

Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society



The start of something big ...new website launches October 1st

By Paul Dunne

While milestone anniversaries like our 175th birthday are great occasions to look back – and the SPS will be doing lots of that in the coming months – they are also an opportunity to reshape the future. The board agreed in the spring that it was time to look

forward to the start of the next 175 and as part of this process, it was decided to revamp the Society's website.

The task turned into a bit of an adventure for Annie Gagnon, Art Director of Communications DG4, who began her creative work on the site by finding out as much as she could about the SPS

and the Montreal Irish community so that, by the time the research was done, she could have applied for the job as our next historian! It was this kind of dedication that made Annie see us in a way we had never seen ourselves and brought the creative image to life in a new and exciting way. "I wanted to emphasize the historical depth of the SPS and its contribution to the culture of the Irish community in Montreal over 175 years," explained Annie. "But I also wanted to suggest the leadership role that the SPS plays in the Irish community today and how that role will become the key to the next 175."

Project Director,
Ted Krajewski,

Cont. p.3

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Vol. 21, Issue 3

A Word from the President

On June 17th, at the SPS 2008 Annual General Meeting, I had the great honour to be elected to the office of president of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. John Little and his nominating committee for the trust they placed in me. To the membership at large, I thank you for your vote of confidence and for the opportunity to serve as president for the next two years.

The significance and obligation conferred upon the president of one of the most venerated societies in Quebec is appreciated. If I may paraphrase the words of Martin Luther King's acceptance speech, on the occasion of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, December 10, 1964 – "I accept this office in the spirit of a curator of some precious heirloom which he holds in trust for its true owners." The true owners in our case are the communities which we endeavour to serve according to our mandate.

2009, which as you know is the Society's 175th Anniversary, is fast approaching and I am happy to report that plans for the "Being Irish" exhibition in the McCord Museum are progressing on schedule with opening day projected for mid March. This joint initiative of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society and St. Patrick's Society is a testament to the strengthening relations between the two societies. Following the lead of our recent past-presidents, I intend to continue to focus on cross-community collaboration. Together we can make a difference.

At this point, I would like to recognize the boundless energy and effort that Mary McDaid has delivered over her two years in office and particularly in the creation and nurturing of this marvellous project. It is Mary, most of all, who has been the driving force behind the mounting of this exhibition and I am delighted that she has agreed to continue as a member of the Exhibition Committee, thereby further ensuring its success.

Planning for our core events – Christmas Concert, Ball, Luncheon, Golf Tournament – is also well under way. With input from the 175th Anniversary Committee, each event will contain some special testimony to the Society's 175th birthday. Additional events, such as the "Friend-raiser Cruise" which took place on September 12th, will be held throughout this and next year. It promises to be a gala year with the key ingredient for success being your support and participation. Remember, all proceeds are distributed to needy and worthy causes.

As mentioned already, one of our goals is to focus on cross-community collaboration. Another is to recognize that we should play a leadership role in our community and to do that we must increase our membership and speak to a wider audience. We currently have approximately 220 members; why not 500? Or 1000? If the Society is to continue for another 175 years, and it must, we will need the active participation of younger members. I have established a working group to study how this might be achieved.

With the imminent deployment of our new web site, which will have a more interactive feel, we can better serve the needs of our members and attract new members. Check our lead story for more information. I encourage you to browse the site and to send comments.

When I consider our Board of Directors, including new directors John Mulholland and Ed Brennan, I am buoyed by the skills and enthusiasm that they bring to the table, and it is with justifiable optimism that the Society can look forward to fulfilling the charitable, cultural and educational elements of our mandate while further expanding our role in the community. Meanwhile down in the Pointe, I would like to wish Joe Mell all the very best on his retirement from the Board – although I do hope that Joe will continue as our man in the Pointe!



Want to see what the photos in this issue look like in colour? Download this edition of *NUA^{CH}T* or send a copy to a friend by visiting the *NUA^{CH}T* section at www.spsmtl.com. You can read old editions as well! Visit the **new** official St. Patrick's Society website today!

Disclaimer:

NUA^{CH}T 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.

NUA^{CH}T, Community Newsletter of St. Patrick's Society

Editorial Board: Anne Forrest (Editor)
E-mail: nuacht@spsmtl.com

Mary McDaid
E-mail: mary.mcdaid@mcgill.ca

Neil McKenty
E-mail: neilmck@sympatico.ca

Martina McLean
E-mail: mcleans.mtlqc@sympatico.ca

Proofreading: Maura Druda

Advertising: Erin Matheson
E-mail: office@spsmtl.com

Printing: Imprimerie Marion Printing
5685 Laurendeau
Montreal, QC H4E 3W5
Tel: (514) 769-3378

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Please address all contributions to the Editor at the Society Office.

Tel: (514) 481-1346; Fax: (514) 481-9048;

E-mail: office@spsmtl.com

St. Patrick's Society of Montreal
St. Patrick Square
6767 Côte St. Luc Road, #1
Montreal, QC H4V 2Z6

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www.spsmtl.com

O'Dowd talks about immigration, the peace process and the contributions of Irish-Americans

By Anne Forrest

Niall O'Dowd delivered the third annual SPS lecture at Concordia on Friday, September 19th. A disappointingly small crowd was in attendance to hear what he had to say; fewer than 100 people gathered in the De Sève theatre. Neither the weather nor an Alouettes football game can be held responsible. Where then were the enthusiasts who had flocked to listen to Dr. Garret FitzGerald in 2006, and to Darina Allen last year? Certainly there had been ample advance publicity announcing what promised to be an informative and interesting session.

Nevertheless, O'Dowd spoke passionately to the faithful few about his experiences in the US as a lobbyist for immigration reform. He had been instrumental in securing a US visa for Gerry Adams in 1994 – thanks to the support of Bill Clinton. Today, after many frustrating years, the US is opening its doors to the Irish by offering 20,000 work visas. This is a significant breakthrough.

Among other topics, we were treated to a mini history lesson as O'Dowd outlined the various conflicts that had occurred in Ireland over the past one hundred years or more. He dealt at length with the Irish-Americans' involvement in the peace process in Ireland. Again, it was President Clinton's intervention, begun in 1994, that helped to bring about peace. In particular, O'Dowd praised the efforts of George Mitchell, the peace envoy who spent five years in a Belfast hotel negotiating with all parties and brokering deals that culminated in the Good Friday Agreement. He also gave credit to Canada and General John de Chastelain's contribution.

Whereas O'Dowd has great respect for President Clinton, it was obvious from his remarks that the present incumbent warranted little if any! However, he feels that McCain would be sympathetic to the immigration situation and admires his life experiences. Despite the fact that many of the 40 million or so Irish-Americans traditionally voted for the democratic party, he wasn't sure if they'd



Dr. Michael Kenneally, Niall O'Dowd and Alistair O'Hara

opt for Obama, who, until recently, had shown little interest in their concerns. Now had Hilary been running... well that would have been a different matter.

A brief question and answer session concluded the evening with O'Dowd fielding enquiries about the reunification of Ireland, the effect of the European Union on the peace process, and the Irish economy among others.

Earlier, a relaxed Niall O'Dowd told me that this was his second, but would not be his last, visit to Montreal. He thoroughly enjoyed his two days in the city and plans to return soon. His glossy magazine, *Irish America*, now in its 23rd year of publication, was available to those who attended the lecture. The August/September edition features the Brig Hannah story (see p.10). Plan to drop into CCIS to pick up a copy of the magazine. There must be a few left over!



Something big (cont.)

elaborated: "Websites used to be static pages that were not much more than electronic brochures, but today's technology allows us to use the website as a space where all sorts of people can interact with the Society. So the new site not only permits the SPS to get its message out to the world, it also provides a way for the world to communicate with the SPS. We've got a place where people can share their stories, upload pictures, check genealogy or ask questions of an expert historian, for example. In the near future, there will be discussion forums and a way to book and pay for SPS events."

