



## Sixty years and counting! Thomas More celebrates two anniversaries

By Kathleen Dunn

Montreal's Thomas More Institute for Adult Education is celebrating two anniversaries this year, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of its mentor, the late Canadian philosopher and theologian Bernard Lonergan. *NUACHT* met with one of the founders, Charlotte Tansey, to talk about how TMI got its start in the Irish Catholic milieu of Montreal.

This is a story of outreach. First to English-speaking Catholic adults, then to Holocaust survivors, returning war veterans, Eastern European refugees, teachers, prisoners, seniors, house-bound learners, and generally anyone with an open and inquiring mind.

Only in their early twenties, Charlotte Tansey, Martin O'Hara, Stan Machnik and Veronica Smyth set out to expand the educational horizons and opportunities for themselves and for all English-speaking Catholic adults in Montreal. They wanted adults to be able to complete high school at a time when public education in the Catholic system ended at Grade 9. The only alternative, for those who could afford it during the Depression and War years, was to transfer to a private school. There were no evening classes for Catholic adults who wanted to complete high school or go on to university at a time when it was frowned upon to attend non-Catholic institutions.

The foursome was also very aware of the limitations of the science programs in Quebec's classical system. Even the Philosophy was nineteenth century. "We knew that superior education was all around us but we didn't have access to it," Charlotte

explains, adding, "We wanted to listen to outstanding lecturers and we wanted to be with people who knew Einstein."



*The initial training group in Great Books Discussion method (1948) which led to the present reading-discussion-essay-writing TMI method (l. to r.): Charlotte Tansey, Fr. Emmett Carter, Veronica Smyth, Fr. Eric O'Connor, Martin O'Hara, Stan Machnik, Eric Kierans, Byron and Ruth Farwell from the Great Books Foundation in Chicago, and Paul Orr.*

Firmly grounded in their Catholicism, the four belonged to the Sodality, a spiritual movement devoted to the Blessed Virgin, and there met Father Emmett Carter and Father Eric O'Connor, a Jesuit, both only a few years their senior, who were to become the driving forces at TMI. "Eric came to Montreal with good credentials (a Master's in Physics and Mathematics from the University of Toronto and later a doctorate in Math from Harvard University) and taught at Loyola College where he met fellow Jesuit Bernard Lonergan," Charlotte explains. Together they formed the Catholic Adult Education Committee and enlisted the help of big names in the community to gain credibility.

The first Honorary Board of Directors for the academic year 1945-46 reads like a who's who of Irish Catholic Montreal: Bishop Lawrence P. Whelan, Rev. Robert Edward Brennan, O.P., John T. Hackett, K.C., M.P., Hon. Judge T. J. Coonan, K.C. and Mrs. Coonan, Hugh O'Donnell, K.C., Emmett J. McManamy (President of St. Patrick's Society in 1942-43), John G. Howlett, M.D. and Mrs. Howlett, T. P. Slattery, Brendan O'Connor, Mrs. N. C. Potter, and Mrs. Magnus Seng. Charlotte's father, Michael Tansey, who

*Cont. p.5*

# NUACHT

September 2005  
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## A Word from the President

The approach of fall heralds the real beginning of a new year of activities for St. Patrick's Society. The afterglow of a glorious summer and the cooling of evenings both seem to energize us for the many tasks ahead. Here are a few that I have in mind.

I would like the Society to put in place, in cooperation with the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, an annual lecture to be held at Concordia University. It would be of broad Irish interest, academic, yet of the people, and be delivered by someone of major international standing. Ideally, it should occur in late February or early March each year; timed to be an early portent of the approaching "Irish Season".

Earlier this year *NUA<sup>CH</sup>T* told the important story of St. Patrick's Orphanage and of the work done by its successor organization, The Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation, through its use of the patrimonial funds in effect passed forward by the Irish generations that have gone before. I would hope to see the Irish community raise a memorial to the Orphanage and St. Patrick's Society should be in the vanguard of those making this happen. (See story on p.11.)

The Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce is organizing a trip to Ireland in May 2006. I want St. Patrick's Society to actively collaborate with others in our community and with travel specialists to bring this about.

Earlier this year saw our community successfully launch the Irish Radio Show on CJAD with the financial backing of St. Patrick's Society. The show is now being placed on a solid financial footing such that it can grow, prosper and continue to do us proud as it has these past six months.

Finally, the Society's strength in fund-raising can be further developed by setting fully in motion an initiative, commenced last year, that sought to broaden our finance committee. If others can do it so can we, surely!

Ours is a vibrant Society in a vibrant Irish community in which we have played a pivotal role for one hundred and seventy one years. Let us begin to lay the groundwork for our 175th anniversary coming up in 2009! We can only do it if people volunteer.

*John Little,  
September 2005*

## In Memoriam

The Irish Community, indeed all of Montreal, owe a great debt of gratitude to **Monsignor Russell Breen** who passed away on June 26<sup>th</sup> at the age of 80. It was he who rallied the troops to restore St. Patrick's Basilica to its earlier splendour, to have it recognized as a basilica and as a heritage site, and to make it a proud reminder of the Irish presence in Montreal.

Mgr. Breen was born in Montreal, educated at Loyola High School and College, and ordained in 1950. His early ministry as assistant chaplain (1951-60) and as Chaplain (1960-65) at the McGill Newman Club led to a lifetime in academia rather than in parish ministry as he had expected. With a doctorate from the University of Strasbourg, and although not a Jesuit, he began teaching in the theology faculty at Loyola College in 1968 and quickly became Vice-Rector, Academic, where his administrative skills came to the fore. After the successful merger between Loyola and Sir George Williams, during which he fought hard to make sure the Loyola campus would keep its distinctive identity, he became Dean of Arts and Science and one of two vice-rectors at the newly established Concordia University. He remained there until his first heart attack in 1983.

Mgr. Breen was appointed ninth pastor of St. Patrick's in 1986 and immediately set out to raise the \$4.5 million needed to restore the run-down building and bring new life to the community. No sooner was the work completed in 1993 than he suffered his second heart attack and, within a few months, multiple strokes that left him partially paralyzed and unable to speak. He was able, however, to attend the 150th anniversary of the Basilica in 1997 to receive a standing ovation from the full-house congregation. He was the first recipient of St. Patrick's Society Community Service Award in 1993.

For the last 12 years of his life, Mgr. Breen lived among the poor whom he had originally hoped to serve. He died at Ma Maison St. Joseph which is run by the Little Sisters of the Poor.

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# Slán tamall, a chara!

By Martina McLean



Seán Treacy

*“Ni bheidh a leithéid arís ann” a dúradh liom i rith na seachtaine. Is fíor an ráiteas é nuair a smaoinímid ar dhílseacht agus chúram ár gcarad agus ár gcomhoibrí, Seán Ó Treasaigh. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam!*

*Nuair a chuimhním ar an chéad uair dom buaileadh le Seán ag Comhrá, ní foláir dom maolgháire a dhéanamh. Níorbh fhada gur chuireamar*

*aithne ar a chéile an oíche sin ag am sosa. Cé gurbh Éireannaigh an bheirt againn, Baile Átha Cliathaigh fiú, bhain Seán an-sásamh as magadh faoin áit as ar tháinig mé (an taobh mícheart den chathair) agus faoin ollscoil inar bhain mé mo bhunchéim amach (ollscoil ríoga). Ach aithníonn ciaróg ciaróg eile agus d’aithin mé ar an bpointe go raibh sé do mo scrúdú. Mar sin, nuair a chuala sé gur fhreastail mé ar Choláiste Phádraig i Magh Nuad chomh maith, lig sé osna faoisimh as, mar dheia! Leanamar linn ag caint as Gaeilge go dtí gur aththosaigh na ranganna. Cé narbh Ghaeilgeoirí ó dhúchas muid, d’aithníomar gur bronnadh bronntanas scolaíochta orainn ó thaobh na Gaeilge de...*

*Go garr ina dhiaidh sin, chuir mé m’fhear chéile agus Seán in aithne lena chéile. Thosaigh cairdeas eatarthu cosúil le athair agus a mhac. Ní fada ansin gur bhuaileamar le clann Sheáin agus gur bhlaiseamar béile breá na Nollag leo. Ni dhéanfaimid riamh dearmad ar a chineáltas linn, na hÉireannaigh ar imirce go tír nua...*

*Bhí sé de phribhléid againn cabhrú le Seán chun Ulysses a cheiliúradh i mbliana agus an bhliain seo caite. Ba eagraí díograiseach é le aising eile taobh amuigh de chraobhscaoileadh na Gaeilge – go dtuigfear agus go mbainfear sult as saothar James Joyce. Is do bhain!*

*Ar deireadh thiar, ba Éireannach amach is amach é! Nuair a chuala sé faoi stádas oifigiúil na Gaeilge san Eoraip, bhí sé ar muin na muice le háthas. Thug sé cuairt ar Grosse Ile i mbliana i dteannta le Victor Boyle agus d’aistrigh sé ón nGaeilge go dtí an Béarla nuair a bhí gá leis. Is cé go bhfuil brón orainn nach bhfuil Seán curtha i Montréal, a chathair altrama, té sé anois i measc na nGael, ar bhuach na cathrach inar rugadh agus tógadh é. Síocháin Dé leat, a Sheáin!*

When someone special passes from this life, we often hear it said, “he was one of a kind”. Considering the recent loss of Seán Treacy, this saying takes on particular emphasis for the Irish Community. It is not only because Seán was a character, the life and soul of a party that we mourn his parting. We also appreciated his sharp intellect, his quick wit, his insatiable memory and most particularly his focused vision for the Irish language among the Irish Diaspora in Montreal and beyond.

