, in local Irish-Quebec history. All the talk about the Irish in Griffintown got me stirred up enough, I guess, to keep writing, and because Guinness liked what I was writing we started making plans to film the next one, even went so far as to go out and scout some locations. We also started making plans for future funding, in the shape of grant

applications, and in our excitement we decided there was a focus here, an angle on Irish history, that was not only a strong interest for ourselves, but seemed to be a niche we could explore. Indeed, there seemed to be enough diaspora material for an endless number of stories, all it needed was a few adventurous souls to decide they were going to explore it, and explore the possibility of making films about these stories. Thus, Stone Foundation was born.

We decided to call our fledgling production company Stone Foundation because my house sits on a lovely old stone foundation, built a little over a hundred years ago by Irish masons, so I was told. This seemed appropriate, given the premise of our company, to focus almost exclusively on Irish history-related material (although we've discussed one or two other ideas, notably a Japanese-Canadian co-production: Guinness lived in Japan for ten years, and I happened to have an old synopsis lying around that I'd written up a few years ago about a repressed Japanese man who falls in love with a feisty off-the-rails Quebecois woman – we've discussed changes and have it in mind.)

What we hope to see more than anything at this point, in the short term, is the production of *Storyteller*, the Griffintown film, followed by another short, titled *Bannock*, set in Quebec. This is a drama between an Irish woman and a British captain on the eve of 1775 as he's about to go off and fight in the revolutionary war, and how some things, especially those things 'twixt man and woman, rarely seem to change. It's got horses and costumes and all kinds of good stuff (we've already got someone to do the costumes and we've met with the horse people, it's exciting!). There's another short after that and at least one idea for a feature we're talking about a lot, also a period piece set in Quebec involving more Irish, although these Irish are quite scurrilous, our roughest bunch of characters yet. Should be entertaining.



Photo: Phyllis Lewis

Tom Bauer has a degree in English and Creative Writing from Concordia University. He has worked as a researcher for Discovery television, edited feature film scripts, written and optioned scripts, and is currently working on a book of fiction. His short stories have been published in journals and short-listed for the Quebec Writing and CBC Literary competitions. He lives and works in Montreal.

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Le Défilé de la St-Patrick de Québec – 3rd edition, March 24, 2012

By Catherine McKenna

Now in our third year, the Défilé de la St-Patrick de Québec is currently gearing up for another edition of our lively and colourful family event to celebrate Irish presence in Québec.

We will “Continue the Tradition” this year in “green” fashion, with a line-up that relies on creative participation, with a contemporary nod to parades of yesteryear. Piping bands will include the returning NYPD and Boston Police and there will be dancers, entertainers, street artists, Irish families, and of course, our mascot, Irish wolfhound Bono. We will integrate a representation of the time line depicting the arrival of the Irish in Québec, a theme that we will continue to develop. The National Battlefields Commission will participate with a tribute to the Québec Bulldogs hockey team – many of whom were Irish – “Paddy” Moran, Joe and Jeff Malone, Mike Quinn, and my grandfather, Lt.-Col. Dr. Walter Rooney, on the 100th anniversary year of their first Stanley Cup win in 1912. And leading the charge, Hans, Lucky, Leader, Ryko, Lucas, and Rocky! As no St. Patrick’s Day parade could be without music, so neither should one be without horses, which for centuries have remained central to Irish culture. Our fine equine participants are Canadian Horses – le petit cheval de fer – a hardy breed which were a gift to New France from Louis XIV in the mid-seventeenth century.

The Défilé de la St-Patrick de Québec is delighted to welcome Grand Marshal of this year’s parade, our very own extraordinary bluesman with Irish roots, **Bob Walsh**.

Bob has been playing music here in Québec City and abroad for more than 30 years and I remember him from the early coffee house days on d’Auteuil, when we listened in awe to his soulful voice and appreciated his wonderful talent on guitar. In the 60s, Bob Walsh formed The Blue Boys, and later the Devito Walsh Band, and then in the late 70s,

Contraband. The 80s took him to Nuits Bleues de Québec, and to the Montréal International Jazz Festival. His audience has burgeoned over the years, taking him to such stages as la Maison de la Culture Frontenac (Montréal), l’Anglicane de Lévis, Le Grand-Théâtre de Québec, and Théâtre Corona (Montréal). His splendid *Unforgettable Songs*, a collection of pop classics and jazzy songs of the 50s took him to new heights as he joined up with 70 musicians from l’Orchestre Symphonique de Québec. In 2002, *Bob Walsh Blues* was released, and the following year, *Bob Walsh Christmas* which included les Violons du Roy and the J Project Choir.

After 30 years, Bob was honoured in 2004 with the Lys Blues album of the year (blues). He also picked up a Félix for best artist in a language other than French. He received three nominations to the ADISQ and celebrated with a special concert at the Montréal International Jazz Festival that was recorded on *A Canadian Blues Rendez-Vous*.

We Québécois enthusiastically look forward to joining Montrealers on March 18th for their historic parade, and we hope to welcome one and all wearing their best green here in Québec City on Saturday, March 24th, at 1:30 p.m.

For further information about the Défilé de la St-Patrick de Québec, the parade route, participation, volunteer opportunities, and more, please visit our new website at: www.qcpatrick.com



What I remember of Irish Québec (in my youth)



Bob Walsh, blues musician

I spent my youth in Irish Québec, living in what I thought were The Irish Quarters on Rue St-Laurent and vicinity with an array of families that included The Haberlins, the Bowles, Phillips, Lagassés, Montgomerys, Martins, Fusks, Coopers, Hurleys, to name a few... basically families with whom I went to school and grew up with. My family was held together

by my mother, God love her, who worked a few blocks away at St. Bridget’s Home taking care of old folks as a nurses’ aid, apart from taking care of five kids and my father... whom I remember to be blind as a bat, with a temper to boot, but I digress...

We grew up doing the things normal kids do...ringing doorbells, lighting firecrackers, stepping out to restaurants for frites and Coke and skipping out without paying, kissing the girls in the lane, going to basketball and football games to cheer on the Green and Gold, playing the bugle in the school band when not trying to form a band

of our own...“Blue Boys” had to start somewhere!...and how could I forget the sock-hops, with the girls at one end of the hall, the lads at the other all watching two or three couples slow dance, being a pin-boy at the bowling alley below the recreation hall, smoking in the doorway of the old church, and being invited by one of the families to spend summer weekends in Shannon...it was immaculate, swimming at Murphy’s Beach, square dancing at Shannon Hall, fireside singing and guitar players taking turns playing and everyone sang along, almost like a dream...now and again I find myself wrapped up in the past...

There seem to be a million things when you stop to think, but to make a long story short, I would not change an iota. There are those who have passed on we can only remember and give a sigh for, while we wish the best for those here and those to come...

Avé.

Bob Walsh



From the Défilé de la St-Patrick de Québec, our warmest wishes for a very happy St. Patrick’s Day! Sláinte!