By popular demand, we have simplified the domain name which henceforth will be www.spsmtl.com. Bookmark it today!

The homepage is reproduced here giving you a taste of what is to come. The links on the new homepage will bring you to *NUACHT*, the McCord exhibit, the radio show, the community calendar,

Facebook – where we have created a brand new space for the SPS – and a genealogy section.

It's impossible not to be infected by the enthusiasm Ted and Annie brought to this project and the result will be nothing less than a mini revolution in the Irish community. The website will be a "*tinteán*," or hearth, where, in true Irish fashion, the community in Montreal can gather to share stories with each other and with the wider world of the diaspora.

As the title boasts, this is the start of something big and the credit for getting it off the ground belongs mostly to Alistair O'Hara, Scott Phelan and the two new Irish at DG4; Annie Ni Gagnon and Ted O'Krajewski, but now the site is being delivered to you and it will be up to you to make it great. The next 175 years start here!



St. Patrick's Society "Friendraiser" cruise: great way to kick off the 175th Anniversary celebrations

By Sandy McDonaugh

ALL ABOARD – For the St. Patrick's Society's kick-off to its 175th Anniversary celebrations for the 2008-2009 season.

On Friday, September 12th, eighty hearty members and friends of St. Patrick's Society walked gingerly along the gangplank and boarded for the "Friendraiser" cruise on Lac St. Louis. They were welcomed onboard by Erin Matheson, SPS Office Manager, her husband, Tod and Sandy McDonaugh, organizing committee member.



'Captain' Alistair O'Hara

Throughout the afternoon, the weather "gods" cooperated and we enjoyed a couple of hours of lightly falling Irish mist and this did not deter the hearty members of SPS. Later into the cruise, the sky cleared and Scott Phelan was heard to say that the rains had stopped and everybody moved to the top deck to enjoy a warm

September evening for the dance segment. Rough seas!!! Well, twice we passed freighters and the rocking and rolling intensified, but no one spilled a drink.

In addition to the many guests on board, participants included: president Alistair O'Hara and his wife, Dr. Fiona McGeachy; past president and Honorary Consul General of Ireland Dr. Michael Kenneally, his wife Dr. Rhona Reichman-Kenneally and Dr. Katie Gough (visiting professor at CCIS); co-chairs of the 175th Anniversary celebrations, Andrea Bobkowicz and Matthew Rooney (with his wife, Julie); the Mayor of Kirkland John Meaney and his wife, Evelyn; Richard McConomy and his wife, the Honourable Pierrette Sevigny; AOH national president Victor Boyle and his wife Weena, and Innisfail



Scott Phelan, John Gilroy and Ann Broden



Sandy McDonaugh and Erin Matheson



John Gilroy, Theresa Boyer, Ann Broden, Millie Gagnon, Victor Boyle and Weena Boyle



Richard McConomy and Pierrette Sevigny

Social & Sports Club president and **official photographer** for the evening, **John Gilroy**.

On disembarking at the end of the evening, everyone agreed that a great time was had by all and fourteen new members were recruited!



BEING IRISH: ÊTRE IRLANDAIS

AN EXHIBITION AT MCCORD MUSEUM OF CANADIAN HISTORY

Celebrating over 250 years of the Irish presence in Quebec

Community participation is paramount to the success of this Exhibition on the Irish in Quebec. This is now your opportunity to reflect on your Irish heritage and its impact on your own Quebec experience; this is your opportunity to ensure that your family's Irish-Quebec footprint is revealed.

MCCORD MUSEUM would like to hear our **COMMUNITY VOICES** and asks of all of you:

"What connects you to your Irish roots?" It may be a recipe, a souvenir, a picture, a song, a home movie or...? Please tell the McCord about it!

To participate: send a text of one paragraph (up to 150 words) with an attachment if you like (picture, document, etc.) to the following email addresses:

spsmontreal@hotmail.com

irlandaisirish@mccord.mcgill.ca

irishpbs@bellnet.ca

McCord will advise you directly on whether it can be incorporated into the diverse exhibition displays. St. Patrick's Society and the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, as co-sponsors of this event, will also ask your permission to place your photographs/texts on their respective websites.

For direct information or if you have any other queries about this request, please contact Mary McDaid: [H] (514) 487-5303 or [C] (514) 267-5303

This Exhibition will explore the meaning of being and staying Irish in Quebec.
It is our story – please be a part of it!

Irish Protestant Benevolent Society announces change in leadership

Recently, the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society acquired a new president. Brian Mitchell, who had served as president of IPBS for the past two years, has handed over the reins to J. Michael Nelson.

Commenting on his retirement from this position, Brian said that it had been a real pleasure to have served as IPBS president. He looked back on several strong initiatives that the Society achieved including the endowment of a second IPBS Scholarship as well as the launching of the inaugural Irish IPBS Lecture Series on the history of the Anglo-Irish. Most importantly he is delighted with the continuing involvement with St. Patrick's Society. He felt that working as partners in the upcoming McCord Irish Exhibition is a tremendous achievement.

Although the IPBS is proud of its British roots, it considers the building of bridges to its fellow Irish societies very important. For Brian it has been a very active two years.

For more information on IPBS, contact Nicole Gareau (executive secretary) at (514) 489-2660 or by email irishpbs@bellnet.ca.



SPS annual charity golf tournament another great success story

For the 13th consecutive year, the big guy upstairs smiled on us and we were blessed with one of the few great days of summer. Once again we were sold out with the overflow playing on the second course because of late registration.

Yet again the funds raised for the Society were up to par. For those who have never had the pleasure of playing in this tournament, you should know that everyone wins a prize and some lucky players even win two or three.

Over \$10 000.00 worth of prizes were given out to the players and they were all donated by our corporate sponsors.

Next year's tournament is tentatively set for Tuesday, June 16th. Note the date on your calendar and plan to join us to help St. Patrick's Society in its charitable works in the Montreal area.

Paul Doyle
Chairman



Fr. Tom's annual outdoor mass still keeps going

By Anne Forrest

On July 26th, 2008, the annual mass for St. Ann was celebrated in Griffintown on the former site of the St. Ann's parish church, torn down in 1970. This open-air celebration was initiated by Father Tom McEntee many years ago. It was always held on the Feast of St. Ann, patron saint of Quebec.

Shortly before the death of Fr. Tom, Victor Boyle, national president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, promised him that the tradition would be continued for as long as possible although the mass was not an official AOH event.

Determined to preserve the memory of the old Griffintown for its former residents, McEntee would officiate at the annual mass whatever the weather. On most occasions, the faithful were blessed with rain and this year was no exception.

Kieran O'Carroll and his family attended the commemoration for the first time and commented: "Never let it be said that a drop of rain dampened the Irish spirit!"



l. to r. Alan Hustak, Father McCrory, Brendan Deegan, James Twerdin, Denis Delaney, and John Gilroy

He provided NUA^{CH}T with a collection of photos recording this year's celebration. Check these out at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/radioman/sets/72157606390489913>

Father Tom would surely be smiling on everyone through the clouds.



First market in The Pointe – a big success

By Fergus V. Keyes

On Saturday, September 13th 2008, La Société d'histoire de Pointe-Saint-Charles and The PSC Community Theatre joined forces to present the first open air Historical Market in Pointe St. Charles. The event took place in the Joe Beef Park on the corner of Centre and Richmond St. in The Pointe and was called "The Joe Beef Market."

There were more than 30 booths at the market with local artisans selling a variety of goods including jewelry; pottery; history books etc. As well, both the Montreal Fire Museum and the Montreal Police Museum had great displays of the connection between their departments and The Pointe.

A number of actors from the PSC Community Theatre were dressed in period costume and offered small historical skits throughout the day. (Brent Tyler, a Montreal lawyer, was in the role of Joe Beef.) Local politicians from every level of government were on hand; and there were games including a "tug of war" between women and men (the men won!).