Seán was the product of a broad education from the Christian Brothers of Coláiste Mhuire, Dublin which fostered in him a love of the Irish language and learning generally that remained until his sudden death from a massive heart attack on Thursday, 1st September 2005. Although he was a qualified engineer and worked in mines north and south of our Canadian borders, Seán was an educator in the true sense of the word, his mission to draw out the best in people. Once he had his MBA, he enjoyed lecturing in marketing and thrived on challenging his students to push the boundaries of their comfort zones to be the best they could be.

He called a spade a spade and when he looked you in the eye with a proposition, you knew better than to refuse. Such was the look Gus O’Gorman received which resulted in the setting up of Comhrá some 15 years ago.

Seán had no time for “slackers” because he set high targets for himself. If he promised to do something, he delivered. A Joyce aficionado he made sure that “Ulysses” was on the reading list for his own children when they were young. When we discussed celebrating the centenary of “Ulysses” last year, his vision was to make Joyce accessible. Afterwards, he sought feedback and compiled a “lessons learned” to ensure that the following year’s programme would be even better.

As a teaching colleague at Comhrá, especially during the summer classes in O’Regan’s, Seán enthralled people of all ages and walks of life as well as those with absolutely no Irish or Irish heritage with his interesting stories, his historical knowledge and his myriad recitations committed to memory. Though it may have embarrassed some, Seán gave credit where it was due. We thank him for this generosity and pray that he heard the moving, heartfelt tributes paid to him on September 8<sup>th</sup> at his funeral mass in the Church of the Resurrection of our Lord, Lachine and afterwards at the banquet prepared by his family at the Dorval Community Centre. Many of his life-long friends travelled great distances to pay their respects and all felt that their lives were enriched for having met Seán.

Seán, we miss you already; we miss your zest for life and learning, your indomitable spirit and your genuineness. We have lost a friend but know that what we learned from you intellectually, emotionally and spiritually will remain with us. Rest in peace, free from pain and suffering!

A scholarship for Canadian-Irish studies is being set up in Seán’s honour. All donations are welcome. Please contact Comhrá’s President, Ann Fortune for further details. Home: (450) 699-1962.



# Leo Delaney, he's there when tough jobs need doing

By Ned Eustace

In 1874, the story goes, when British Prime Minister William Gladstone was being actively discouraged by the noble classes from appointing Charles "Chinese" Gordon to the post of Governor-General of then, as now, troubled Sudan, he asked simply, "Can he take Khartoum?" Seeing reluctant nods of assent from their Lordships, he appointed the controversial General and, as it happens, sent him to his death. But he was the man for the job. So too it has been with Leo Delaney, who over the past thirty years has taken on large tasks in the Irish community when asked; fought battles; left and received a few scars; infuriated some but, always – without fail – he has won the day for us. And he has done us proud.

Who was not amazed and full of pride at the success of the visit of the *Jeanie Johnson* to Montreal in 2003? The project was headed by Leo who stayed with it even as the ship looked like it would sink, metaphorically at least, before its launching in Kerry! The *Jeanie Johnson* project has seeded a Quebec Irish History initiative in which he is involved that will result in a website being made available to Quebec high-school students. Leo convinced the Quebec Department of Education to fund the research and site development that is being led by Sam Allison, a recently retired South Shore history teacher. Leo chaired the Montreal Irish Festival in 1992 – our community's memorable contribution to the celebrations marking the 350th Anniversary of the Foundation of the City of Montreal, bringing The Chieftains to town for it and facilitating a remarkable Feis at the Old Port.

With Dr. Pádraig O'Laighin (see Irish language story, p. 10) and Brian O'Neill Gallery, he was active in instigating the national campaign that saw the Federal government and Parks Canada recognize Grosse Île as a site sacred to the memory of victims of The Great Famine and a place of pilgrimage to the generations that followed.

In the 1970s Leo was an early mover in the revitalization of St. Patrick's Society, became a director, opening it up to a broader membership than it had enjoyed for many years previously. He helped shift the focus of the Society to fund cultural and sports activities as well as the largely religious charities that had become its custom. He was also responsible for getting the City of Montreal to provide funding to the United Irish Societies for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. One of his proudest moments was being Parade Grand Marshal in 1997. In 1992 the Federal government awarded him the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada for service to the community. From 1993 to 1999 he was on the board of Montreal Catholic Community Services where he spear-headed the refurbishment and refinancing of The Good Shepherd Community Centre.

Leo is a visionary with a long-term view who rarely takes no for an answer and can testily and bluntly make it very clear that he won't! A case in point is that in 1992 he founded The Montreal Irish Community Foundation with the idea of establishing a Montreal Irish Sports and Cultural Centre on an unused plot of ground, owned by both the Federal and Provincial governments, which he found near the St. Lawrence River and adjacent, appropriately, to



Leo Delaney and Mayor Pierre Bourque (1997)

Griffintown and the Victoria Bridge. Since then, with the support of a blue-ribbon committee and a firm of architects, but driven mostly by his own vision, he has doggedly pursued both governments and the City of Montreal. The foundation now has a long-term lease on the property for one dollar; architectural plans and drawings for buildings and multi-purpose playing fields; the support of three levels of government; and the general area – largely seen as a wasteland in 1992 – is now viewed as ripe for development with water, sewage and hydro-power infrastructure, paid for by the city, on the horizon.

Born in Dublin, he attended the prestigious St. Mary's College and emigrated to Canada in April 1953 arriving in Montreal where, two years later, he married the love of his life, Evelyn Fraser, who passed away in September 2001. She is fondly remembered for her quiet charm and elegance by all who knew her. They have three daughters: Deirdre, Maureen and Aileen and seven grandchildren. Ever the family man, from a still hectic schedule, he spends as much time with them as he can. He has just returned from three weeks in Ireland where he went with Deirdre, Aileen and her husband, and five of the grandchildren.

A successful entrepreneur, he spent much of his business life in the office partition and construction industry. He founded, at various times, Arklow Construction Limited, Kildare-Caligo Company, all in the building sector; and Avoca-Tec Environmental Services, Inc., an energy management company which he continues to run with family members in Montreal and Toronto. He was Chairman of the Dominion Executive Association during 1976/77 and Chairman of Gypsum Drywall Contractors International from 1960 to 1970. For many years he was an active member of Montreal Rotary International.

On balance it must be said that Leo Delaney has been an extraordinarily positive force for good in the development of today's vibrant Montreal Irish community. Few would disagree that he has had impact and no one who has worked with him has been left totally unchanged by the experience. Keep up the good work, Leo! Enough said!

## Thomas More (cont.)

was the first paid Campaign Manager for St. Mary's Hospital, became their fundraiser. The Executive Council of the new committee was chaired by Father Carter who was instrumental in founding St. Joseph's Teachers College (now part of McGill's Faculty of Education). With him on the Council were Stan Machnik as Treasurer, Charlotte Tansey as Secretary, Veronica Smyth as Registrar, Rev. W. X. Bryan, S.J., Father O'Connor, Murray G. Ballantyne, A. G. O'Connor, John A. McIlhone, and James G. Shaw.