Harold Griffin publishes first novel

Three Letters to Pine River

By Harold Griffin

Borealis Press, 296 pages

\$19.95

Reviewed by Anne Forrest

The novel, *Three Letters to Pine River*, by Harold Griffin follows on the heels of his anthology of short stories, *fragile boys, fragile men*, which was reviewed in *NUA^{CH}T* in September 2008. The work, a tribute to Griffin's father's roots, is a fictional account of an actual murder that occurred in the 1880s.

Once again, the author uses Quebec City and its surroundings as the primary setting for his story with Montreal serving as a secondary locale. A first person narrative, told through the eyes of Francis Carroll, the work mainly spans some 14 years (1952-1966) with a few digressions devoted to earlier periods.

Pine River, based on Shannon, where most of the action occurs, is a farming community 20 miles north of Quebec City. Settled by Irish immigrants well before the Famine of the 1840s, this rural neighborhood has evolved into a well-organized and relatively stable enclave where the inhabitants live amicably with each other. The only threat to their collective well-being was the presence of the neighbouring Val Cartier Military Camp established in 1914. Fifty years later, the federal government again expropriated a large section of Pine River property. It is here that the young Francis spent many summer holidays visiting his Uncle Mike and lovely cousin, Janice, on whom he had a crush.


Describing his novel at the book launch in Lachine last November, Griffin stated that it was "not a mystery but more of a legal retelling of an actual incident. An angry farmer killed someone with an axe but was acquitted when police could not prove it was murder. The same man was hanged for a second murder in the last public hanging in Quebec City." Griffin advances the dates of these murders by some 70 years at a time when the death penalty was still in effect in Canada. Shortly before the murder, Francis and his friend Tommy Kelly overheard the murderer (Mike Ferrigan) and the victim (Paddy Connors) arguing loudly. As a result, both youngsters testified for the prosecution at the subsequent trial. Francis describes his painful experience in great detail. The tragic incident impacted on the entire Pine River community where sympathy for the bereaved Connors family and the unfortunate Ferrigans was often divided. There is nothing worse than being told how a story ends, so I won't reveal the outcome of the trial.

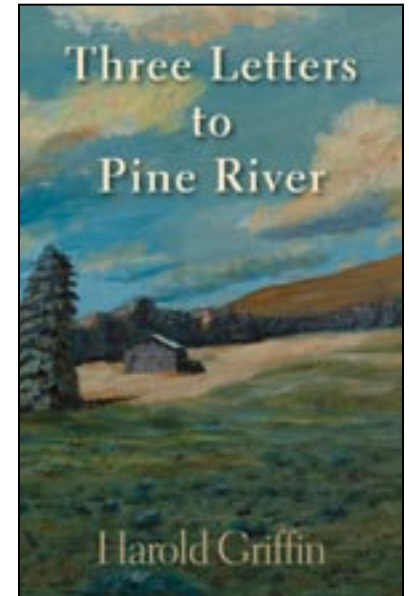
Like a dark thread woven in to a tapestry, the development of the trial is a constant presence throughout the novel. At times it interrupts Francis's accounts of what is happening in his life. The action (not necessarily in chronological order) jumps from Quebec City to Montreal, thence to Pine River, back to Montreal, and so forth. This frequent shifting in both time and location can often be a challenge to the reader.

Griffin excels at characterization and he enters the minds of his subjects and shares their thoughts with us. There are too many individuals for me to describe in detail, but my favourites were the delicate Marianne Connors, daughter of the victim, Joey Ferrigan, son of the murderer, and Mrs. Taschereau, the generous landlady who befriended Francis in Montreal.

The title, *Three Letters to Pine River*, had me puzzled as this correspondence was not mentioned until p.221 and later on p. 274. They were finally included in full from pp. 275-280 shortly before the epilogue. However, I prefer not to reveal the identities of the writer or recipient.

Copies of the novel are available at: Librairie Boyer in Vaudreuil-Dorion, Pincourt and Salaberry-de-Valleyfield; online at Chapters www.chapters.indigo.ca; or from Borealis Press (no shipping charge applied) at <http://www.borealispress.com>

A footnote: Griffin, now retired from 30 years of teaching in Quebec, next plans to work on his autobiography. 



Irish film (cont.)

In terms of *Storyteller*, things are progressing. We've got a crowd-funding page up. So far that is going rather slowly. But we are planning a musical night of Irish revelry at McKibbin's pub here in Montreal on April 6th. There will be a raffle with exciting Irish-related prizes (including a bottle of Jameson's, of course). We expect to hear some fine music that night from local Irish musicians who have been kind enough to donate their time to help raise funds to make our first film. The evening will begin on a mellow note with some fairly traditional music, and heat up quite a bit as it progresses. Hopefully we'll have one or two fun surprises with which to end the evening on a bang.

Here is some contact info for *Storyteller*, and for anyone interested in Irish film, shorts, features, or documentaries, please do contact us. We'd love to help if we can.


Storyteller on IndieGoGo:

<http://www.indiegogo.com/Storyteller-1?a=381916>

Storyteller on Facebook:

<http://facebook.com/pages/Storyteller/302831563088146>

Stone Foundation:

<http://www.stonefoundation.ca> 

Cine Gael celebrates its 20th with hatful of film treats

By David Hanley

For 20 years, Cine Gael has worked to bring the best of Irish cinema to Montreal, and this year the programming committee is happy to say that it will be serving up more of the same.

The season opened January 27th with *Death of a Super Hero*, coming off a successful Canadian debut at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film is the latest from Ian Fitzgibbon, one of Ireland's most promising new directors, whose earlier *A Film with Me in It* (2008) and *Perrier's Bounty* (2009) attracted critical attention and prizes on the festival circuit and multiple nominations for Irish Film Awards. The film stars Donald Delpe (best known for playing Liam Neeson's son in *Love Actually*) and Andy Serkis (the voice of Gollum in *Lord of the Rings* and Captain Haddock in *The Adventures of Tintin*) and has been praised for its "honest and touching performances" (*Variety*) and "impressive cast and moving storyline" (*Screen Daily*). The Irish Embassy sent greetings and best wishes from the Ambassador, and the audience toasted the film with a glass of wine following the screening.

This was followed on February 3rd with *The Runway*, a crowd-pleasing fable that expertly mixes comedy and sentiment and is loosely based on a true story about a Columbian pilot who crash lands in an Irish town. A big hit in Ireland, the film won top prize at the Galway Film Fleadh and a couple of Irish Film Awards. The hapless pilot is played by rising star Demian Bichir. Best known for his work in the TV series *Weeds*, his role in *A Better Life* nabbed him a surprise nomination for this year's Oscar for Best Actor. Jamie Kierans plays the young boy who rallies the town to help the pilot, while his mother is played by Kerry Condon from *Angela's Ashes* and *Rome*.