Joe Beef was Irish and born in County Cavan in 1835. He came to Montreal with British forces and was stationed on St. Helen's Island around 1864. His real name was Charles McKiernan. As a quartermaster for the army, he somehow always managed to find supplies for his troops and earned the nickname "Joe Beef." When he left the army, he opened a Canteen (Tavern) in Old Montreal. He was unique in that he would provide free food to anyone who couldn't pay. He also offered 100 beds that he had upstairs in the Canteen to anyone who was homeless. In 1877, he supported the mostly Irish builders of the Lachine Canal with more than 3000 loaves of bread and 500 gallons of stew. Charles McKiernan (Joe Beef) died at 54 years old



Photo: Fergus V. Keyes

Actors from the PSC Community Theatre in period costume - with Brent Tyler (centre of photo) in the role of Joe Beef...

in 1889 and apparently the entire City of Montreal closed for his funeral which was reported to be the largest funeral (except for D'Arcy McGee's) ever held in the city.

The Market organizers, in Joe Beef style, offered free soup to everyone from noon, for one hour, serving almost 300 cups! They estimate that the event attracted more than 700 visitors who came not only from The Pointe but from across the city.

Everyone was pleased with the event and organizers hope to bring another historical figure to life, and to the Market, next year.



Ar ais ar scoil / back at school

By Martina McLean

How many of you remember “*an scoil ag oscailt*” (un sgul ag us-cwilt) - school opening at the beginning of *Meán Fomhair* / September (middle of Autumn). *Filleadh ar scoil* (fill-uh ar sgul) - going back to school, *bunscoil* (bun-sgul) primary or *meánscoil* (man-sgul) secondary, with the new *éide scoile* (ay-de skul-yuh) uniform, crisp and clean with no shiny patches on the woollen “*bríste* (bree-shte) trousers / *sciorta*” (skyur-tuh) skirt or the “*geansaí*” (gyan-zee) jumper/sweater and the *bróga nua* - new shoes with a *snas* (snahs) - shine on them the likes you could eat your dinner off. You’d be spick and span like a new pin with the motivation to match. Or were you in the camp that continually said “*Ní maith liom dul ar scoil*” (knee mah lyum dul ar sgul) I don’t like to go to school, “*Ní maith liom an scoil*”, I don’t like school or wailed at your parents on a daily basis “*Níl mé ag iarraidh dul ar scoil*” (kneel may ag eer-ree dul ar sgul) I don’t want to go to school”.

No doubt a few weeks earlier the “*leabharliosta*” (lyaw-ur-lis-thuh) booklist would have arrived with the usual groans about the prices and the unnecessary items that were bemoaned. Yet, the purchases were made nonetheless in the local or specialist *siopa leabhar* (shuh-puh lya-wur) bookstore by everyone’s mother. Whatever were they thinking about as we trudged to and from school each day, backs bent double under the weight of the *mála scoile* (maw-luh skul-ya) schoolbag that seemed to swell with contents as we climbed the ladder of scholarly years. What doctor’s bills might we charge back now with the aches and pains that riddle our bones, I wonder?

And there were those whose families found it hard. Yet, if they qualified, there was the *Liúntas Éadaí agus Coisbhir* (Lyoontus ay-dee ag-us kyish-virt) “Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance”, a scheme that operates from 1 June to 30 September each year, provided by the Health Service Executive as part of the Supplementary Welfare Scheme.

It always amazed me how the sun decided to shine when we’d be going back to school, with real heat in its rays, a rare jewel that

was mighty lacking during the misnamed “summer holidays”, *laethanta saoire an tsamhraidh* (lay-han-ta see-ruh un tahw-ruh).

There was also the realization that evenings and mornings would fast be drawing in so that it would be “*dorcha* (dur-acha) dark getting up and going to school and depending on how far school was from home, it would also be dark going home. School moles, that’s what we were, rather than *daltaí scoile* (dal-thee sgul-ya) scholars.

And how many of your parents asked you every day: *Cad a d’fhoghlaim tú ar scoil inniu?* (Cad a doh-lim thoo ar skull in-nyoo? Was there anyone wise-crack enough to answer “*Ní go leor, caithfidh mé dul ar ais amárach.*” (Knee guh lyore, ka-hee may dul ar ahsh am-awr-och) – Not enough, I’ll have to go back tomorrow. Bet you wouldn’t have dared to utter such guff or maybe you would have been considered a bright spark! And to be sure “*Is maith an t-anlann an t-ocras.*” Is mah uhn tan-lahn an toc-ras – Hunger is good sauce.

Do you ever remember talk of the “*Cód Iompair*” *cod um-puir*” - Code of Conduct or were you the goody goody two-shoes we all loved to hate? I wasn’t, but I somehow managed to get away with doing things I shouldn’t, like investigating the *pucaí* – pook-ee ghosts in the basement of the school and playing the grand piano when no-one was allowed to, except the music teacher.

As we face another academic year in the knowledge that *Oideachas* (idj-u-has) Education is a right that facilitates us achieving fundamental and advanced needs, how do we instill in our children and young people their responsibilities in the learning process?

Go n-eirí libh go léir (guh nigh-ree liv guh lair – May you all get on well, *idir mhúinteoirí is scoláirí* – idz-uir woon-choh-ree is sgul-aw-ree (both teachers and scholars)



NUAUGHT needs you!



For a variety of reasons, our newsletter has recently lost several of its regular contributors. We are looking for new blood, reader feedback, and suggestions as to how we can improve this publication.

If you are interested in joining our team, or feel like sharing your opinions and experiences with us, don’t be shy. In particular, we’d like to know what type of article you enjoy reading. Also, do you prefer to read *NUAUGHT* on line or as a printed document?

Contact the Editor: nuacht@spsmtl.com with your comments.

Grants deadline almost here!

The St. Patrick’s Society Annual Charitable, Cultural and Educational Grants Application deadline is **Friday, October 3rd.**

Please send in your application letter to the SPS Office:
6767 Cote St. Luc Road,
Suite 1, Montreal, QC
H4V 2Z6.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call us at (514) 481-1346 or email: office@spsmtl.com.

The Grants Distribution evening will take place in November.

Were your ancestors survivors of the tragic Hannah wreck?

By Anne Forrest

A few months ago, SPS was approached by Simon Jolivet, recipient of the St. Patrick's Society Scholarship. He informed us that Montreal-based Galafilm Productions was hoping to shoot a documentary about the brig *Hannah* which sank in the St. Lawrence River in 1849. The company still needs help from the Montreal Irish community.

On April 29th, 1849, the vessel, sailing from Newry, County Down, to Quebec, under the command of Captain Curry Shaw, hit an iceberg and sank in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. At least 180 passengers were travelling on this boat, mostly Irish emigrants coming from the Forkhill area (Co. Armagh). Some died on the same iceberg that wrecked the boat, but miraculously, at least 120 survived 24 hours on the ice before being picked up by a passing ship. These 120 survivors all passed through Grosse-Île and Quebec City before settling in Ontario, the USA and Quebec.

Specifically, Hugh John Murray, director of the documentary, is looking for descendants of Irish ancestors who survived the sinking of the *Hannah* and settled in the province of Quebec. One of those descendants, Paddy Murphy, says the incident is laced with both cowardice and courage. He notes accounts of the day which reported that the *Hannah* crew and captain had departed in a lifeboat, leaving the boat's passengers exposed to the elements. All would have died had Captain Marshall of the *Nicarague* not made his ship fast to the iceberg at great risk to himself and his crew.

Here's a partial list of the survivors who may have settled in Quebec: William Tadford (wife and child); Michael McGill (wife and two children); Owen McCourt (wife); Patrick



The Hannah hits the iceberg, April 29th, 1849

McGuirk (wife and two children); Joseph Kerr (wife and two children); John Delany (wife and sister); William Henderson (wife and four children); Henry Grant (wife); William Wood; Eliza Blackstock; Samuel Henderson; Edward Nugent; Edward McElhern (wife and child); Patrick McGrory (wife and three children); Eliza Perdue; Jane Thompson (sister); Mary Anne Brantford; Peter Bennett; James McKeough (wife); Patrick McGinn; John Tuft (son); Andrew Kelly; Joseph Murphy (sister and child); Catherine Hart.