They began modestly with ninety students in six courses running from November to May. The lecturers were Bernard Lonergan on Thought and Reality, Dr. Karl Stern and Dr. Miquel Prados on Psychiatry for the Layman, Dr. Mary Manley on Medieval Literature, John T. McIlhone on French Language and Literature, James G. Shaw on English Literature and Catholicism, and Eric O'Connor on Essentials of Christian Belief. Classes were held in the evenings at D'Arcy McGee High School on Pine Avenue West near Park Avenue, and were intended for anyone who wanted to follow the lectures solely for their cultural value, as well as for those who wished to earn credits towards a university degree. It was the Archbishop of Montreal, Joseph Charbonneau, who, as Honorary President, arranged for degrees to be granted by the University of Montreal. As it happened, the same Bishop Charbonneau had been the Parish Priest in Buckingham, Quebec, where Bernard Lonergan was born and raised. The first graduates, Martin O'Hara and Stan Machnik, received their degrees in 1948. For the first ten years, the Institute offered courses leading to a high school diploma as well and, at its peak, had as many as 400 students.

Nothing remained static. "Father O'Connor had friends everywhere who fed us information about whom we should be studying," says Charlotte. Father Lonergan introduced them to Eric Voegelin who remains a great influence in TMI courses to this day. By the 1948-49 academic year, the name was changed to The Thomas More Institute for Adult Education, chosen, Charlotte explains, because "he stood his ground (with Henry VIII) and educated his daughters." This year's TMI brochure says, "He contributed significantly to that critical shift from the medieval to the modern world by articulating and promoting, for men and women alike, a new conception of education based upon the priority of open inquiry and critical thought." They obviously wanted to follow in his footsteps. The new name also allowed the Institute to become non-sectarian and to attract students from every walk of life, different nationalities, religious and economic backgrounds.

The academic year 1949-50 saw the addition of two new elements, the Workers' School and the Great Books Discussions. "We wanted to do what no one else was doing," Charlotte says. The Workers School was organized to train people for leadership roles in the Quebec labour movement, particularly people who had not finished high school. This training continued until it became available in other institutions. The Great Books Discussions, on the other hand, paved the way for what TMI is today.

The Great Books Foundation, based in Chicago, was the idea of Dr. Robert Hutchins and Dr. Mortimer Adler who focused

on outstanding authors from the Greek to our own civilization. There were no lectures. Instead, leaders were trained to explore readings and ask questions and guide discussions so that everyone could learn for him or herself. This idea caught on at TMI and, after seven years of Great Books, leaders began to design their own courses. The process of reading, discussion and essay writing continues to the present. There are no more lectures but from time to time scholars are invited to be interviewed. Students and leaders alike strive to become models of Lonergan's conceptions of intelligent inquiry and moral commitment.

TMI never had a permanent home until 1991 when it bought two condominium apartments at the corner of Atwater and Sherbrooke. Before that, they rented apartments on Drummond Street which were more conducive to round-table discussions than the high school classrooms at D'Arcy McGee. Charlotte laughs when she says, "We wanted to be gypsies. The world didn't need another institution." This attitude allowed them to take their courses and interviews out into the community, to the Royal Bank Auditorium in Place Ville Marie, to seniors' residences (including St. Patrick's Square), to Cowansville Penitentiary, and the Federal Training Centre for prisoners in Laval, to name but a few, as well as to Toronto, Ottawa, and Richmond, Quebec. Over the years, they developed special courses for parents and teachers of children with special needs and for kindergarten teachers. When the government insisted that all teachers should have more than two years of post-secondary scolarity, TMI welcomed large numbers of teachers into its Liberal Arts program.

The Halifax-born Father O'Connor served as President and Director of Studies until his sudden death in 1980, all the while carrying a full teaching load at Loyola and later Concordia. Charlotte took over until her retirement in 1999. At 83, she remains active, designing courses, sorting through the archives, and editing and publishing collections of interviews with various scholars. The Institute operates with minimal paid staff and a host of volunteers. There are three leaders for every course offered. Last year over 500 students participated in 38 courses at 20 locations. More than 375 students have earned the degree of Bachelor Arts which is now granted by Bishop's University in Lennoxville.

Charlotte received the St. Patrick's Society Community Service Award in 1996 for a lifetime of dedication to adult education. She looks back on her career, a vocation really, and wonders if young people today would ever have the opportunity to launch such a daring endeavour as she has found the TMI experience to be. It's quite a legacy.

TMI continues with its unique approach to adult education, offering courses in Philosophy, World Literatures, Classical Culture, History, Science, Mathematical Thought, Religious Studies/Theology, and Essay Writing. You would never know it from the course titles, however. This year's offerings include titles like *Happily Ever After?*, *In Search of Soul*, *Value-Neutral Democracy?*, *Mentalities*, *Speak Up! Voices of Fathers and Sons*. Courses are never repeated from year to year. The only constants at TMI are change and the never-ending search for meaning. Visit [www.thomasmore.qc.ca](http://www.thomasmore.qc.ca) for further information.

## The Irish Radio Show - clear signs of success



AOH had The Irish Radio Show banners made up and has presented them to the show for use at future events

### The AOH knows the impact of The Irish Radio Show

The following is an extract from an e-mail sent by Victor Boyle of the AOH to co-host Redmond Shannon, after the August 10 broadcast:

*"You guys sounded like you were having fun.*

*If you have no objections I will be making 3 individual "Hole Sponsor Plaques" to advertise the Irish Radio Show at our Golf Tournament on August 26th. I wish we could do more to thank you for all your help in making the Grosse Île Pilgrimage such a great success.*

*It was because of the spot on the Irish Show that the Gazette became interested. It was because of the Gazette article that the CBC did an interview with me. It was because of the CBC interview that Kim McNairn (of the CBC) is trying to get a piece on Grosse Île and the impact on English Canada published in other provinces, and it is because of all of this that Parks Canada is so excited about the 2009 rededication of the Celtic Cross on Grosse Île that they have decided to make a formal presentation during a world symposium on immigration being held at Ellis Island this September. I've been asked to participate, albeit in a small way.*

*I spoke to many wonderful people during all this. So many, that I stopped counting after taking the names at 227. The most common thread during these conversations was that they did not realize that such Irish events were still being held in Montreal. My advice was to listen to the Irish Radio Show on CJAD and you'll get to hear our Irish past, present and future.*

*You're linked on our AOH and Inisfail websites as well.*

*I was wondering if the Irish Radio Show has a banner that the various Irish Societies can borrow to display at their numerous events throughout the year? Every time we hear 'Irish' we should think 'Radio.'*

*Thanks again!*

*Victor"*

By Ned Eustace

A radio professional and academic recently described The Irish Radio Show on CJAD as "... a magazine show and one of the best presented and well-researched shows on talk radio anywhere." CJAD obviously thinks so as well. Citing anecdotal evidence for the Show's increasing popularity (and no decrease in ratings during the timeslot!) the station's new Program Director, Mike Bendixen, has suggested weekly or bi-weekly broadcasts of the Show and offered a permanent timeslot on Saturday between 5:00 p.m and 6:00 p.m. The new timeslot has been accepted and discussions are under way with all stakeholders on increasing the number of broadcasts as this has workload, financial and community implications for all concerned.

### Six successful broadcasts and getting better all the time

It began in March and over the first six months of the show its all-volunteer team has come together from tentative sometimes uneasy beginnings into a tight group that communicates freely and well and where there are no bad ideas. That the team has gelled as well as it has is due in no small part to the advice, participation, professionalism and no-nonsense practical approach of veteran broadcaster and co-host Ernie Butler. "Each show is better than the last and that's the way it should be," says Ernie.

Everyone associated with the Show has a day job. The level of participation at production meetings from the over fourteen active team members is high, creative and enthusiastic. The final editing and assembling of each show's unique material is facilitated in particular by the enormous personal efforts of co-host Redmond Shannon and producer Kimberly Sullivan. "After the raw material is assembled it takes about fifteen hours of solid work to make it ready for airing, we're sometimes at it until the early hours the night before we go on," says Redmond.

Some material is recorded in advance. These have included "History Minutes," capsules of Irish history put together by Concordia professor, Dr. Dana Hearne; and former CBC radio journalist Bob McDevitt's "Growing up Irish," where he interviews Montrealers. Shows have included interviews with former Irish Prime Minister Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald, comedian Tommy Tiernan over here for the *Just for Laughs Festival*, Margaret Healy, Lynn Doyle, Don Pidgeon, Michael Kenneally and Gus O'Gormain among many others. Victor Boyle of the Ancient Order of Hibernians attributes his being interviewed to getting the AOH Annual Pilgrimage to Grosse Île national TV and press coverage – see the side-bar story.