Coming up on February 17th is *The Other Side of Sleep*, a bleak and haunting story of a young woman afflicted by sleepwalking and her connection to a violent murder. Although it has horror elements, it is not a horror film but a somber meditation on grief and the lingering and often unacknowledged effects of violence. A spare and often grim depiction of small town Irish life punctuated by moments of visual beauty, this is a powerful feature film debut from Rebecca Daly, whose *Joyriders* won the prize for Best Short Film at both the Galway Film Fleadh and Irish Film Awards in 2006. The film debuted at the Cannes Film Festival, where it was championed by Australian director Jane Campion (*The Piano*) and has since been shown at a number of festivals, including the Toronto International Film Festival.

For March 2nd, Cine Gael is reviving *The Nephew*, an engaging comedy from the late 90s featuring Pierce Brosnan, who was then at the peak of his international stardom and taking a break from the James Bond films. The plot is the old standby of a member of the Irish diaspora returning to his roots, but given a new twist through the casting of African-American actor Hill Harper (who has since become well known for his recurring role on *CSI: NY*) as the long-lost nephew. This was one of the first films to deal with Ireland's increasingly multicultural identity, and as immigration over the following decade further transformed the country, its

cheerful contention that an Irishman doesn't have to have a white face has become increasingly relevant.

On March 30th comes what is always one of the most popular nights with our members, the evening of prize-winning short films put together by veteran programmers Heather Macdougall and Kester Dyer.



Bernadette Devlin McAliskey

Negotiations are continuing for the film slotted for a screening on April 13th, but the season finale on May 2nd is confirmed, and will be a real treat for those interested in recent Irish history as well as lovers of documentaries. *Bernadette: Notes on a Political Journey* mines a wealth of archival footage to tell the amazing story of controversial nationalist firebrand Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, who was at the centre of the tumultuous events that convulsed Northern Ireland in the 1960s and 70s. The masterful presentation of period-film footage is interspersed with excerpts from an interview with Devlin McAliskey where she reflects on events from the vantage point of the present. Cine Gael is very proud to screen this important and mesmerizing documentary, and is delighted to announce that the film's director, Lelia Doolan, has agreed to present the film in person.

It's a great lineup and we're looking forward to seeing you at upcoming screenings.

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

Admission for regular films is \$10. A ticket to our Gala Closing and Reception will be \$20.

ALL INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP \$60. This includes ALL Cine Gael functions in 2012: all film evenings and our film weekend; opening reception; closing reception; member appreciation evening(s) at Hurley's Irish Pub; movie preview passes if available.

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



Tour of a lifetime for the Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club

By Trevor Lane

The last Montreal Irish RFC tour was in 2003 to the UK and we were well overdue for another tour. Throughout the club's 55-year history, the Montreal Irish have had a strong relationship with the Bermuda rugby union having toured in Bermuda on three separate occasions. Over the last five years, we have hosted all four of the local Bermudian rugby clubs so decided that the club would tour Bermuda for one week last November.

Soon enough we had 34 members, ranging in age from 22 to 72, committed to the rugby tour: 24 current players and 10 Old Boys, including a few Old Boys who played for the Montreal Irish during the last tour to Bermuda in 1987!

We had an amazing week, and tried to see and do as much as we could when we were there. We visited some of the famous military fortifications on the island, from the Naval Dockyards to the UNESCO World Heritage site at St. Georges. Our second to last day in Bermuda was Remembrance Day and as a group we wanted to pay our respects to all the war veterans. The ceremonies were full of military tradition and will be remembered by everyone who was there. We also spent time relaxing on the picturesque beaches, playing golf, and watching some very entertaining rugby.



Shane Byrne surrounded by his MIRFC fans

Photo: David Crundall

Each year since 1988, the island plays host to the World Rugby Classic. The tournament offers spectators an up-close chance to watch ex-international players from eight different teams; Canada, USA, Argentina, Italy, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the British Lions. Not only were we able to watch famous rugby players from around the world, but the intimate nature of the event allowed us to mingle with the players after their games, highlighted by meeting players like Mal O'Kelly, Shane Byrne and Colin Charvis from the British Lions. One of our players, Dave Linard, was actually invited to step on the pitch and play for Australia, where he won the plate final. Congratulations, Dave! For us, this was a once-in-a-lifetime



Photo: Neale McDermott

The Montreal Irish Rugby Club touring team, all sporting Bermuda shorts

opportunity that allowed us to do some hero worshipping in person. What a week!

Of course it wouldn't have been much of a rugby tour without playing any rugby, and we had been invited by the Bermuda rugby union to play two games. We strapped on our boots for a game against a combined team of two local rugby clubs, the Mariners RFC and the Bermuda Police RFC. It was a hard-fought game, but we came out victorious!

The highlight of the tour, an unforgettable evening, would be the game against the Bermuda select team – a game which took place Thursday night at the National Stadium, preceding the two quarter finals games of the World Rugby Classic. The vast majority of the Montreal Irish players have never played in a stadium, surrounded by a couple of thousand spectators, so you can imagine it was quite an exhilarating experience for us. After the last whistle blew, we had lost, but our disappointment was short-lived as we were greeted after the game by the New Zealand All Blacks, who congratulated us on a very entertaining game of rugby. Once the post-game festivities were over, we were then invited into a corporate VIP tent to watch the quarter final games, South Africa vs Argentina and then Australia vs Canada. It was an amazing experience that brings a smile to all our faces every time we talk about it.

The Montreal Irish would like to thank the Bermuda Rugby Union and John Kane, the organizer of the World Rugby Classic, and all the club's sponsors for helping make the Bermuda tour 2011, the best tour ever.

The Montreal Irish are the current Quebec Men's Champions, winning back-to-back championships in 2010 and 2011. They have three men's teams, two women's teams and a juniors' team. Players of all abilities are welcome to join the club. Indoor training has already started at The Blackwatch on Bleury Street. For times and directions, please visit our website www.montrealirish.com



Pam and her mother brave the Irish elements

By Pam Cotter

Pamela Cotter, BA (First Class Honours) in Irish Music and Dance from the University of Limerick, has recently completed her MA in Ethnomusicology at University College Cork.

Here is an entertaining account of a very wet week in December.

Normally when funny and outrageous things happen to me, I have to resort to regaling my parents over the phone, but for a week in December, I had the pleasure of bringing my mother along with me for an unpredictable journey! My mother flew over for my MA graduation, which may now be one of the most unforgettable experiences of her life. What with the car troubles, dreadful weather, and rushing between Limerick, Cork, and Scotland, there was enough going on in that week to fill a month-long visit.

My mom flew into Shannon on Saturday afternoon, tired but excited to be here. As the good daughter I am, instead of letting her sleep off the jet lag, I took her to my last-minute dancing gig. After all, what is a trip to Ireland without some good old Trad music and dance? Despite her eyes closing a few times during rehearsals, I think she enjoyed herself. I know I certainly loved having someone in the audience just for me again.