If you or someone you know has heard the tale of the *Hannah* passed down through the generations and live in Quebec, please contact Galafilm Productions at the co-ordinates below.

Hugh John Murray (514) 72-2274
hjmurray@galafilm.com
www.galafilm.com



History students now have great new site to visit

By Leo Delaney

The Jeanie Johnston Foundation was set up to commemorate the ship built in Quebec by the Scottish shipwright John Munn in 1847. It carried Irish immigrants to Canada in the 1850s without loss of life. The Foundation promotes studies of Canada in relation to literacy, immigration, history and citizenship.

The website "Following the Great Famine" focuses on the Irish in Canada during the tragedy of the 1840s and 1850s. Much of the website explains what happened in Ireland, but what happened in Canada was also important. It uses original material and experts such as Marianna O'Gallagher of Grosse Île fame and Ben Walsh who has written extensively about Ireland and advises European governments on the writing of common history textbooks. He is one of the most prolific authors of history text books in the English-speaking world



The Jeanie Johnston sails again

The site is intended for teenagers but is also of interest to adults. There are video clips, Premier Jean Charest lessons for teachers, cartoons for special-needs children, and interactive material for elementary children. In its own right, the site is important because so many of those who worked on it are experts in their fields. It tries to catch the experience of Irish immigrants at this time and pulls no punches. For instance, there is a section about Kingston, Ontario, where citizens took their own town council to court for building a fever hospital to help the victims of one of Europe's greatest disasters. To find out the verdict, visit the site at www.irishfamine.ca. So far, the response to the revamped site has been excellent. Note: the videos are now on U TUBE for immediate download.

The restructuring of the site has been created by Sam Janetti@synaxiom.com.



It runs in the family: a passion for cycling

By Janice Maloney-Brooks

In his youth, Johnny Maloney, whom we know as a musician and band leader, was an avid cyclist. Cycling for fun would mean 100 miles a day out to Wicklow and back to Clontarf. Weekends often found him venturing farther afield and sleeping in youth hostels, where Maloney met lots of friends. With his two wheels and lots of muscle and endurance, he got to see a great deal of his homeland. These days, Maloney has passed his wanderlust over to his 16-year-old grandson, Andy Brooks.

This June, Brooks cycled from Vancouver to Halifax with the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride. The goal of the ride was to raise money and awareness for children's cancer – something Andy knows only too well. When he was only three, the young child was diagnosed with brain cancer and following 11 hours of neurosurgery at the Montreal Children's hospital he suffered through an adult dose of radiation at the Montreal General.

After ten long years, at the age of thirteen, Andy remembers his neuro-oncologist telling him he was finally in remission. "I felt relieved, the pressure came off – and I felt like I could restart my life," said the boy. The new start took a bit of time though as the after effects of his treatments caused Andy to become severely epileptic. He was also declared legally blind but even that didn't keep Brooks down. In August 2007, after almost a month of in-residence training, Andy began his life with Boston, his guide dog.

With the support and encouragement of his grandfather, Andy began training for the SNKCR ride last January. With no experience to draw on, the young cyclist started training with a coach. He trained four hours every day, meanwhile continuing to be an honours student in grade 11 and working weekends at McDonalds. Eventually after the snow cleared, Andy took a leave of absence from McDonalds, to train eight hours a day each weekend. He also gained a new partner in the spring. Wise-cracking cyclist, Peter Murk, was partnered with Andy on the front of a tandem bike, acting as his eyes and mentor.

On June 2nd, they dipped their wheels in the Pacific Ocean at Kitsilano Beach in Vancouver. 7600 Kilometres and 19 days later, they dipped their wheels in the Atlantic Ocean at Point

Pleasant Park in Halifax. Brooks and Murk cycled through the Rockies seeing lots of wildlife, such as bears, wolves, bighorn sheep and elk up close! They rode through the night, watching northern lights on the prairies and were made welcome to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, by the Mayor and a special fly-over by the famed Snowbirds, Canada's aerial acrobatic team. They rode in freezing rain in Thunder Bay, sleeping rough at minus six degrees and pedalled through blistering heat in Toronto.

In Ottawa, Loreen Harper, wife of Canada's Prime Minister, invited them for refreshments on the lawn of 24 Sussex Drive. Andy will be returning to Ottawa this fall, to meet with Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean, Canada's Governor-General at Rideau Hall. Johnny Maloney's long-time friend, Jimmy Heaslip remarked, "I'm not surprised he finished the ride, with determination and good Irish blood in him!"



A proud grandfather (Johnny Maloney) with Boston and grandson, Andy Brooks

The cyclists were supported all the way by Boston and Andy's mother, Jann Maloney-Brooks former director of The Aisling Ensemble, a Montreal Irish music institution in the 1990s. Still singing for fun, Maloney-Brooks is now a paediatric palliative nurse and was there in case of any medical emergencies.

"I'm very proud of both of them and Boston," said Johnny. "What a wonderful opportunity to see all of Canada from Coast to Coast." With his grandfather's help Andy raised over \$50,000 for children's cancer charities. "It shows that a lot of people care about this cause. People want to support kids and families living with cancer and its legacies," said Andy Brooks.

Andy, Johnny and Jann appreciate all the support they received from the Montreal Irish community and the many individuals who generously contributed to the fund-raising. Here's a big "Go raibh mille maith agat" to everyone.



For more information on how to support this cause, go to www.nationalkidscancerride.com

Dragon boats paddle for cancer

By Martina McLean

Who would have guessed what a beautiful day would dawn for the 3rd annual Landau “Rain or Shine” Dragon Boat Race Festival on Saturday, September 13th, 2008 at the Père-Marquette Promenade in Lachine especially in light of what we had lived through the preceding week? It was nothing short of fitting for the humanitarian effort of all involved amounting to an exhilarating experience for the paddlers and an empowering experience for the cancer survivors as well as for those who turned out in their droves to support the Cedars CanSupport Programme at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC). It was a day to remember for everyone, not least because of the motivation for the race itself, but also because of the special activities for the whole family including face painting and bouncy castle.

Quebec Premier, Jean Charest, and cancer survivor, Tour de France winner, Lance Armstrong gave motivational speeches to kick off the event. Over 700 paddlers and hundreds of volunteers and fans participated, many of them cancer survivors. Thirty six teams took to the water in their boats and on the McGill *Medmen* dragon boat were two local young Irish women, Aisling O’Gorman and Maeve Francoeur. The winning dragon boat was the *Samcon Dragons*, but Maeve won the individual title for the most pledges from an individual sponsor. Funds raised will provide free, psychosocial, practical and humanitarian support for cancer patients and their families to help them get through the diagnosis and treatment they are facing today.

The boats were a sight to behold as they trod the water almost silently while we watchers on shore were mesmerized by the rhythmic panting of the drum that kept the teams of 21 rowing together. Each paddler wore a dog collar that carried the names of those they remembered as they paddled.



A dragon boat crew getting the last-minute instructions



*The two enterprising young Irish-Canadians:
Aisling O’Gorman & Maeve Francoeur*

Many of the McGill *Medmen*, a 21-person crew of male and female medical students and residents, felt like babes out of water when it came to the event – many had never tried dragon boat racing before in their lives including our Irish women, Aisling and Maeve. They literally formed their team a month ago. In spite of that, they raced twice and the team was pleasantly surprised at how much fun it was. They felt that it was intensive – unlike like canoeing – but relied more on strategies and synchronization. Many can’t wait until next year to do it all again, and they’ve promised to avail themselves of the practice offered to paddlers.