### Listen on the web at any time

When out of town you can listen to the show live on the internet at CJAD's website which can be found at [www.cjad.com/](http://www.cjad.com/). If you miss a Show you can now get it at your convenience on The Irish Radio Show's own web site where they are archived in Real Audio format – go to [www.irishradioshow.com/](http://www.irishradioshow.com/) and follow the links to Audio Archive



## ICCC announces plans for a wide range of activities

By Tara Hecksher

The Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1991, and it strives to foster the growth of Irish-owned and Irish-related businesses in Canada. Our mandate is, 'To provide information and networking opportunities to promote our members' business interests.'

The Chamber enjoys excellent relationships with the Embassy of Ireland, the British High Commission, the European Commission, the Government of Canada, the British Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce and other European Chambers in Montreal.

Throughout the year, the ICCC organizes networking opportunities for our members through business and social events. For example, in February, we held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Irish Community Pub Quiz and in April, we held a tourism night called 'Destination Ireland.'

Our next event is a fast-paced breakfast seminar entitled, "Negotiating Effectively," which will take place on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>. The seminar will look at several areas such as planning for the negotiation; strategies and tactics to use during negotiation; understanding resistance and how to conquer it, and much more.

This year ICCC will hold our annual Christmas cocktail reception from 5.30 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. on Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup> at the University Club on Mansfield. The Irish Ambassador and other dignitaries are expected to attend, and everyone in the Irish community is welcome.

May 2006 will be an exciting month for us. We are planning a two-week trip to Ireland which will be open to both members and non-members (the exact dates & prices will be available in November).



Top row (l to r) Jim Kirby, Tom Brady, Diana James, Lynn Doyle, Owen McAleer, Tara Hecksher, Gavin Ross. Bottom row (l to r) Vivian Doyle-Kelly, Paul Loftus

There will be a choice of two coach tours, a go-as-you-please trip (car and hotel/guest house vouchers will be available) or just a round trip airfare package. We anticipate this to be a very special holiday and encourage you all to consider joining us!

We are made up of a group of businesses and people with similar interests and commonalities. The ICCC accepts members all year round and encourages Irish and Irish related businesses to join our growing network. All members have access to the member directory and each member has a link to their website from our website. Members also receive quarterly newsletters updating them on our activities and Irish-related business news.

For more information about the ICCC, becoming a member and our events, please visit our website at: [www.icccmtl.com](http://www.icccmtl.com)

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## Bloomsday gains traction in Montreal — and attracts media coverage

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By Jim Kirby

The 101<sup>st</sup> Bloomsday was celebrated on June 16<sup>th</sup> in fine style in Montreal at Hurley's Irish Pub & Restaurant. Local TV, Radio and both English and French press covered the event highlighting the strength of Irish culture here in Quebec. Hurley's is not only one of the best Irish venues in town but one of the best venues in the city. Many Irish programmes take place on the very large premises, and this event did not disappoint. Some wonderful readings and music, celebrating James Joyce, were put on by members of the Irish community, organized by locals Antoine Maloney and the late Seán Treacy. Those involved were a great cross section of Irish-born and first and second-generation Irish-Canadians who represented many of the city's diverse Irish societies from our flourishing community.

The day, now regarded as an Irish secular holiday, both celebrates the life of the writer James Joyce and commemorates the fictitious events in his novel *Ulysses*, all of which took place on a single day in Dublin in 1904. The name Bloomsday is derived from Leopold Bloom, the name of the central character in the book. The day is now commemorated around the world, wherever Irish people gather, by activities such as academic symposia, re-enactments and readings from *Ulysses*, and general merriment. Many enthusiasts



The Bloom Boys - Sean McCutcheon, Tom Faux, Paul Le Grand

dress in Edwardian costume to celebrate the day. Joyce chose June 16 because he first went out with his wife-to-be Nora Barnacle, walking to the village of Ringsend, now an inner-Dublin district, on that day.

If you missed it this year then note it for next year - June 16!

## Canadian Irish Studies Foundation says “Goodbye and Thank You” to Dr. Fred Lowy

To mark Dr. Lowy’s retirement after ten years as President of Concordia University, the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation hosted a luncheon at which Chair Brian Gallery lauded and thanked Frederick Lowy for his support of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia.

Among the thirty guests gathered at Mr. Gallery’s home in the Townships were his Excellency Martin Burke, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada and Honorary Patron of the Foundation. The Montreal Irish Community was represented by John Little, President of St. Patrick’s Society, Paul Loftus, President of ICCG, Lynn Doyle, President of Cine Gael Montreal, and Margaret Healy and Elizabeth Quinn, both Past-Presidents of UIS.

Mr. Gallery spoke of Dr. Lowy’s commitment and outstanding support of Canadian Irish Studies since their inception at the University and presented Dr. Lowy with an engraved clock. Mr. Gallery also read a letter from Founding Chair Peter O’Brien, who thanked Dr. Lowy for his encouragement of the Foundation’s efforts, especially in its early fund-raising days.

A highlight of the occasion was a beautiful rendition of two Irish ballads by Kathleen McAuliffe, sung with verve and enthusiastic affection. Ambassador Burke thanked Dr. Lowy, Brian Gallery and Michael Kenneally for their efforts



(l to r) Mary Kay Lowy, Dr. Fred Lowy, Martin Burke, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada, and Brian Gallery at the Gallery residence in West Bolton, Quebec. Photograph courtesy of Patrick O’Hara.

in institutionalizing Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia. In reply, Dr. Lowy commended Brian Gallery and the members of the Foundation for their extraordinary work in creating a permanent institutional presence for Canadian Irish Studies at the University.

## Centre for Canadian Irish Studies kicks off another exciting year

Dr. Michael Kenneally, Director of the Centre for Canadian Irish Studies, is pleased to announce that nine courses are being offered in Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University for the 2005-2006 academic year. The course offerings for the Fall and Winter semesters deal with English, Geography, History, Political Science and Theology, and some of them contextualize their subjects within an Irish-Canadian focus. Over the 2004-2005 academic year, more than 250 students were enrolled in courses offered through the Centre for Canadian Irish Studies’ Minor and Certificate Programs.

Dr. Sean Farrell, Assistant Professor of History at Northern Illinois University will be this year’s *O’Brien Visiting Scholar*. Dr. Farrell is a member of the executive of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies. His first book *Rituals and Riots: Sectarian Violence and Political Culture in Modern Ulster, 1784-1886*, won the 2001 Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book in Irish Studies. An historian, Professor Farrell will teach *The Making of the Irish Diaspora* and *The History of Northern Ireland* both in the Fall semester. On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Farrell will be guest lecturer at the Montreal British History Seminar at McGill (info. 848-2424, ex. 2427).

Brian Gallery, Chairman of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, is delighted to announce that thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, two additional \$1,000 scholarships will be added to the list of scholarships available in Canadian Irish

Studies. The two new Graduate scholarships, to be inaugurated this Fall, will be named in honour of long-time pillars of the Montreal Irish community, Father Shaun Govenlock and Father Thomas McEntee, and will be awarded annually to two students who achieve excellence in Canadian Irish Studies. With the addition of these two new scholarships, the total number of annual scholarships now available in Canadian Irish Studies is 19 – 13 undergraduate and 6 graduate – representing \$19,000 in annual funding.

Mr. Gallery is also pleased to report that the Montreal St. Patrick’s Foundation continues its tradition of generous support to Canadian Irish Studies. After contributing \$100,000 to the original campaign, the Montreal St. Patrick’s Foundation has pledged \$50,000 over two years to the current Capital Campaign, which currently totals \$170,000. Once in place, the endowment will finance four additional courses annually. Mr. Gallery continues to seek additional support to reach the target of \$400,000. “We are always heartened by the continued support of Canada’s Irish Community,” says Brian Gallery, “since we then know that we are doing something of permanent value. We need to research and teach about Irish heritage, in Ireland and in Canada. Knowledge of that history will give us all pride in our future.”

The Centre for Canadian Irish Studies may be contacted by e-mail at [cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca) or by telephone at (514) 848-8711.



## Will we see a united Ireland any time soon?

By Neil McKenty

Where were you at 11 o'clock on the morning of Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005? Don't remember? Neither do I. But the day could become an historic one for Irish people everywhere.