Even though this was my mother's third trip to Ireland, she had never really seen any of the iconic Irish places. With that in mind, we decided to venture up to the Cliffs of Moher the next morning. Of course it was raining, but as I explained, if we waited for the sun to come out we would never go anywhere. The wind ended up being so strong that the water was actually splashing up against the cliffs high enough to soak everyone who walked past!



Photo: Pam Cotter

Linda Cotter and Pam "enjoying" the Cliffs of Moher

From the Cliffs back to Limerick, Cork City was next on the agenda for the University College Cork graduation. As the ceremony was early in the morning, we decided to drive down the night before and stay in a hotel for convenience. This seemed like a great idea, until we were on the outskirts of Charleville and the windshield wiper on the driver's side froze. And yes, it was raining! The attendant at a nearby gas station kindly informed me that this problem required

parts and a mechanic to fix it, for which we would have to wait until the morning. There were no hotels in that area, we were still an hour and a half from Cork City, and if we headed back to Limerick the earliest bus wouldn't get us to Cork on time for my graduation. The only thing to do was push forward. So with me working the pedals and my mom guiding the steering wheel from the passenger seat, we drove all the way to Cork City in the rain with only one wiper!

Our initial plan was to find a mechanic in Cork City and get the wipers fixed before graduation, since we had to rush back to Limerick immediately afterwards. Unfortunately, by the time I got the gown from one side of campus and checked in at the other side, there was no time! So we made the lovely trip from Cork to Limerick once again, in the rain of course, with one wiper. Never has that journey felt so long!



Photo: Mrs. Hamrham

Pam (4th from left at back) following graduation

Already exhausted from the events of the week, the next day we began our journey to Inverness, Scotland, where I was invited to teach a dance class. Since flying directly from Shannon to Inverness was not an option, we flew from Dublin into Edinburgh where we rented a car to drive the rest of the way. This would have been fine had Scotland not been having the worst deluge in 25 years! Luckily my Canadian roots prepared me for this type of driving and we eventually made it to the workshop. We would have loved to explore Inverness a bit more before leaving, but when the sun came out the next morning we figured we wouldn't press our luck so started the journey back down the country to fly home.

At the start of her trip, my mom said she was going to keep a journal of her adventures and send daily e-mails to her grade one class to keep them informed. As she was packing to go home, however, she realised that in all the mayhem, she didn't get a chance to send a single email! It turns out her 'adventures' kept her busier than she expected. Although when I asked her if she still enjoyed herself, there was no hesitation to her smile. Now, whether or not she'll be back anytime soon is another question; I think she needs a holiday from her holiday! 🍀

Thomas More Institute offers course on Irish fiction

By Sally Cooper

Following the success of Thomas More Institute's Spring 2011 course, *Dublin Soul*, the Institute is offering the course, *Irish Fiction: Where Is It Today?*. While *Dublin Soul* explored Dublin's unique cultural, historical, and literary legacy, the course *Irish Fiction* examines the impact of recent events in Ireland on its storytellers and their creativity.

Irish Fiction: Where Is It Today?

What impact have recent events in Ireland, and particularly the rise and fall of the Celtic Tiger, had on its storytellers and their creativity? Colm Tóibín, known as the author of *The Master* and *Brooklyn*, suggested in the Guardian (Oct. 2010) that the distressed economy may deflect the long-standing aesthetic sensibility to which Ireland lays claim. Anne Enright, winner of the 2007 Booker Prize for *The Gathering*, has maintained in a recent BBC interview (Nov. 2010) that Irish literature has a certain indigenous tradition which carries on in spite of adversities.

This course will look for signs of change and continuity – and possibly hope – in selected current works by writers of both short stories and novels. Authors will include Colm Tóibín

and Anne Enright, as well as Edna O'Brien, Roddy Doyle, and Joseph O'Connor.

The course which begins on Tuesday, April 3rd, will be held for 12 weeks on Tuesdays from 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

About Thomas More Institute

Thomas More Institute offers a programme of interactive learning through reading and discussion. The Institute, founded in Montreal 65 years ago, provides courses in liberal arts, which may be taken for university credit or for pleasure. Lifelong learning is promoted with freshly-designed courses every year based on readings that offer different perspectives on the questions or the themes of the courses. Students, whose ages range from 20 to 90, learn through reading, debate, and discussion. The Institute values curiosity, the spirit of inquiry, asking questions of authority and critical thinking.

If you need any further information, please contact Sally Cooper, Bursar, Thomas More Institute: scooper@thomasmore.qc.ca, Tel: 514-935-9585, Fax: 514-935-3982 or check out the website at www.thomasmore.qc.ca.



D'Arcy McGee to be subject of students' national debate

By Leo Delaney

The Jeanie Johnston Education Foundation (JJEF) wishes to announce that the 2012 Canadian Senior and Junior National Debating Championships will be held in Montreal from Wednesday, April 25th until Sunday, April 29th. This is an annual event held in a different province each year.

Irish Montrealers will be interested to learn that Thomas D'Arcy McGee will be the subject of two rounds of debates which will be held at Selwyn House School in Westmount beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 26th. These promise to be lively and informative sessions.

On November 17th, David Wilson, Professor of Celtic Studies at the University of Toronto and author of two biographies of McGee, delivered a lecture in which he discussed this Father of Confederation and his relationship with St. Patrick's Society. McGee represented Montreal West in the Federal Parliament and was the only Canadian politician to be assassinated in the 19th century. A few weeks prior to his murder in Ottawa on April 7th, 1868, McGee had been expelled from the Society. In concluding his lecture, Wilson challenged SPS to reinstate McGee's membership posthumously. The Society has kindly deferred its decision about reinstatement until after the debating tournament.

If anyone with experience as a debating judge would like to be involved in these or in the other debates scheduled for Saturday, April 28th, please contact Leo Delaney: email jeaniejohnston@fdn@videotron.ca; or tel.: (514) 341-7777.



The tragedy of the Carricks: 165 years ago

By Luc Chaput in collaboration with Peggy O'Reilly Sclater

In the middle of the XIXth century, famine raged in an overpopulated Ireland. The poorest were the first victims. The landowners sought to find available ships to evacuate the inhabitants to North America and elsewhere. One of the first to take leadership in view of the growing danger of revolt, was Lord Palmerston (Henry John Temple) who owned land at Sligo in Ireland. In March 1847, he leased the *Carricks*, a two-master of 35 years, constructed at Workington in 1812; the *Carricks* measured 86 feet in length and 26 feet in width. Packed on the boat bound for Québec City under the command of Capt. R. Thompson, were 176 tenant farmers. Most of them didn't have much time to dream of their new life in Canada.

At the end of April, the boat entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the weather conditions worsened. On the 28th of April, the boat broke up less than four miles east of Cap-des-Rosiers; 120 died (nine others during the travel) and in spite of freezing water, 48 persons managed to arrive at the shoreline where the residents of the area gave them aid. Another 87 bodies were buried in deep trenches close to the shore. It was one of the most tragic sea dramas on the Québec coast during the famine exile.