Aisling O’Gorman felt compelled to participate in the event not least because of her brother’s fight with cancer, but also because she wanted to help remembering her summer as a volunteer a few years ago when she “witnessed many hard moments for patients, all of whom benefited greatly from CanSupport and its fleet of dedicated volunteers.” Maeve who has co-ordinated programmes over five years for MUHC, proudly wore a notice on her dog collar stating: “I am racing for: Denis O’Connor (a cousin who has been battling cancer for the past few years); and the late Pat Dunn (SPS former president who died almost a year ago); and Edna Burke (a neighbour).” They would have been very proud of the efforts of both young women.

As Lance Armstrong says, “Cancer doesn’t discriminate.” Like most of you, this disease has hit too close to home for comfort with many of my maternal and paternal relatives succumbing to the “big C” along with a young Swedish friend. From our bird’s eye vantage point right at the finish line sitting on some rocks on a perfect summer-like day, I tried hard to hold back the tears biting at my eyes as I prayed for those who are facing the demon dragon. I thought in particular of our brother-in-law Liam whose multiple myeloma has resurfaced and our friend

Cont. p.11

Dragon (cont.)

Audrey who is still fighting breast cancer. As the two boats of survivors acknowledged themselves, the most moving moment of the festival happened. Two dragon boats filled with cancer survivors met facing shore flanked by the medical students and residents on one side and another boat full of support staff on the other. Each survivor raised a beautiful champagne-coloured rose and threw it into the water remembering those less fortunate and particularly a team paddler who had passed away in June. It was such a dignified and spiritual moment for all present that a hush descended on the crowd.



Four dragon boats presenting a colourful and moving spectacle with garlands at the ready

Cedars CanSupport/Faire Face is the result of the foresight and dedication of businesswoman and philanthropist, Gwendolyn Andrews Nacos. She felt very fortunate to have won her own personal fight with her advanced bladder cancer diagnosed in the fall of 1984. Thanks to the resources and support she felt privileged to have been given, she was inspired to help others facing this dreadful disease. She attributed her survival in part to the key element of free-of-charge, compassionate cancer care offered by the MUHC. The Cedars CanSupport was launched in 1988 and its resource centre is located within the Oncology Day Centre, convenient for any patient, and it includes a lending library, a kitchenette for the use of patient and family, as well as a meeting room. The Centre is stocked with a large selection of oncology-related information and is staffed five days a week, all day.

Cedars recognized paddlers' commitment and hard work in rising to the challenge of gathering pledges by offering both individual and team prizes to the top pledge producers. Maeve won the individual prize for the most money raised, showing as over \$5,225 at the time of going to press. The McGill *Medmen* were pleased to raise over \$12,400 and wish to thank all their supporters for their encouragement and pledges.

It's not too late to contribute

The dragon races were held on the day following the "Cycle with Lance" fundraiser that took place at Mont Tremblant. Both of these events raised over a million dollars. It is not too late to add your contribution to this worthy cause.

If you wish to help our Irish ladies achieve their individual goals for the cause, please click on: https://dragonboat.cedars.ca/EVE/donate_1.asp and type in the name of the person you wish to support. Or you can make a direct donation to Cedars via https://dragonboat.cedars.ca/EVE/donate_2.asp or make cheques payable to:

**Cedars Cancer Institute
McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)
687 Pine Avenue West, Room E3.15
Montreal, QC
H3A 1A1**

The Global impact of cancer amounts to some eight million deaths per year not to mention the cost of palliative care. We cannot discount the value of loving care and support in helping those dear to us deal with cancer and, thankfully, in many cases survive the battle.



A peaceful view of the dragon boat: the Lachine Canal never looked so tranquil



Shamrocks bring the cup back home

By Véronique Buisson & Redmond Shannon

Montreal Shamrocks GAA celebrated 60 years of gaelic games in the city with the men's team regaining the Quebec Championship trophy on September 15th. The championship's deciding game was hosted at Montreal Irish Rugby Club in Ste-Julie.

Having lost to the Quebec Patriots in 2007, the team was eager to make amends. From the first whistle the Shamrocks took command of the game with early goals from Paul McKenna and Pat Devey. Captain Donal Lacey may have been returning after a serious knee injury, but commanded his back line, and even got up-field for a point of his own.



Jeremy Peter Allen of the Quebec Patriots hands over the Quebec Championship Trophy to Shamrock's Donal Lacey

The Patriots came back into the game in the second half, but never threatened the Shamrock's lead, thanks to excellent goal-keeping from rookie Mike Batalha.

The game, watched by numerous supporters from Montreal and Quebec, along with groups of curious rugby players, finished with a score of 6-7 to 1-3, securing the cup's return to Montreal.

Both teams enjoyed a beer and BBQ in the clubhouse afterwards, keeping alive the great spirit with which gaelic football is played in the province. The season had started in May with the 23rd annual 9-a-side tournament, when Montreal GAA welcomed teams from Quebec City, Ottawa, and Brampton. The men won their final against Quebec City while the ladies lost in the final against Ottawa Gaels.

The following week, the ladies hosted Ottawa in the first Toronto League game of the season. However, due in part, to the Toronto teams' inability to play more league games in Montreal, the Shamrocks decided to withdraw from the Toronto League for this year.

Determined to make the most of the season anyway, the men still had the Utica tournament and, of course, the Quebec Championship, the latter being played over five games, at regular intervals in Montreal and Quebec City.

With the playing season almost over, Montreal GAA still has plenty of social events planned, including fund-raisers and the Christmas Banquet. For the full listing or to find out more information about the GAA, please visit our website at www.montrealgaa.com.



Another great man leaves us

Sadly a well-known member of Montreal's Irish community for many years, Father Sean Govenlock passed away on Wednesday, September 17th. He will be remembered through the Canadian Irish Studies Graduate Scholarship named after him, also as the Chaplain of the St. Patrick's Orphanage (see *NUACHT*, February 2005) and as social worker and former Dean of the École de Service Social, Université de Montréal.



Father Govenlock (seated) shown here with Coach Emmett Mullholland and members of the St. Pat's Phillies (circa 1952)



Wanted: new members for SPS

A goal of our newly elected president, Alistair O'Hara, is to double the membership this year in St. Patrick's Society. The society cannot continue to grow and flourish without the active participation of members and their support in recruiting new members.

New members are most welcome. "Any person of Irish origin or descent, of good character, residing in Canada, interested in the promotion and welfare of the Irish community and tradition, shall be eligible to become an ordinary member. If one does not meet the criteria of ordinary member, then membership may be that of associate member without the right to hold office."

The minimum annual contribution for membership is \$60.00 per year.

For more information please contact Erin Matheson at the SPS office at 514-481-1346 or e-mail at: office@spsmtl.com

What's new at the Centre for Canadian Irish Studies

By Michael Kenneally

The Centre for Canadian Irish Studies is bringing two distinguished professors to Concordia University this Fall semester. Drs. Linda Cardinal and Katie Gough will teach two Irish courses each, in Political Science and History respectively.

Dr. Linda Cardinal, the Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar in Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia, is currently a professor at the School of Political Studies and chairholder of the Chaire de recherche sur la francophonie et les politiques publiques at the University of Ottawa. A leader in her academic field, which involves linguistic minorities and politics as well as the themes of conflict, identity and citizenship in Canada and Québec, she is also interested in identity debates in Quebec and Ireland and in the theory of social movements and the history of ideas. Dr. Cardinal has published numerous articles and directed several works related to these themes. She recently edited the book, *Le fédéralisme asymétrique et les minorités linguistiques et nationales (Prise de parole)* co-directed the book *Managing Diversity: Practices of Citizenship*, published at the University of Ottawa Press. From 2001 to 2004, she directed a Québec journal of political science, *Politique et sociétés*. From 2002 to 2004, she was the chairholder of the Craig Dobbin Chair of Canadian Studies of University College Dublin; and from 2006 to 2007, the chairholder of the Chaire en études canadiennes of the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris.