It was the day the IRA, after more than 30 years of deadly conflict, announced that it was putting "an end to the armed campaign" for a united Ireland. Of course the Republicans did not give up the hopes of Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera, that Ireland would eventually become one country. But from now on, that goal would be achieved by "purely practical and democratic programmes through exclusively peaceful means."

The importance of this public commitment by the IRA to exchange the bullet for the ballot cannot be overestimated. But actions speak louder than words. And in past agreements the acts of decommissioning, putting IRA arms beyond use, have always come a cropper mainly because there was a lack of verification.

This time the IRA has introduced a new mechanism to verify their arms are out of commission. They have invited two clergymen, a Protestant and a Catholic, to witness the decommissioning of its weapons dumps and to testify to this. All this will be directed by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning under Canadian retired General de Chastelain. A progress report should be available in October.

But the arms issue, however it is finally settled, is not what is driving events in Ulster (whatever the unionists may think). In fact, one senior British politician, the Labour grandee, Roy Hattersley, states flatly that the announcement the "armed struggle is over did not create a new era in the province. It was one of the new era's consequences."

In other words, the driving force in Ulster is not armed struggle but the economic onslaught from the south dubbed "the Celtic Tiger." Gross domestic product per head is now higher in Ireland than in the UK. In May I spoke to a number of farmers in the north who could only look with envy on their colleagues in the republic.

The inexorable pressure of economic reality (fuelled by global markets and the European Union) is dragging the six counties closer and closer to the south. Where economics leads, politics is bound to follow.

The more moderate leadership in Sinn Fein realized some time ago that violence was no longer the way forward. Gerry Adams concluded that carrying on the tactics of 1921 did more harm than good. So, far from being a defeat, the IRA's laying down of arms is a strategic shift to more apt means for achieving their ultimate goal, a united Ireland.

From that perspective the republicans are winning and the unionists are losing. Which may well explain the imprecations and threats emanating from the Rev. Ian Paisley. Mr. Paisley is not a stupid man, far from it. He is one of the cleverest politicians in Ireland, north or south. Mr. Paisley must realize that by shifting from a military campaign to a political one, the republican side, riding the twin waves of demographics and economics, is bound to achieve its objective, a united Ireland. The only question is when.

## Gaelic Football – a game, a love and a dream!

Patricia Staniforth and Elaine Gilmore are two of the 25 players who will represent Canada in the upcoming Gaelic Football World Cup to be held in Dublin, Ireland, September 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005. This is the 28<sup>th</sup> year of the competition, which is held every two years, and now has entrants from over 35 countries worldwide. It is the first time in the Montreal Gaelic Athletic Association's 66-year history that two women players have been selected to play on the Canadian team.

Patricia Staniforth, a 23 year-old McGill Education student has always been sports oriented. Introduced to Gaelic Football in high school by her mentor and basketball coach, Ooghna O'Neil, Patricia was fascinated by the game. It was, however, only when she met Andrea Connors that she knew her destiny was to play with the Montreal Shamrocks. That was only a year ago.

Elaine Gilmore was raised in Tuam, Co. Galway, Ireland. Growing up, there was no girls' football team at her primary school so she played on the boys' team, giving as good as she got and sometimes more than she got! Living in Montreal since February 2003, she got involved with the GAA purely by accident. She was looking

online for a soccer team to join and happened upon the Montreal Shamrocks' website. Over two years later she is still enjoying playing with Montreal.

The Montreal GAA's primary objective is to maintain Gaelic games in the city. It prides itself on being the oldest Gaelic football club in Canada, and has promoted Gaelic games throughout the Montreal community since they were first introduced here in the 1900s. While a successful 2005 summer season has now drawn to a close, the Montreal Shamrocks will be conducting training for newcomers over the fall and winter months. Any interested parties should e-mail [montrealshamrocks@gmail.com](mailto:montrealshamrocks@gmail.com).

The GAA would particularly like to thank O'Regans Irish Pub, located at 1224 Bishop in Montreal for generously donating the airfare for both ladies. In addition to various fundraising events, Patricia and Elaine promoted Gaelic games on *The Irish Radio Show* in an interview with Red Shannon.

Edmond Stokes

# Irish becomes an official language of the EU

By Dr. Pádraig Ó Laighin

Irish is an official and working language of the European Union. On June 13, 2005, the Council of Ministers, with all twenty-five member states represented, unanimously amended the wording of Regulation 1, 1958, to read as follows:

"The official languages and the working languages of the institutions of the European Union shall be Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish."

Achieving the required unanimity for changes to the language regime of the EU was not without complications along the way but, in the end, all of the other member states rallied behind the Irish government's proposal.

While the government is to be given credit for the successful outcome at the European level, the move to have Irish designated an official language was by no means a top-down one with the government seeking to impose a version of Ireland on the people. On the contrary, it was a profoundly bottom-up process, with the people, irrespective of their normal language of daily communication, making it clear to their government that nothing short of full equality for Irish as an official and working language under Regulation 1, 1958, would be acceptable.

## Stádas

The focal point of the move to have Irish designated an official language was a small umbrella organization formed in November 2003. The organization called itself *Stádas*, the Irish for "status", and the word entered the English language as a call for official working status in the EU for Irish. From modest beginnings, a dynamic, vocal and informed social movement developed. The initial goal, the most difficult to achieve, was to get the Irish government to agree to request official status. Once that was achieved, attention turned to supporting and monitoring the government's pursuit of the request.

The *stádas* movement gave an opportunity to the Irish-speaking community to publicly assert its presence, its integrity, and its strength, and an opportunity to the English-speaking community to support an inclusive and enriched vision of Ireland. Ireland's main language communities sometimes coexist as two solitudes. The *stádas* campaign brought them closer together.

## The campaign

The campaign strategy devised by *Stádas* was measured, focused, and multi-dimensional, with a strong mass media component. Children from Irish-medium primary schools arrived with song and *joie de vivre* to deliver a Christmas card for Romano Prodi, then the President of the European Commission, at the offices of the EU in Dublin. They asked him for *stádas* as a present.

A brief (by the author) was presented to the National Forum on Europe in Dublin Castle in January 2004, with pageantry on the streets outside. Meetings were held with government and opposition

parties. Unanimous motions supporting *stádas* were adopted in Seanad Éireann later in January and by the Dáil in February. A majority of the county councils, and many city and district councils, North and South, passed motions of support.

Support came from trade unions, from societies and organizations of all kinds, both voluntary and statutory, from Gaeltacht

co-operatives, and from Irish people everywhere. Organizations in Argentina and North America sent resolutions to the government. A group came from England to present a petition. A who's who of rock stars and writers and celebrities published an appeal.

More than 5,000 people took part in a joyful march on the streets of Dublin, and an internet petition of 80,000 names was presented to the Taoiseach. The majority of those Irish people who were elected as members of the European parliament, North and South, confirmed before the election that they supported status.

With an unrelenting campaign still in prospect, the government announced in July 2004 its intention to seek full official status for the national language. The Irish delegation, led by the Permanent Representative to the EU, Her Excellency Anne Anderson, conducted the successful negotiations in Brussels with admirable skill and commitment.

## The benefits

How will people benefit from the designation of Irish as an official language? To begin with, people with basic qualifications in Irish, such as a pass in the Leaving Certificate or the GCSE, will be able to list Irish as one of the minimum of two official languages required for any EU job. This might be expected to have a significant effect on student attitudes to learning Irish vis-à-vis other European languages. It might also be expected to affect curriculum administration, nationally and internationally, at secondary level. For higher-level jobs such as lawyer linguists, universities may feel the need to include Irish in translation and interpretation courses at a sufficiently high international standard to meet specialized needs.

From the legal point of view, all regulations adopted by the codecision procedure will be translated to Irish by the EU. Currently about 70 per cent of Irish law derives from European Union regulations. The Irish Government is required to publish its laws bilingually. It will be economically advantageous to have a considerable proportion of the preparatory work done in Brussels.

Irish members of the European parliament, such as Bairbre de Brún, or native Irish-speaker Seán Ó Neachtain, will be able to use their national language on the same basis as other nationals in

Cont. p.11



Dr. Pádraig Ó Laighin

## Official language (cont.)

debate. Though the parliament is something of a Tower of Babel, efforts to limit the number of official languages permitted there have been democratically rejected. In the European Commission and the Council of Ministers, the other main institutions, English, French and German are the dominant working languages.