Even after 165 years, little is known about the survivors. What is known is that during the summer, 21 of them continued their voyage to Québec City on the *Maria Julia* and 15 others followed a

Cont. p. 17

The Irish Protestant Benevolent Society presents *Famine and Shipwreck, an Irish Odyssey*

By Nicole Gareau

On Thursday, February 23rd, IPBS will host a wine and cheese evening that will include the presentation of *Famine and Shipwreck, an Irish Odyssey*. Lynn Doyle, the president of Cine Gael will introduce both the movie and the director and writer of the film, Brian McKenna. This will be followed by a question and answer period with McKenna himself.

Filmmaker, historian, author and journalist, Brian McKenna is best known for provocative, prize-winning films on Canada's history. He also directed the Gemini Award-winning television programme "Memoirs of Pierre Trudeau." In 2003, McKenna was honoured with the prestigious Gordon Sinclair Award for Broadcast Journalism at the 18th Annual Gemini Awards. He is also a founding-producer of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Oscar-winning current affairs show, "The Fifth Estate," a former parliamentary correspondent for The Montreal Star and co-author of the Penguin Books history of Montreal's legendary mayor, Jean Drapeau. He is the founding chairman of the Canadian Committee to Protect Journalists, prompted by his experience with war, torture and terrorism. Brian McKenna is a graduate of Loyola College (then part of University of Montreal) with degrees in English Literature (1967) and Communication Arts (1968).

For the millions of Canadians of Irish descent, there is a story of unspeakable sadness lying at the heart of Canada's Irish experience. It is a story seldom mentioned, even today. Some call it the Irish potato famine. Others call it the Great Starvation. And others do not shrink from calling it a great crime. The saga has a million stories.



Brian McKenna

In *Famine and Shipwreck, an Irish Odyssey*, we discover a story that's one in a million. As the descendants of those who survived the shipwreck and of those who stayed behind in Ireland discover their shared past, Canada and Ireland will discover through them how inextricably they are bound.

This presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. in H-1001 on the 10th floor of Concordia's Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve West. The cost is \$20.00 per person and you are asked to mail your cheque in advance to the IPBS office. Cancellations will be accepted up to 48 hours prior to the event.

IPBS, 5165 Sherbooke Street West, Suite 320, Montreal, QC H4A 1T6. Tel.: 514-489-2660. Email: irishpbs@bellnet.ca
www.irishpbs.ca



Carricks (cont.)

few days later on the *Emerance*. Approximately 11 or 12 others decided to stay on the Gaspé coast. Mr. Georges Kavanagh is one of the few descendants of the *Carricks* survivors still living in the Gaspé area. His ancestor Patrick, his wife Sarah McDonald and their son Martin (five of their other children died) stayed and lived in Cap-des-Rosiers. It is troubling to note that Patrick died eight years later. In 1855, as he was trying to cross the icy Gaspé Bay to celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick with his fellow Irishmen in Douglstown, he was caught in a snowstorm and his frozen body was found the next day.

The Organizing Committee of the Douglstown Irish Week in collaboration with Forillon National Park authority, is preparing a commemorative ceremony April 28, 2012 with the participation of Mr. Georges Kavanagh. Later during the Irish Week to be held from July 30 to August 5, 2012, two presentations will be offered, one by Mr. Kavanagh on his family ancestors and one by Mrs. Peggy O'Reilly Sclater on an update of the research on the survivors who remained in the Gaspé area. For more information, contact shaput@hotmail.com.

Source: *The Carricks of Whitehaven*, Peggy O'Reilly Sclater, Douglstown Historical Review, No. 11, Spring 2004



The Cap-des-Rosiers monument standing within Forillon National Park, was erected in August, 1900, thanks mainly to the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church of Montréal. Father J. Quinlivan, then pastor of the church, after hearing the testimony of a survivor of the Carricks, decided to raise financial backing for a memorial monument. Mr. Justice Curran left Montréal on the S.S. Atlantic and the six-piece monument landed on Cap-des-Rosiers wharf, August 14th. The monument was inaugurated five days later on August 19th in front of a large crowd and many dignitaries.



What you may have missed from the Irish papers!

By Paul Dunne

Mr. Sinead O'Connor IV

Last year Sinead O'Connor, a singer whose voice would send shivers up the spine of an invertebrate - according to Martina Devlin of the Irish Independent - went on a very public manhunt. Sinead has been married three times already which for a celebrity these days is like being a spinster. Anyway the hunt was on for number four and in typical Sinead fashion, there was a wee bit too much information about what was missing in her current relationship status. She broadcast a long list of criteria (good personal hygiene but no cologne was in there) ending with the hint that if a Mr. G. Clooney were to respond he might be given serious consideration. And to the presumed consternation of many lonely Irish males, she uploaded her profile to a number of internet dating sites. Eventually the not-so-lucky winner was a doe-eyed Dublin social worker called Barry Herridge seven years her junior who wrote the e-mail that swept her off her feet. Marriage number four was a swift affair in Las Vegas followed by a taxi ride to a seedy part of town to find some weed for teetotaller Sinead as a substitute for the more traditional post-nup champagne. It seems this was all a bit overwhelming for the blushing groom and marriage number four didn't see out the week. A fortnight later, Sinead described, again in more detail than we could possibly need, how they had made up and that they would be spending the rest of their lives together. Which turned out to be until January when Sinead announced it was definitely off this time. Watch this space....

Lots of new arrivals

The Irish Independent reported in December that some 70,000 Irish emigrated in 2011 up 50% on the previous year. Of these, 4,000 arrived in Canada in the first six months of 2011 which was almost as many as the entire total for 2010 of 4,461. Of the so-called "big six" destinations (UK, US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Germany), Canada attracts a relatively small percentage of the total but the year-on-year increases are rising dramatically. It's difficult to estimate how many of these immigrants are arriving in Montreal but one can assume that the vast majority would be headed toward Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary. In fact, an Irish Immigration Welcome Centre has just opened in Toronto to cater to the needs of new Irish arrivals to that city. It is not expected that there will be any reduction of new immigrants from Ireland for the foreseeable future as the severe austerity measures necessary to reduce government debt, dampen economic activity and job prospects of the young Irish.

A wrong made right

Even to this day, the wearing of the poppy in the Irish Republic is very uncommon. It is much more visible in Northern Ireland but would be worn mainly by members of the loyalist community. My dad used to tell me a story, which I hope is apocryphal, about how protestants would wear poppies with razor blades inside to slice the hands of nationalist Catholics who might attempt to tear the poppies off their lapels. Apocryphal or not, what the story illustrates is how the sectarian divide in Ireland infiltrated something as non-controversial in Canada as

Remembrance Day. The reality of course was that many Catholic Irish fought and died on the Allied side in both World Wars but their sacrifice was not recognised by Catholic Ireland until relatively recently. Ireland was neutral during the 1939-45 conflict but many young Irish soldiers, believing in the rightness of the Allied cause, left the Irish Army to fight for the Allies. These soldiers were treated as deserters and dishonourably discharged from the Irish army. When they returned, they were barred from all civil service jobs and their military pensions were forfeit. Minister of Defence, Allan Shatter, announced in January that the government would issue a belated pardon to those soldiers. Unfortunately, for most it will be posthumous. In case you're wondering, on which side of the sectarian divide Mr. Shatter finds himself, the answer is neither. Allan Shatter is Ireland's only current Jewish member of government.