Dr. Katie Gough currently teaches in the Theatre, Film and Television Department at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. Dr. Gough's research cuts across several different artistic mediums and literary genres in order to consider the efficacy of "performance" in contemporary historiographical practices. At the centre of these investigations is an intellectual preoccupation with interdisciplinary methodologies central to both performance studies and cultural studies. Her interests involve 19th and 20th century intercultural, transcultural and popular performance (including, but not limited to, popular festivals, dramatic literature and political performance in Ireland, the Caribbean and Southern U.S.); postcolonial drama and theory; gender theory; performance theory; and critical race theory. She is currently working on a monograph entitled 'Performance and Politics in the Black & Green Atlantic.'

At Concordia, Linda Cardinal will teach *Politics and Identity Debates in Ireland and in Québec* and *Nationalism and Ethnicity: Ireland and Canada*, while Katie Gough will offer *The Irish and African Diasporas in the Atlantic World* and *Women, Nationalism,*

Civil Rights: Case Studies from Northern Ireland and the Southern U.S. (1955-1969).

Both scholars will deliver a public lecture during their stay at Concordia. Katie Gough's lecture entitled "The Slave Ship Zong Arrives on the Dublin Stage: Kinship and Globalization in Contemporary Ireland" will be presented on Thursday November 20th (at 8:30 p.m. in room H-1220) and, as part of her Peter O'Brien Scholar position, Linda Cardinal will deliver the annual Bishop Neil Willard Lecture in Canadian Irish Studies on the topic of "The Other Atlantic World: Ireland and Quebec in comparative perspective." This lecture will be held on Friday November 28th (at 7:30 p.m. in H-1220).

Fall 2008 Irish Studies public lecture series

All events will take place at Concordia University and are free and open to all. For more information on times and locations, please contact the Centre for Canadian Irish Studies at (514) 848-8711 or visit our website at www.cdniirish.concordia.ca.

September 24th - Public Lecture by Dr. Michael Cronin, Director of the Centre for Translation and Textual Studies, Dublin City University .

October 16th - Inaugural Ann Saddlemeyer Lecture by Dr. Ann Saddlemeyer, Former Director of the University of Toronto's Drama Centre.

October 29th-30th - Two-day Canadian Irish Studies Colloquium by Dr. Christopher Murray, Former Director of the Drama Centre, University College Dublin.

November 6th - Poetry reading and lecture by Dr. Louis de Paor, Irish Poet and Director of the Centre for Irish Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway

November 13th - Public Lecture by Dr. Nessa Cronin, Centre for Irish Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway.

November 20th - Public Lecture by Dr. Katie Gough, Department of Theatre, Film and Television, University of Glasgow

November 28th - Bishop Neil Willard Lecture by Dr. Linda Cardinal, 2008 Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar in Canadian Irish Studies, Chaire de recherche sur la francophonie et les politiques publiques, Université d'Ottawa.



Harold Griffin is a winner once again!

Fragile boys, fragile men

By Harold Griffin

Borealis Press Ltd.

197 pages

\$19.95

Reviewed by Anne Forrest

In 2000, *NUA^{CH}T* ran a short story contest and offered a prize of \$500.00 to the writer of the best story it received. Harold Griffin's submission, "The Leaving," was selected as the winning entry. Eight years later, the author has published a collection of ten short stories – of which "The Leaving" is one – and sent me an electronic copy of his manuscript. Reading 197 pages on screen is not to be recommended, but the stories were sufficiently compelling that I was able to appreciate Griffin's skill as a sensitive narrator. *Fragile boys, fragile men* is a remarkable anthology.

In his notes about the book, Harold Griffin says: "The Irish of Shannon, Quebec, began arriving in Canada in the 1820s as tenant farmers. Some of the descendants of these immigrants settled later in Quebec City among the francophone population. These stories portray the circumstances of certain Irish families and individuals in the midst of a different culture. Not all of the outcomes of these stories are exemplary, nor are all the characters role models, but the family ties are strong and the Irish have blended into the francophone culture very well even if their numbers are declining."

Six of the first seven stories are set in Quebec City and are in chronological order. There are three pairings where often the second story is really a sequel to the one that it follows. For example, "Benjamin Kerwin," the opening tale, which takes place in 1945, describes a young boy whose life revolves around playing ice hockey for his school team and delivering copies of the *Gazette* with his brother Michael. Benjamin, a devout altar boy, is unexpectedly "fired" by his parish priest and the trauma that this causes him is clearly portrayed. "Aunt Emily," the second of the collection, deals with Benjamin's spinster aunt who prefers to remain single despite the attentions of Gilbert, a neighbour who would dearly like to know her better.

Griffin has a knack for characterization. He is able to get inside the heads of his subjects, both male and female, and lets the reader know their thoughts. One of my favourites is Alphonsus, an insecure man in his late thirties hoping to find true love but doesn't know what strategies to adopt. Still living at home with his mother and sister, he drinks excessively yet surprisingly manages to hold on to his job as Front Office Manager at the Château Frontenac Hotel. After Bobby Kennedy had been assassinated in 1968, Alphonsus had sent a card of sympathy to the Kennedy family and had received a thank-you card from Ethel Kennedy, Bobby's widow. Almost ten years after the fact, Alphonsus still carries this in his wallet and proudly shows it to strangers. In the second story, "Searching for Mary Ann," our hero spends time with a colleague, Mary Power, who is probably 15 years his junior. He's unable to consummate his

relationship with her nor with Cécile, a francophone he has been seeing for four months.

"I'm a virgin and bloody proud of it," Alphonsus would say the next night, close to midnight, well into the quarts, loud enough to be heard by most of the clientele.

"Just what Canada needs, another thirty-seven year- old virgin!" said Nick McConnell.

Poor Alphonsus cannot escape the memories of his cousin Mary Ann and their childhood sexual adventures.

Many of the characters are associated in some way with the Château Frontenac. Emily Kerwin is employed there as is Alphonsus; Martin Slavin, the son of Paddy Slavin who was featured in "The Leaving," takes a job in the hotel's gift shop. Also, Quebec's familiar boardwalk is often used as the location where the characters spend their leisure time.

There is a recurring theme in this collection. Griffin is very conscious of the conflicts that existed between the francophones and the minority Anglos in Quebec City. Martin Slavin as a child, befriended a young French Canadian girl only to be rebuffed by her family when he attempted to play with her. Maybe Aunt Emily refused to get involved with Gilbert because he wasn't English (or Irish?). Another area that Griffin explores is the preoccupation the characters have with death. In "A Day in the Life," the story set in the Shannon/Val Cartier area, young Hughie and Patrick are devastated when they find both the corpse of a cat that had been drowned by its owner and the body of their favourite horse, Belle. Homosexuality is touched on in "Boardwalk" as Corbett, conscious of a limp that he's had since a childhood accident, realizes that his friend Jean Claude is trying to establish a 'different' kind of relationship with him. "The Unexpected" deals with the stress experienced by an insecure Montreal banker whose heart attack is caused in part by obesity and also as the result of a bank hold-up. And in the final story, the divide between the rich and the less fortunate is shown as Meg and Hardy begin to develop their friendship: A waterfront property in Beaconsfield contrasts markedly with the young teacher's modest Pointe Claire home where he lives with his parents.

The last three stories are not connected with the preceding seven. Two are set in Montreal and the West Island – "The Unexpected" and "Meg" – and the ninth tale, "Boardwalk," takes us back to Quebec City. Nevertheless, they fit into the collection comfortably.

Griffin covers a period of close to fifty years in this anthology. Beginning in 1945, he jumps thirty years to the late '70s when he focuses on Alphonsus. The final stories are set within the past ten years.

Poignant, amusing, and provocative at times, *Fragile boys, fragile men* is a book that I would recommend. It is not surprising that Harold Griffin won the \$500.00 prize eight years ago.