Cultural and educational programmes will become fully available for Irish. For example, a comic book for schoolchildren entitled *Troubled Waters*, designed to make European institutions understandable, was made available in all official EU languages but not in Irish, leaving children at Irish-medium schools out in the cold. Beyond all of these practical advantages are the symbolic advantages of one's language having international status, and the enriching effect on the language itself of exposure to other languages in translation and interpretation contexts.

Irish people at home and abroad celebrate this historic decision.

*Dr. Ó Laighin is the chairman of Stúdas. His influential brief, presented to the National Forum on Europe in January 2004, was quoted extensively during the Dáil and Seanad debates which preceded the unanimous adoption of motions calling for official status for Irish in the European Union. He lived in Montreal for many years, was very active in the Irish community and taught at Vanier College.*

## Summer slows progress on St. Patrick's Orphanage historical records project and memorial

Contacted recently for an update on The Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation's progress on its project to gather historical records and artifacts pertaining to St. Patrick's Orphanage, a Trustee said that not a lot had happened over the summer but it would likely come up for discussion at the next meeting of Trustees, scheduled for late September.

The Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation is the name change adopted in 1993 by the original 1855 corporation. Until 1993 the Orphanage was officially called the Director and Trustees of Montreal St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum. The history and current governance structure of St. Patrick's Orphanage was featured in the February and May 2005 editions of *NUACHT* – see SPS website [www.stpatrickssociety.com](http://www.stpatrickssociety.com) and follow *NUACHT* link.

When asked about the Foundation's interest in having a memorial raised this year, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its incorporation, the Trustee indicated it too could be on the September meeting's agenda.

An informal sampling of community organizations suggests that there is strong interest in the history project and in having a memorial of some kind to St. Patrick's Orphanage. When contacted, a number of organizations said they would be very supportive of such an initiative. The president of one said, "It's not before time." Former orphanage residents from across Canada have previously agreed and are looking forward to learning what the Director and Trustees of *The Montreal St. Patrick's Foundation* want to do. They would also like the opportunity to make suggestions on both the location and the form that any memorial might take.

## "Serve people the way we want to be served ourselves."

By Audrey O Breham

This is the motto the volunteers at the St. Patrick's Basilica soup kitchen abide by. The survival of the kitchen is due to the positive attitude these people demonstrate in serving the underprivileged in downtown Montreal. Thanks to their commitment and dedication, the soup kitchen has been operating for 25 years, serving meals every Friday lunchtime.

In 1980, Father Frank Pelerin started the project with the objective of providing single, elderly men with a free meal and an opportunity to socialize. Today, the kitchen's clientele is comprised of artists, drug addicts, squeegee kids, the homeless, people living below the poverty level and even young summer travellers — all looking for free food. They are all people who live on the fringes of society.

A regular meal is composed of soup, sandwiches, and cookies. Once a month, as well as for Christmas, a hot meal is served with ice cream as dessert. These occasional changes, though they might seem irrelevant, do make a significant difference. Volunteers start working at 9:00 a.m. They are led in prayer, and tasks are assigned. There are always nine or ten people in the kitchen who share the many responsibilities. In the dining room, one person is at the door to greet the clients and assign them to a table. Ten to 15 people are on duty on a regular basis, and there are others who come in when they are available.

Zena Piepramala, who has been working in the kitchen for two years, was originally approached by another volunteer who asked her to join the team. Compassion and love motivate them. It is in this spirit that they greet their clients who appreciate the respect they are shown. "The sole reason that keeps us here," says Don Pidgeon, "is the love to serve, the charity and the teamwork."

This organization has never received any government assistance. For its funding, it relies on donations from the Basilica's Fund for the Poor and on charitable organizations like the Knights of Columbus. The volunteers also make monetary contributions via a donation box located in the kitchen in order to pay for the various treats they serve on occasion.

Since preparation is the most important aspect of the planning, the volunteers' work is not limited to the Friday meal. Some, like Bob Goodall, go in on other days to order the supplies and prepare the food needed that week. The kitchen is managed by an elected committee. This year's executive volunteers are Bob Goodall and Kay Cross. "My daughter told me about the soup kitchen, and I decided to come," said Goodall. "I enjoy it and I am grateful for what the good Lord has given me." Kay Cross has volunteered all her life. "I volunteered at my son's grade and high schools' libraries, then I came to the soup kitchen. There is not enough government support," she adds. To her, being a soup kitchen volunteer is all about "doing something worthwhile, helping out and working with others."

Want to help? Call Kay Cross at (514) 336-0377.



## What really happened to Mary Gallagher?

By Neil McKenty

On Friday, June 27, 1879, just after the revellery of the Jean Baptiste holiday, there were four people in the dilapidated house at 242 William Street in Griffintown (a stone's throw from the present day location of Benedict Labre House.) One was about to go out for a breakfast of beer and biscuits (at three o'clock in the afternoon), two were in bed drunk and the fourth lay covered in blood, dead on the floor, her head severed and ensconced in a wooden bucket used for slops.

The home in question was the domicile of Jacob Mears, a dim-witted burly man, and his wife, Susan Kennedy — a comely 26 year old prostitute and alcoholic who was in bed with Michael Flanagan, a stevedore, who may or may not have known more than he later told police. The headless dead woman, another prostitute, was 38 year old Mary Gallagher, who had just been released from prison in Kingston.

Who were these people? What happened on June 27 at 242 William Street? Why does Mary Gallagher return every seven years to Griffintown to search for her head (while Father Tom McKentee says a public mass for the repose of her soul)? Some believe she was the victim of jealousy; others speculate she

and her killer were lesbian lovers; still others believe the person convicted of murdering her was innocent.

These are some of the many questions *The Gazette* writer, Alan Hustak, pursues in this fast-paced thriller, every bit as fresh and almost as grisly as the Karla Homolka crime. With great skill, Hustak has mined newspaper records and archival material of this sensational case.

In a sense, the book is less about Mary Gallagher than it is about Susan Kennedy, accused of the murder of her friend. Wisely, Hustak allows the records of her trial to speak for themselves. The man in bed with Kennedy, Michael Flanagan, was ably defended by the out-going president of the St. Patrick's Society, the popular Peter Joseph Coyle, who was educated by the Jesuits at my old school, Regiopolis College, in Kingston.

*The Ghost of Griffintown* is one of those little books that packs a big punch. Don't miss it.

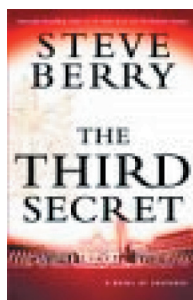
*The Ghost of Griffintown.: The True Story of the Murder of Mary Gallagher* by Alan Hustak. 104pp. (Price-Patterson Ltd. 2005) \$10.95.

## Vatican skullduggery, political intrigue, death and mayhem and a great read!

By Ned Eustace

If you like page-turning-can't-put-the-book-down thrillers and if you enjoyed Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* then *The Third Secret* is for you! On the other hand, if *The Da Vinci Code* really offended, got you upset and incensed, then this book will add to the affront! It doesn't quite question the historical core of Catholic beliefs as Brown does but it takes potshots at what some may hold very dear indeed. He briefly wags an overly pious and unbalanced finger at the evils of nun-run homes for unwed mothers in 1950s Ireland without tipping a hat to the values of the times there, as if anyone really believes that canard was an excuse for the behaviour of the Irish Church! But I digress.

The premise of *The Third Secret* story is that when the late Pope John Paul II revealed the Third Secret of Fatima — which, if you remember, fell sort of flat at the time after all those years of waiting — he inadvertently may not have exposed the whole or perhaps even the right story. Among the many tensions in the book is that we don't know if something was held back, made up, or if the current Pope wants to add something, take it all back or just keep quiet ... we're simply not sure. There are, however, malevolent forces within the Vatican who know what the third secret really is and what its revelation will mean not only to the Church but also to its inherent power. This book is a rollicking, fast-paced tale of derring-do with a plethora of holy and unholy clerics gallivanting around Poland, Romania, Germany and Italy or scurrying in and out of the dimly lit Vatican Archives



in the dead of night, all the while divinely peeling back the onion of revelation. As *The Third Secret* begins, Pope Clement XV is deeply troubled by a matter of conscience concerning the secret that brings him repeatedly into the *Riserva*, that part of the Vatican Archives reserved for the Pope and where the Fatima papers are kept. Clement sends his trusted secretary and friend, Father Colin Michener, into Romania to seek out one of the only individuals who may know the true meaning behind the third secret.