And finally, a few cute shorts.....

- Dara O'Brian (a very funny Irish stand-up comic - check him out in Youtube) has named his current touring gig 'Craic Dealer.'
- Quote from 2005 movie *The Girl in the Cafe* (at dinner) "...Three hours next to the dullest man in Canada..... and that's a pretty competitive category."
- I was just sitting there silently with my mouth slung open. Like someone from Louth having the Internet explained to them. Ross O'Carroll, Kelly Irish Times - January 14, 2012
- Stories, apocryphal and otherwise, are ten-a-penny with Van. There is an infamous tale of Bob Dylan and Van Morrison going out for dinner in London with business associates. Throughout the meal's several courses, so the story goes, neither Dylan nor Van spoke a word. As the hours passed, the legendary dinner story goes, Dylan went to his hotel. At which point Van leaned across the table to the mutual business associate and said: "I thought, he was on pretty good form tonight, didn't you?"

Barry Egan on Van Morrison, Sunday Independent - January 15, 2012



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News from the School of Canadian Irish Studies

By Dr. Michael Kenneally

In anticipation of the launch of the Major in Canadian Irish Studies (the first in Canada!) in the fall of 2012, the School is planning to offer a stimulating list of courses in the coming academic year. 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

Courses in the fall semester:

- Introduction to Canadian Irish Studies
Prof. Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin)
- History of Ireland
Prof. Gavin Foster
- Diasporic Dispersal & Settlement
(professor TBA)
- Irish Revolution, 1913-23
Prof. Gavin Foster
- Celtic Christianity
Prof. Pamela Bright
- Narrating Irish Childhoods
Prof. Susan Cahill
- James Joyce
Prof. Susan Cahill
- Cinema of the Celtic Tiger
Prof. Ruth Barton
- Gender and Irish Cinema
Prof. Ruth Barton
- Irish Language & Culture I
(professor TBA)
- Irish Language & Culture II
(professor TBA)

Courses in the 2012 winter semester

- Irish Language & Culture I
(professor TBA)
- Irish Language & Culture II
(professor TBA)
- Contemporary Irish Literature
Prof. Michael Kenneally
- The Irish in Canada
Prof. Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin
- Research Methods in Irish Studies
Prof. Gavin Foster
- The Troubles in Northern Ireland
Prof. Gavin Foster
- Irish Literary Revival
Prof. Susan Cahill
- Diasporic Transformation & Integration
(professor TBA)
- The Irish Home: Food, Space and Agency
Prof. Rhona Richman Kenneally
- Contemporary Irish Women's Writing
Prof. Susan Cahill

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: <http://cdnirish.concordia.ca/> The St. Patrick's Society continues to provide \$5,000 annually to Canadian Irish Studies for students in the programme who excel in their studies. Each year more students apply for scholarships as the overall number of students in Canadian Irish Studies increases.

O'Brien Visiting Scholar 2012

The School of Canadian Irish Studies will welcome Dr. Ruth Barton from Trinity College Dublin who will teach two courses for the School in Fall 2012: Gender and Irish Cinema and Cinema of the Celtic Tiger. Ruth Barton is the author of numerous books and articles on Irish cinema, including: *Jim Sheridan, Framing the Nation, Dublin: Liffey Press, 2002*; *Keeping it Real, Irish Film and Television, London and New York: Wallflower Press 2004* (as co-editor); *Irish National Cinema, New York and London: Routledge, 2004*; *Acting Irish in Hollywood, Dublin and Portland, Or: Irish Academic Press, 2006*; *Screening Irish-America, Dublin and Portland, Or: Irish Academic Press, 2009*. (as editor).

International Conference in July 2012

The School of Canadian Irish Studies and Concordia's Department of Design and Computation Art will be hosting the Annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literature (IASIL) organized by Dr. Michael Kenneally and Dr. Rhona Richman Kenneally. The IASIL Conference will be held from July 30 to August 3, 2012, with the theme Weighing Words: Interdisciplinary Engagements With and Within Irish Literatures. Keynote speakers include Joep Leerssen, Gerardine Meaney, and David Lloyd. Participating Writers will include: Claire Kilroy, Leontia Flynn, Kevin Barry, and distinguished Irish-Canadian novelist, Jane Urquhart. A post-conference excursion is being planned to Quebec City and Grosse-Île. Papers are invited for presentation at IASIL; the deadline is March 1, 2012. More info: <http://iasil2012.com>



L'Irlande celtique sous l'enchantement du verbe magique Éire Cheilteach faoi gheasa ag briathra draíochta

Par Alexandre Boulet



More from Alexandre

La Razzia des vaches de Cooley, la *Táin Bó Cúailnge*, a été ma source d'inspiration pour écrire le conte *La prophétie du Sidh*. Ce livre relate les événements fondateurs de l'Irlande celtique tels que narrés, des siècles plus tard, par les *filí* (ou les druides) aux scribes chargés de consigner leur tradition orale pour la sauvegarder de l'oubli. Les aventures décrites entre ses pages sont inimaginables. Surréalistes. Propre au monde féérique.

Mais c'est bien dans cette réalité traversée par le surnaturel (l'autre monde, *aos sí*) que les Celtes évoluent à l'intérieur de cette Irlande préchrétienne. Une atmosphère féérique, subjuguée par le verbe des druides et des satires et façonnée par l'écriture des oghams.

Mythe ou histoire?

La Razzia des vaches de Cooley correspond plutôt à une *historia*, soit le récit d'événements racontés par les spectateurs qui les vécurent. Cette *historia* rassemble les exploits de Cúchulainn lorsqu'il défendit Ulster contre les quatre autres provinces d'Irlande dans ce qui constitue la période charnière du cycle épique irlandais. Transcrite en premier en gaélique ancien, une traduction française et anglaise de cette œuvre existe.

À la lecture de la *Táin Bó Cúailnge*, la description des lieux enchantés, des personnages surhumains et des péripéties fantastiques nous laisse présumer au récit d'un conte inventé. Cependant, l'authenticité de l'écriture et l'absence d'un fil conducteur entre les histoires nous amènent à prendre conscience que ce n'est pas de la littérature, mais un recueil de faits vécus à cette époque par des témoins. De plus, les Celtes ne possédaient pas de littérature, car toutes formes d'écritures, comme les oghams, étaient liées à la magie et donc interdites.