Cardinal Newman, friend of Ireland, is on the move

By Neil McKenty

John Henry Cardinal Newman, the great English prose stylist, who will be beatified later this fall, always had a soft spot in his heart for Ireland. So it was not surprising that in 1851 (Newman was then 50) when the Bishops of Ireland decided that a separate University should be established for Catholics, they invited Newman, not yet a Cardinal, to be its founder and first rector.

This was a demanding task, but despite the strain of 56 crossings in seven years, Newman succeeded in establishing what is known today as University College, Dublin.

It is all the more painful for Newman's Irish friends that so much controversy has erupted over the plans for his beatification. The nub of the controversy is the Catholic Church's attempt to exhume Newman's body and to remove it from a grave in a small cemetery in the English town of Rednal to the Oratory church in the city of Birmingham.

The reasoning is that there will be much more space in the Oratory church where the body will rest in a marble sarcophagus and can be venerated more readily by pilgrims.

The problem is that Newman left explicit instructions in his will that he wanted to be buried in the same grave as his fellow convert, long-time friend and spiritual companion, Fr. Ambrose St John, who Newman describes as the one great love of his life. Newman also left instructions with his literary executor, Fr. William

Neville: "I wish, with all my heart, to be buried in Fr. Ambrose St John's grave – and I give this my last, my imperative will."

Newman was overwhelmed with grief at St John's death in 1875. He wrote: "I have ever thought no bereavement was equal to that of a husband's or wife's, but I feel it difficult to

believe that any can be greater, or anyone's sorrow greater than mine." The cardinal died in 1890 and, as he so deeply wished, was buried with his dearest friend, Ambrose St John.

Perhaps it was inevitable, but still unfortunate, that questions have been raised about the nature of their intense relationship, whether or not it was homosexual. A radical gay rights campaigner, Peter Tatchell, believes it was: "The Vatican's decision to move Cardinal Newman's body from its resting place is an act of grave robbery and religious desecration. It violates Newman's repeated wish to be buried for eternity with his life-long partner, Ambrose St John. They have been together for more than 100 years and the Vatican wants to disturb that peace to cover up the fact that Cardinal Newman loved a man. It's a shameful, dishonourable betrayal of Newman by the gay-baiting Catholic church."

But Austen Ivereigh, a former senior advisor to Cardinal Cormac-Murphy O'Connor of Westminster, has a quite different view: "I don't think anyone disputes that Cardinal Newman deeply loved Ambrose St John. He did say after St John died that the grief is comparable to a husband losing a wife or a wife losing a husband, but he did not mean that the relationship with Ambrose St John was a marriage like a gay relationship. It is simply wrong to read back from today's categories into the Victorian periods when these very intense, passionate, but totally celibate relationships in Oxford and among the Anglo-Catholic community were very common."

In his book called *The Friend*, Allen Bray, a gay rights activist and respected British historian, devoted a chapter to Newman and St John. In it he explores the published works as well as memoirs, sermon notes and journals of Newman and his contemporaries. Using these sources, Bray analyzes the intensity of Newman's feelings for St John. He concludes that the relationship of the two men was spiritual: "Their bond was spiritual Their love was not the less intense for being spiritual. Perhaps it was the more so."

All of Cardinal Newman's Irish friends will hope and pray that this dispute is settled amicably before the Cardinal's beatification later this fall. Newman was not only a friend of Ireland but one of the greatest churchmen of the nineteenth or any other century.



John Henry Cardinal Newman

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Irish music concert in Ottawa, featuring the Makem and Spain brothers

By Jim Gallagher

The Makem and Spain Brothers, North America's top Irish folk group, are making a rare visit to Canada on October 15th at Centrepointheatre, 101 Centrepointhe Drive in Ottawa. Show time is 8 p.m. The Makem Brothers -- Shane, Conor and Rory -- sons of the legendary Tommy Makem, teamed with Mickey and Liam Spain, are a powerhouse group, delivering a rousing concert of traditional Irish, Scottish and Australian folk songs in the Clancy/Makem tradition, along with excellent new compositions of their own.

They are entertaining performers, with sharp wit, strong stage presence, superb musicianship and great choruses. Centrepointheatre is a beautiful, acoustically excellent theatre with a capacity of about 960. There is ample free parking and easy access from Highway 417 in Ottawa. From the 417 take the Woodroffe Avenue South exit. After a short distance turn right onto Baseline Road and then very soon turn left onto Centrepointhe Drive.

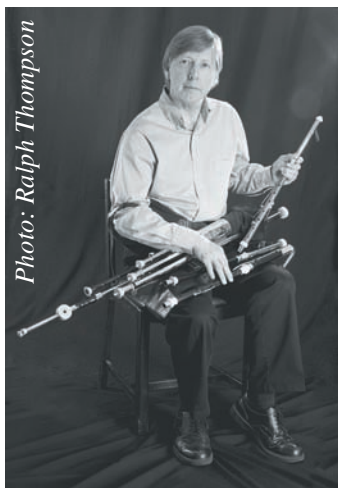


(From l.to r.) Mickey Spain, Rory Makem, Shane Makem, Conor Makem and Liam Spain.

Tickets \$37.50: Visit Centrepointheatre.com or call 1-866-752-5231. CDs will be available on site as well as a brand new DVD.

Meet Alan Jones, a piper 'extraordinaire'

By Anne Forrest



Alan Jones with
Uilleann (elbow) pipes

Alan is the owner of a very significant collection of pipes, flutes and whistles. It is deemed to be one of the largest private collections of bagpipes anywhere, currently now numbering over 200 different sets, including about fifteen sets of uilleann pipes. His collection of folk flutes and whistles numbers around 400.

Born in the Welsh border town of Monmouth, on the England-Wales border, Alan began piano lessons at an early age. Later he started playing drums in local pop groups. When he heard the early folk songs of Tom Paxton and Bob Dylan, he became interested in playing folk guitar, singing folk songs and going

Well known in the broader piping world on both sides of the Atlantic, Alan Jones has been following his piping muse for more than thirty years. Although he has played other forms of music and instruments, it is from traditional Celtic music that Alan draws his greatest love and interest. Based in Montreal, he performs mainly Northumbrian, Breton, Welsh, Scottish and Irish music on numerous varieties of bagpipe. He is also an accomplished player on the whistle.

to local folk music clubs. He listened to a weekly BBC folk music broadcast hosted by Tony Capstick, and first heard the uilleann pipes being played by Finbar Furey. So began his passion for pipes.

The bagpipe, above all other instruments, can be said to be the only instrument to which no one fails to react; be it those who might cover their ears, those who would recite a joke, or those who will open their hearts, defend its virtues, and follow the pipes to the ends of the earth.

It is in the grand tradition of old Welsh, Breton, Scottish and Irish bards, that Alan revives the magical musical atmosphere of his ancestors, permitting you to discover a very ancient culture – often neglected by today's modern society – and to share with you the very frame of the Celtic soul.

His performances bring a unique and refreshing approach to traditional music and his playing encompasses a varied and complete panorama of beautiful airs, breathtaking laments, and spirited dance tunes from the abundantly rich heritage of the Celtic lands. His lectures, exhibitions and recitals are unique - featuring a variety of "lesser known" pipes from the workshops of some of the finest makers in Western Europe and North America.

He is much in demand, and his energy, humour and beautiful music, captivates audiences whenever he plays.

To contact Alan, call (514) 849 2944.



People in the news ...

By Anne Forrest

Long-time SPS member **Father David Fitzpatrick** has retired from active parish life. The jovial 80-year-old Montreal-born priest had been pastor of St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish in NDG since 1982. On September 1st, he took up residence at St. Veronica's Parish in Dorval where he had served as pastor from 1970 to 1982. We wish Father Fitz good health and a happy retirement among old friends. The "new kid on the block," so to speak, at St. Ignatius is none other than an Irishman. **Father Manus Bradley** is from Derry and has been in Canada for two years. He served at St. Thomas a Becket Parish in Pierrefonds before moving to St. Ignatius in September! There will be a party on Sunday, September 28th after 11 o'clock mass at St. Ignatius to welcome the new priest.