In this story the good guys are confused. Pope Clement, nearing the end of his reign, appears indecisive yet at times saintly, even wise, while less than infallible not knowing which way to turn. He is, by the way, a German-born John XXIII-like character and we're given early hints at a possibly misspent youth — and, no, it's not what you think! Fr. Michener is an Irish-born, American-raised priest-hero loyal to his Pope but torn about his vocation. Emotionally he is up and down and around the mulberry bush about his priestly profession or, more precisely, one of his vows — go on, guess which one! There's a lady who's a professed atheist — can you say that, I wonder — who knew the priest, if you get my drift, in an earlier incarnation and still has unholy designs on him — by the way, she's one of the good guys. The bad guys include the well-fed Vatican Secretary of State, Alberto Cardinal Valendrea, and his less-than-wholesome priest secretary, who are way too close for comfort, as well as a host of

*Cont. p.13*

## The Mafia meets the Murphia?

One William Hartnett (41), who emigrated to the United States from Abbeyfeale in Co. Limerick back in the 80s, was recently arrested along with 23 others in a Mafia sting organized by the FBI. Mr. Hartnett is a co-owner of *The Tír na n-Og Irish Pub* in Manhattan, and as such was well known to the Irish community. He was charged with being a member of the notorious Bonnano Mafia family, and acting as one of its "soldiers" as a runner in its illegal betting operation in the Borough of Queens. Hartnett lives in the very Irish part of Queens known as Bayside.

Seemingly back in Abbeyfeale the locals are astounded by the arrest. William Hartnett played in the front row for Abbeyfeale Rugby Football Club and went by the affectionate nickname of "Billy Bunter." His family runs a local turf (peat, used for heating) business but certain smiles were raised when it became known that son William was accused of a different kind of turf business in New York. In Ireland bookies are officially called "Turf Accountants." The case will come before the courts in the months ahead.

*Adapted from an article by Montreal-based columnist Jim Kirby published in The Irish World, June 24 2005. The Irish World is a UK-based weekly newspaper for the Irish community.*

## AOH scores another success

The 2005 AOH Grosse Île Pilgrimage on August 6 was an unqualified success with 130 people either traveling by bus or joining the AOH members on the Island. About 90 percent were first time pilgrims with some coming from Ontario,



*Father McCrory and Father McKenna*

Nova Scotia and even as far away as Manitoba.

Marianna O'Gallagher was visibly moved that so many would still gather for the sole purpose of paying homage to those who died so long ago. She felt reassured that the numerous newcomers meant there is still hope of continuing our traditions long into the future. Marianna's sentiments were echoed later that day by a congratulatory message from Parks Canada on the tremendous turnout.

Thanks in no small part to the support of the St. Patrick's Society, Leo's Boys and the AOH interview on "The Irish Radio Show" in July, AOH easily reached the 2-bus maximum of 112 passengers. There was a list of 227 names.

The comment heard most often was that they were not aware that Grosse Île was open to the public; much less that an annual trip was available. Those who couldn't be accommodated this year promised to try again next year. Those that participated this year were so moved by the experience that they want to bring friends and relatives next year.

To find out more about the 2006 trip, listen to the Irish Radio Show on CJAD and read *NUACHT*.

*Victor Boyle*

### Skullduggery (cont.)

other saints, scholars and nasty blackguards who hover around the edges of the story.

Steve Berry's novel inevitably will upset some people including, no doubt, the usual glut of non-readers. The thing to remember is that *The Third Secret* is a story, a work of fiction. Something that *The Da Vinci Code* could have used Berry provides; he has included an extensive note at the end of the book distinguishing fact from fiction – at least as he sees it – and there's lots of interesting material on the workings of papal conclaves. Details about the Vatican Archives figure large in this tale too, as do the 1917 messages to the children of Fatima around which this clever work of fiction is built. The result is a complex, exciting work that is almost impossible to put down. *The Third Secret* is published by Ballantine Books, ISBN: 0345476131.

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## People in the news ...

By Kathleen Dunn

It seems trivial to be talking about “good news” when our neighbours to the south are suffering the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and struggling for survival. We are truly privileged to be able to carry on in comfort and to dwell on the positive in our lives. And there is much to be positive about.

First, congratulations to **Doris and Frank Rooney** who celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in July with a trip to Vancouver. Doris is the secretary of St. Patrick's Society and the detail person behind all our events.

The 2004 recipient of the St. Patrick's Society Community Service Award, **Maura McGrath**, has returned from a year's sabbatical in Ireland to take up residence in Halifax. She has been elected to serve a four-year term on the leadership team of the English Canadian Province of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame and will, therefore, be unable to return to Refuge Juan Moreno which she founded and directed for ten years. Another Montrealer, **Lorraine Costello**, was elected to a second four-year term on the same leadership team.

Speaking of Refuge Juan Moreno, **Jim Cherry**, is organizing the second annual fundraising oyster party to be held at the McGill Faculty Club on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Jim was St. Patrick's Society's Ball Patrons Chair in 2003 and guest of honour at St. Patrick's Ball in 2004. Our own **Patrick Rourke** is co-chair of the Capital Campaign to raise \$500,000 for the refugee protection centre. His daughter **Jacquie Rourke** will act as MC for the Oyster Party.

St. Patrick's Society director **Joe Mell** will be honoured on September 24<sup>th</sup> by the Pointe St. Charles YMCA. He is being inducted into the Y's Hall of Recognition “as a role model to many current adults from Pointe St. Charles in addition to being a strong influence in the development of the community's pride and character.” Through Leo's Boys, named for his late brother, Joe has coached and organized hundreds of boys' and girls' softball teams, and contributed to three halfway houses, a sports exchange program and other charitable works. For the 54<sup>th</sup> year, Joe will be director and producer of a New Year's Eve Show at St. Anne's Military Hospital. And we're just skimming the surface. Congratulations, Joe.

Montreal author and broadcaster **Neil McKenty** spoke to the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Author's Association on September 12<sup>th</sup> on *The Joys of Writing*. Neil should know. He has published several books, a biography of the late Dom John Main, an autobiography, a mystery novel, and a history of the Laurentian Ski Lodge. Neil, by the way, is hosting a 75th birthday party for his wife, **Catherine McKenty**, on September 20th at the Padua Centre on St. Antoine Street.

Another SPS member, **Moira Carley**, has a new book. *Creative Learning & Living, The Human Element* makes the teachings of the late Jesuit theologian and philosopher Bernard Lonergan

user-friendly by suggesting to parents and teachers how they might get students not only to think for themselves but also to understand what they're doing when they're thinking for themselves. Check out her website at [www.vdn.ca/~learning/](http://www.vdn.ca/~learning/).

The Father Dowd Memorial Home on Hudson Road near Van Horne, also known as the Centre d'Accueil Father Dowd, marked its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June by naming its newly refurbished terrace the Cooper Garden after a generous bequest by the late **Richard Cooper** (President of St. Patrick's Society, 1977-79). The nursing home was established in 1865 as St. Bridget's Refuge and was located on LaGauchetière Street near St. Patrick's Basilica. It was re-named for its founder, the Irish-born Sulpician pastor of St. Patrick's Parish, Father Patrick Dowd, in 1928 and moved to its current location in Côte des Neiges in 1977.

**Peter McAuslan**, Chair of the 2005 St. Patrick's Ball Patrons' Fund, hosted a SPS General Meeting on the Terrace of Brasserie McAuslan on St. Ambroise Street on August 16<sup>th</sup> and took advantage of the occasion to distribute the proceeds of the 2005 Fund to three organizations, as he had promised: Dans la Rue, Share the Warmth, and Project Chance. The recipients were on hand to receive the donations and express their gratitude.

**Kathleen McAuliffe** is on stage at the Saidye Bronfman Theatre until October 2<sup>nd</sup> in the musical Cabaret set in pre-WWII Berlin. Another Irishman, **Ben Barnes**, the internationally acclaimed artistic director from Dublin, will be directing *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the same location from November 6 to 27th. Visit [www.saidyebrofman.org](http://www.saidyebrofman.org) for details.

The Tenth Annual St. Patrick's Society Golf Tournament on June 21<sup>st</sup> was bigger and better than ever. **Wayne Hogan** reports the preliminary net proceeds are \$14,433 which will go towards the Society's charitable and cultural works. The event attracted 184 golfers and dinner guests, 75 prize donors, and 20 corporate sponsors. Money from the Mulligans, close to \$500, went directly to Share the Warmth. This year's winners were **J. M. Lalonde, Tony Stamos, Kathy Smith and Cindy Stamos**.