Par contre, croire l'*historia* sans se questionner consiste à écarter ce qu'elle détient de plus précieux. Soit l'héritage celtique que représente la puissante force d'émotion qui alimenta leur imaginaire lors de la transmission des événements à travers leurs filtres de croyances, leurs filtres de superstitions et leurs manières de comprendre la vie. La razzia des vaches de Cooley s'inscrit comme une *historia*, mais elle dévoile tous ses charmes en tant qu'épopée. L'épopée des exploits de Cúchulainn amplifiés par l'imaginaire des Celtes et magnifiés par le mythe.

L'atmosphère surnaturelle de l'Irlande préchrétienne

Au temps des Celtes, l'Irlande appartenait aux druides; ces demi-dieux qui enchantèrent son atmosphère par la

transmission de leur savoir et par leurs rituels magiques. Tandis que les bardes chantaient les péripéties des conflits guerriers passés et que les ovates déchiffraient le mystère des oghams, des satires, sorte de magicien à la langue ensorcelée, jetaient des *geis* (« sort » en gaélique).

Les satires harcelaient ses ennemis à l'aide de deux formes de sortilèges. Le premier forçait sa victime à poser des actions spécifiques ou à surmonter des défis pour se libérer du châtiment. Le deuxième prenait la forme d'un interdit qui obligeait l'ensorcelé à s'écarter de certaines circonstances ou à s'empêcher de commettre certaines actions sous peine de punitions divines mortelles. Les victimes n'envisageaient même pas de les transgresser. Car, outre la source magique de ces sorts, la superstition et la peur des envoûtés — mariées à un système de lois naturelles semblant diriger leur philosophie — les contraignaient à obéir à ces sortilèges.

Dans cet univers dorloté par la féerie, mais tourmenté par le surnaturel, l'autre monde, le monde des *Tuatha Dé Danann*, submergeait de manières imprévisibles le monde des Celtes. À ce moment, la réalité se transformait en chimère.

D'autres articles sur la culture québécoise et irlandaise vous attendent sur mon blogue : www.lesbuzzculturels.overblog.com.

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People in the news ...

It would seem that everyone is having a baby at the moment! And boys are in vogue. On December 19, 2011, **Andrew Noel Brown**, 7 lbs, 13 oz., was born to **Andrea Stanford** and **Mark Brown** (who are utterly smitten by his arrival).

*A proud Andrea with baby
Andrew Noel Brown*



Then, on February 1st, our president, **Patrick Shea** and wife **Sara**, had a third son, **James Griffin Shea**, who was welcomed by older brothers **Liam** and **Hugo**. **Finn** weighed in at 7 lbs. Grandparents **Peter** and **Margaret Shea** are ecstatic.

Finn, moments after he was born

It's going to be a busy time in the Short household as **Patrick** and **Bernadette Short**'s son, **Ed** and wife **Anne-Marie** had a baby boy on February 16th. And Pat and Bernadette's daughter, **Marie**, and husband, **Corey**, are expecting their first child early in March!



Meanwhile, a wedding is in the offing for **Julie Dunn** (Society director) and **Conall Francoeur**. He produced a ring (and thereby hangs a story which we may share with you one day!) on Christmas Day. No date has been set at this time. Congratulations!



Society director, **Mairead Lavery**, was part of the delegation that accompanied Prime Minister Harper on the recent trip to China. Mairead was spotted on a TV news programme, not hugging a panda bear, but signing a contract as a member of the Bombardier team. Another of our directors, **Thomas Mulcair**, is currently vying for leadership of the NDP. Although *NUACHT* cannot be partisan, we wish Tom well at the March convention.



Each year, Erin Sports honours a well-deserving young athlete at the Irishman of the Year Breakfast. This year's recipient of the prestigious Erin Sports Athlete of the Year is **Jennifer Dytyynshyn**. A rower, she gets up at 6 a.m. every day in order to train at the Olympic Basin before going on to Dawson College for her studies. Congratulations, Jennifer!

In December, Irish Heritage Quebec held its Annual General Meeting in McMahon Hall, 1145 de Salaberry in Quebec City. Immediately following the meeting, Irish Heritage Quebec presented a plaque to **Simon Jolivet** in recognition of his impressive contribution to the study of Irish nationalism in the province of Quebec during the period 1898 to 1921 and for his excellent book *Le Vert et Le Bleu*.



Photo: Patricia Donovan Lemieux

Joe Lonergan, President, Irish Heritage Quebec presenting the plaque to Simon Jolivet of Ottawa University.

St. Patrick's Society is delighted to welcome the following new members: **Conor Barry**, **Glen Patrick Carlin**, **Casey Costello**, **Stephanie Coull**, **Timothy Dunn**, **Meghan Dwyer**, **Michel Kelly Gagnon**, **Brant Hinkey**, **Orla Johannes**, **Michael Keane**, **Hilary Morden**, **Marie-Anne Paquette**, **Sandra Stock** and **Sheree Mildred Young**. The Society looks forward to meeting them at upcoming Society events.



*Ed Stokes, Ray Reynolds, Jonathan Sullivan,
Anne Forrest and Alistair O'Hara*

Finally, on February 16th, *Cosantóir*, representing the Society, won the much-coveted McKeown Memorial Trophy that is presented annually to the team that wins the ICCC Irish Community Pub Quiz. **Ed Stokes**, **Ray Reynolds**, **Anne Forrest** and **Alistair O'Hara** are this year's proud and happy winners. This is the third consecutive victory for the SPS team who won by a margin of a single point. The cup is on permanent display at Hurley's Irish Pub. Check it out!



The CJAD Irish Show podcast

By Amber Lebrun

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, you can be sure to see The CJAD Irish Show at just about every Irish event happening in and around town! We will continue to bring the Montreal Irish Community up to date on all that's happening within the Irish community here in Montreal and abroad. And with so many wonderful events and endeavors taking shape over the next few months, we are as excited as ever to be taking part and continuing to get to know many of the people within the community! There are so many hard working volunteers who give up much of their time to make sure these activities are a success. We hope to continue discovering who these people are to be able to share their stories with the Irish community.

We at the Irish Show believe in the work that we do in promoting the endeavors 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.

Things you won't want to miss on The Irish Show....

March Interviews:

- Danny Doyle Sr. (Chief Reviewing Officer)
- Paul Loftus (Grand Marshal)
- Bill Hurley (Irishman of the Year)
- The Queen and her Court
- St. Patrick's Society ball info.
- Irishman of the Year Breakfast info.
- St. Patrick's Society Luncheon info.
- You will also be seeing us at this year's Parade in Montreal and in Quebec City.

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 at: theirishshow@cjad.com



Ireland, Italy and beyond

In April, 2011, John O'Shea organized a tour of Ireland for a group of 82 Canadians (many from Tara Golf). This proved to be exceedingly successful and encouraged John to venture forth once more. This time, in April 2012, he is taking a group to explore Italy. *Jewels of Italy*, a 15-day tour, includes venues such as Rome, Venice, Florence, Pisa, Tuscany, Naples, Sorrento, and Capri.



The Rev. Ian Paisley greeting John O'Shea in Belfast, Good Friday, 2011

Last year the group was privileged to have a friendly visit with the Rev. Ian Paisley at Belfast City Hall. Who knows, this year the group may get a chance to meet His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI in Rome.

If you are interested in joining this tour, please contact John O'Shea at [pjoeshea36@sympatico.ca](mailto:pjoshea36@sympatico.ca)





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Around town

Society Ball to be highlight of Season

St. Patrick's Society's Annual Charity Ball will take place on Friday, March 9th in the Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel. A reception begins at 7:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 8:00 p.m. This year's Guest of Honour is Canada's Minister of Finance, the Hon. Jim Flaherty, and the Honorary Chairperson is Ms. Pamela McGovern, General Counsel, Hydro-Quebec. Tickets are \$2750 (corporate table for 10), \$195 (regular), and \$125 (junior). Contact Tod Lunt at (514) 481-1346 or book on line at www.spsmtl.com

Enjoy an unforgettable breakfast

Once again the Irishman of the Year Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 10th in the Sheraton Centre on René Lévesque Blvd. Beginning at 9 a.m., this is an event not to be missed. The head table will be graced by many well-known Montreal sports celebrities. Tickets (that sell like hot cakes!) are now available from Mabel Fitzgerald at (514) 989-1539. A table that seats 10 is \$650 and individual tickets are \$65. Book early and avoid disappointment.

Hudson's St. Patrick's Day Parade

If you're not at the breakfast on March 10th (see above), why not drive out to Hudson and watch the town's St. Patrick's Day parade. Now a popular event in this community, the number of participants grows annually. This year, for the first time, the Curling Section Members of Whitlock Golf and Country Club, are entering a float. This is to celebrate the 100 years that Whitlock has been part of the Hudson community as a golf club and the 60 years as a curling club and is one of the events taking place throughout the year to mark Whitlock's Centennial. For more information on golf, curling and social activities go to www.whitlockgc.com. New members are welcome. Please call (514) 948-0998.

Footnote: The Grand Marshal of the 2012 Hudson parade is radio icon, Terry Dimonte, CHOM's morning man.

A meal to be remembered

The St. Patrick's Society of Montreal Annual Luncheon is the flagship event of the season. The first Society Luncheon was held on March 17th, 1834. As with tradition, the Society has maintained the luncheon on St. Patrick's Day. Every year this event attracts more than 600 business leaders and community members. The Luncheon, like all other St. Patrick's Society activities, is a fundraiser for charitable, cultural and educational projects. This year's Guest Speaker is Dr. Kathy Reichs, well-known author and forensic anthropologist. To be held in the Hilton Bonaventure Hotel on Friday, March 16th, there will be a cash bar from 11:15 a.m. followed by lunch at noon. Tickets are \$80.00 per person or \$1,250.00 for a corporate table and are available from the SPS office (514) 481-1346 or on line at www.spsmtl.com

Meet the movie producers!


Storyteller, the film, will be hosting a fundraising musical event on Friday, April 6th at McKibbin's Irish Pub on Bishop Street in downtown Montreal. Starting at 6:30 p.m., there will be local musicians performing in the upstairs Toucan room while guests partake of McKibbin's pub fare. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, with tickets on sale at the event; and there will be other Irish-themed treasures from donors. People from such organizations as the Gaelic Athletic Club Shamrocks, the Concordia Irish Studies community, and the Siamsa school of Irish music and dance will be there - and of course the filmmaking team from Stone Foundation Productions. Donations accepted throughout the night. Admission is free, spread the word and don't miss out!

Tara Golf enters its 51st season

Tara Golf Club will hold seven golf tournaments in 2012, with the season opener at Rivière Rouge, on May 19th. The full schedule of tournaments is listed on *NUACHT's* Calendar (p. 24). For details on specific tournaments, contact Gwyneth at (514) 630-5268 or by email at gwynbaldry@hotmail.com. If you would like to join the Tara Golf Club and enjoy the quality golf and social events planned for 2012, please contact the Membership Chairperson, Carole Dery at carole@hudson.net.

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2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2012

DATE	EVENT	FURTHER INFORMATION	
Feb. 17	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Feb. 23	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Mar. 2	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 9	SPS Charity Ball, Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel	Tod Lunt	481-1346
Mar. 10	Irishman of the Year Breakfast, Sheraton Centre, boul. René-Lévesque, 9:00 a.m., \$\$??	Mabel Fitzgerald	989-1539
Mar. 11	Mass of Anticipation, St. Gabriel's Church, 2157 rue Centre, Montreal, 11:30 a.m.	Beverly Murphy	932-0512
Mar. 16	179 th Annual Luncheon of St. Patrick's Society, Hilton Bonaventure Hotel	Tod Lunt	481-1346
Mar. 18	Green Mass, St. Patrick's Basilica, 10 a.m.	Mary McGovern	866-7379
Mar. 18	St. Patrick's Day Parade, noon	director@montrealirishparade.com	
Mar. 22	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Mar. 24	Le Défilé de la St-Patrick de Québec	Catherine McKenna (418) 692-4764	
Mar. 30	Cine Gael Evening of Short Films, De Sève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Mar. 31	UIS Annual Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance, Buffet Sorrento, LaSalle, 6 p.m., \$70.00	Elizabeth Quinn (450) 672-5087	
Apr. 13	Cine Gael, De Sève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
Apr. 22	UIS Annual General Meeting, St. John Brébeuf Church, LaSalle, 1: 30 p.m.	jeskelton@videotron.ca	
Apr. 26	Canadian Debating Championships, Selwyn House, Westmount, 8:00 a.m. and noon	Leo Delaney	341-7777
Apr. 26	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
May 3	Cine Gael Closing Night and Reception, De Sève Cinema, Concordia	Lynn Doyle	481-3503
May 19	Ville Marie Feis, Ste-Anne de Bellevue	Pat Short	697-4343
May 19	Tara Golf Tournament, Club de golf, Rivière Rouge, QC	Gwyneth Baldry	630-5268
May 24	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Jun. 12	SPS Annual Golf Tournament	Tod Lunt	481-1346
Jun. 16	Tara Golf Tournament, La Cité, Hawkesbury, Ontario	Gwyneth Baldry	630-5268
Jun. 28	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
July 7	Tara Golf Tournament, Craigwood Golf Club, Lake Placid	Gwyneth Baldry	630-5268
July 8	Tara Golf Tournament (best ball), Craigwood Golf Club, Lake Placid	Gwyneth Baldry	630-5268
July 26	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Aug. 11	Tara Golf Tournament, Club de Golf, Valleyfield	Gwyneth Baldry	630-5268
Aug. 30	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Sep. 9	Tara Golf Tournament, Le Chanteclerc, Ste-Adèle	Gwyneth Baldry	630-5268
Sep. 29	Tara Golf Tournament (location to be determined)	Gwyneth Baldry	630-5268



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