**Scott “Scooter” Phelan** was recently honoured by his long-time friend and business associate, **Chris Porteous**. In an open letter published recently in *The Gazette*, Porteous paid tribute to his partner by thanking him for the past thirty years that they had shared — the great times and the incredibly tough years. Scott, who has raised funds for Loyola College and other causes, is described as “A man with many friends who all love and respect him....” St. Patrick's Society is proud to have him on its Board of Directors.

Finally, Concordia's Canadian Irish Studies is pleased to announce that **Kim Hogan** is now assisting Michael Kenneally. Congratulations on the recent appointment, Kim.

Until next time. Suggestions are always welcome.



## Around Town

### Michael Flatley's new Irish dance show

**C**eltic Tiger is Michael Flatley's new and powerful 90-minute arena-scale dance spectacular portraying the Spirit of Ireland through its history. The show marks the return of Michael Flatley as a choreographer and dancer with his masterful solo performances punctuating this dramatic production. A cast of 60 dancers, excelling in the art of precision, skill and movement, takes Michael Flatley's *Celtic Tiger* to a new level of performance. The show is to be held at the Bell Centre, Thursday, Sep. 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets on sale at 790-1245 or 1-800-361-4595, or online at [www.geg.ca](http://www.geg.ca).



### Support two charities and enjoy a great evening of entertainment

**G**eraldine Doucet and Lisa Forget are pleased to announce a gala fundraiser, *Cabaret with a Heart 2*, for the following charities: The Roger Doucet Solarium Fund (to provide comfortable and cheerful rooms for the families and patients of the oncology, general and neurosurgical departments of the Montreal General Hospital); and The Generations Foundation (to enhance the lives of over 4800 underprivileged children by providing breakfast, hot meals and nutritious snacks).

*Cabaret with a Heart 2* will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St. in Ville LaSalle. Tickets are \$20.00. All the entertainers, technicians, the church, and everyone else involved in this event have donated their time, talent and equipment.

Join us and hear Geraldine Doucet, Lisa and Christine Forget, Richard Jutras, Geraldine Clahane-O'Donnell, Terry Clahane, Cathy Burns, Andrea Kenyon, Stephanie Pitsaladis, Jenna Pinard, Therese and Douglas Kropla, Richard Sagala (Argentina Tango), Marie Neige Lavigne (jazz violinist) and Ari Synder (Musical Director).

Everyone worthy of mention. Everyone a star! Join us on September 27<sup>th</sup> for an amazing evening! Call Lisa for tickets at 450-678-1583

### La Quête continues

**A**t this time, the TV show that will feature kids playing detective as they trace their roots is still interviewing possible candidates. We're told that on the short list of 40+ there are a couple of youngsters of Irish descent, including one whose grandmother immigrated through Grosse Île. The series should be in production in the new year and *NUACHT* will keep you posted on what's happening.

### Final tournament of '05 for Tara Golf

**T**he President of Tara Golf Assoc. Inc., Judith Grossman, is pleased to extend a cordial invitation to each of the sister Associations and Societies in the Irish Community to submit a representative foursome to compete for the prestigious Aer Lingus Trophy. This will be awarded at the final golf tournament to be held on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, at Hemmingford Golf Course. Dinner and prizes will follow the golf. For details, contact John O'Shea at (514) 697-8889.

### Comhrá's language classes now running

**T**he Montreal Irish Language Study Circle has been offering Irish Classes for more than 10 years. The teachers are highly qualified and come from both Montreal and Ireland. Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced level classes are held every Monday from 7-9 p.m. at Loyola High School, 7272 Sherbrooke Street West. Classes began on September 12. The fees are \$56 for the fall session, which works out to just 4\$/class.

For more information call 514-238-4909 or e-mail at [comhra@gmail.com](mailto:comhra@gmail.com)

### The Magic of Ireland

**A** Canadian production of Irish music, song and dance will be touring Eastern Canada this Fall for five weeks, making a stop in Montreal on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The cast of nine dancers and four musicians in *The Magic of Ireland* includes two dancers from the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing, Michael O'Gorman and Katie Irving. They performed in a very successful first tour through England, Scotland and Wales last winter and spring and will be returning to Europe for a tour through France, Germany and England come February. Michael is the lead male dancer, dance captain and associate choreographer. In Montreal they will perform at the Salle Pierre Mercure of the Centre Pierre Peladeau on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$34.50 and are available through the Box Office at 514-987-6919.

### Life after Île Ste-Croix

**T**he first Montreal screening of this documentary will be presented on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, at the De Sève Cinema, 1400 boul. Maisonneuve ouest. Produced by Ron Rudin (History Department, Concordia) and directed by Leo Aristimuño (Rutgers University Newark and formerly in Communication Studies at Concordia), the film explores the history of the first French settlement in North America. In 2004, Acadians, Anglophone residents of New Brunswick and Maine and members of the Passamaquoddy First Nation joined together to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the settlement. Discover how people use the past to have an impact on the present. *Life after Île Ste-Croix* begins at 7:30 p.m. and admission is free. For further information, call 848-2424, ex. 2428.

## 2005-2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAI 2005-2006

DATE	EVENTS	FURTHER INFORMATION
Sep. 27	<i>Cabaret with a Heart 2</i> , St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St., 7:30 p.m., \$20.00	Lisa Forget (450) 678-1583
Sep. 30	Concordia Irish Society Céili, NDG legion, 8 p.m., \$10.00 or \$5.00 for students	Audrey O'Breham (450) 670-2982
Oct. 1	Tara Golf, Hemmingford Golf Club	John O'Shea 697-8889
Oct. 8	Irish Radio Show, CJAD, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Kim Sullivan 989-2523
Oct. 14	Innisfail Gen. Mtg. 6 p.m., "Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper," 7 p.m., NDG Legion, \$10.00	Roberta Wheeler 768-0613
Nov. 12	Irish Radio Show, CJAD, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Kim Sullivan 989-2523
Nov. 24	ICCC Christmas Reception, University Club, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Diana James 845-0973
Dec. 2	Innisfail Christmas Party, NDG Legion, from 6:00 p.m. Free for members, guests \$5.00	Roberta Wheeler 768-0613
Dec. 4	UIS Gen. Mtg. and Christmas Draw, 1:30 p.m., St. John Brebeuf Church, 7777 George St.,	Margaret Healy 932-5250
Dec. 7	St. Patrick's Society Christmas Concert, venue TBA	Rob Brodrick 482-9733
Dec. 10	Irish Radio Show, CJAD, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Kim Sullivan 989-2523
Dec. 12	St. Patrick's Society Christmas Reception, TBA	Doris Rooney 481-1346
Jan. 20	Cine Gael 2006, Opening Night, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7 p.m.	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Jan. 28	Innisfail Kick-Off Ceili, NDG Legion, \$10.00 (reservations nec.)	Roberta Wheeler 768-0613
Feb. 4	Parade Queen & Court Selection Evening, 7:00 p.m., Hotel Delta Centre Ville	Colleen Murphy 426-4588
Feb. 10	Cine Gael 2006, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7 p.m.	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Feb. 24	Cine Gael 2006, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7 p.m.	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Mar. 3	Cine Gael 2006, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7 p.m.	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Mar. 10	St. Patrick's Ball, Chateau Champlain Hotel	Alistair O'Hara 481-6834
Mar. 11	Irishman of the Year Breakfast, Windsor Station	Mabel Fitzgerald 481-9609
Mar. 12	Mass of Anticipation & Gen. Mtg., 11:30 a.m., St. Gabriel's Parish	Marlene Demers 366-3623
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Society Luncheon, venue TBA	Paul Dunne 938-0877
Mar. 19	St. Patrick's Parade, noon	Ken Quinn 932-0512
Mar. 24	Cine Gael 2006, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7 p.m.	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Mar. 25	Parade Awards Banquet & Dance, 6:00 p.m.	Sheri Bernier 766-8530
Apr. 7-8	Cine Gael 2006, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7 p.m.	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Apr. 27	Cine Gael 2006, De Sève Cinema, Concordia, 7 p.m.	Lynn Doyle 481-3503
Apr. 28	Innisfail 2006 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, NDG Legion, \$10.00 (reservations nec.)	Roberta Wheeler 768-0613
June 16	Innisfail Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers, NDG Legion, 7:00 p.m.	Roberta Wheeler 768-0613

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