(From l.to r.) Bernadette Short, Patrick Short, Marie Short, Corey Black, Ed Short & Anne-Marie Bismuth

Congratulations are in order. The Short/Black wedding that was celebrated in the Laurentians last month, saw **Marie Short** (daughter of **Patrick** and **Bernadette Short**) marrying **Corey Black** on a beautiful and sunny Saturday (a rare occurrence this summer!).

St. Patrick's Society is pleased to welcome the following individuals as new members: **Susan Byrne** and husband **Markus Hold**, **Alexander Hold**, son, and **Krista Hold**, daughter; **Mr. Vivian Doyle-Kelly**, Treasurer of Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce; **Elizabeth McConomy**; **Beverly McGuire**; **Darren McGuire**; **Shauna McGurnaghan**; **Jocelyn McManiman**; **Sheila Showers**, past-president, United Irish Societies; and Junior Member: **Tara Dawn Taylor**. Two Life Members have been named: **Joe Mell** and **Brian O'Neill Gallery**. And **Kevin Tierney**, **John Rae** and **Marianna O'Gallagher** have been made Honorary Members

Audrey O'Breham is looking for information for a series of articles she is planning to write featuring outstanding local Irish women. If you have any suggestions as to whom Audrey could profile, please contact her by email at addydob@hotmail.com.



Catherine Eustace and fiancé, Brian Gillespie

Catherine Eustace, who recently graduated in law from the Université de Montréal (and is now in Bar School) announced her engagement to **Brian Gillespie** of PEI. The couple met in Cuba five years ago and their wedding will take place next August in Hudson.

Catherine's father, our erstwhile roving reporter, **Ned Eustace**, will be spending the next two months in Kabul, Afghanistan, and possibly more time next year, on a World Bank project focused on strengthening civic institutions and the machinery of government. We were looking forward to receiving his next article from the war zone but hope, most sincerely, that he is able to stay well away from the line of fire (although he is very good at dodging bullets).

Early next January, **Erin Matheson** and **Tod Lunt** will be adding to their family. **Molly** (aged two and a half) will soon have someone to play with. We wish Erin all the best for the remaining few months of her pregnancy. She's looking terrific! See p. 4. Erin tells us that the office will be in good hands during her absence. Rumour has it that Caitlin O'Hara is going to step in to help out. Alistair denies that this is his first act of nepotism.

Finally, word just in that **Thomas Mulcair** has recently taken up rollerblading. He's been spotted speeding along Lakeshore Blvd. terrorizing the neighbourhood dogs, especially Celtie, my Airedale! Guess he's had to put on wheels to speed things up in view of the approaching October 14th deadline. Although this is a non-partisan publication, we wish Tom all the best in the upcoming election. It's shaping up to be a very interesting campaign for all parties.

If you have any news to share about people who should be in the news, please submit this to the Editor who may be reached at nuacht@spsmtl.com.



Centaur Theatre's special offer to the Montreal Irish community

This year Centaur Theatre Company is celebrating 40 years of live professional English language theatre in Montreal. Centaur has always had close links to the Irish community with many actors, management and board members being of Irish descent.

With St. Patrick's Society also celebrating 175 years of service, Centaur would like to join in the Irish Anniversary Celebration by offering three (3) very special promotions exclusive to members of the many Irish societies in the community. To be eligible for one of these special discounts, one must be a member in good standing of one of these Irish groups (i.e. St. Patrick's Society; United Irish; AOH etc.).

These exclusive offers include the following:

- 50% off the regular single ticket price for the performance of *Scorched* on Thursday October 9th at 8:00 p.m.
- 20% off the regular single ticket price for any of the performances of *Scorched* which runs October 7th to

November 2nd, 2008

- 10% off a 6-play subscription purchased after September 1st, 2008

(If you have already purchased your 2008-2009 Season subscription, please let Centaur know and they will be pleased to offer you this same 10% discount for the 2009-2010 season.)

To reserve your ticket(s) or season subscription, or for any other information about the Centaur season, simply call the Centaur Box Office at (514) 288-3161 and mention the keyword "Irish." Please note that you may be required to produce your membership card from one of the Irish Societies of Montreal to complete the transaction.

The Montreal Irish community would like to thank Fergus Keyes, Centaur's Vice-Chairman for this initiative. This is an offer that is too good to miss!



The Irish Show is now available whenever you want to listen to it

Did you know that you can listen to the Irish Radio Show whenever you want? Now available as a podcast exclusively at www.cjad.com/IrishShowPodcast or just visit www.cjad.com and click on the 'download' tab. There are new shows available the 1st and 15th of every month. The content for every show is also given as well as archives of previous broadcasts.

The following are now available for September/October 2008
September 1st

- Part 1 of Redmond's chit chat with Warren Allmand
- Prof. Michael Kenneally tells us what's new with the Canadian Irish Studies programmes at Concordia
- Fergus Keyes and Joe Beef in the Park
- plus, a bit of news, singing and community events...

September 15th

- Part 2 of Redmond's interview with Warren Allmand
- Ken Doran talks about the 80th anniversary celebrations of the UIS
- Christopher "Stew" Steward invites the neighbourhood to a nice celebration at the new Ye Old Orchard Pub
- Roy Surette, the Centaur Theatre's new Artistic and Executive Director, announces a special promotion for members of the Montreal Irish community
- Beau Coleman invites you to the Factory Project (www.factoryproject.ca)

October 1st

- Melissa Vitulano invites you to 3rd Annual Autism Awareness Gala
- Redmond speaks with Niall O'Dowd
- Harold Griffin talks about his book launch
- Jonathan Sullivan wants you for the European Pub quiz
- Ian Kelly comes out with a new album

October 15th (to be confirmed)

- Fergus Keyes talks theatre
- Gisele Turgeon: guided visit to Victoria Bridge
- Ann Saddlemeyer drops in before lecture at Concordia
- The Migrating Birds (band) stop by.



Around Town

Brush up your Irish

Classes are already in progress on Monday evenings for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. These are held at Loyola High School, 7272 Sherbrooke St. West. Also, Comhrá plans to hold its intensive language weekend on November 7th, 8th & 9th in the Laurentians. An outstanding guest lecturer, Louis de Paor, poet and Director for Irish Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway, will be in attendance. *Go raibh maith agat.* For more information, call (450) 699-1962.

UIS celebrates 80 years

This year the United Irish Societies of Montreal, organizers of the annual St. Patrick's Parade, are celebrating 80 years of involvement in the community. A gala evening will mark this important milestone on Saturday September 27, 2008 at Buffet Il Gabbiano, 1550 rue Lapierre, LaSalle. A five-course dinner will be preceded by a cocktail hour of hot and cold canapés and complimentary beer, wine, soft drinks and water. Beer, wine, soft drinks, bottled water are complimentary until dessert has been served. Complimentary coffee bar after dinner (cappuccino, espresso, latte). Cost \$75.00 per person. For tickets please call Ken Quinn at (514) 247-3296 or Marlene Demers at (514) 366-3623.

7th annual European pub quiz

Here's another chance for you to pit your wits against Montreal's brightest and finest. Plan to be in McKibbin's Irish Pub at 1426 Bishop St. on Thursday, October 2nd. Registration and networking opportunities will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the quiz will start at 6:30 p.m. Cost for members of ICCC or of any European Chamber of Commerce is \$20.00 and for non-members \$25.00. Price includes one free drink and pub munchies. Have your business card on hand to be eligible for a draw for a special prize. For more information, call (514) 845-0973 or email contact@icccmtl.com.

European Carrefour returns October 15th

It's not too late to participate in the 2008 edition of Carrefour-Europe, a European business networking event to be held on Wednesday, 15th October, 2008, at the Palais des Congrès, Montreal. Organized by 13 European Chambers of Commerce and Trade Commissions, the Carrefour is expected to have over 80 exhibitors and attract more than 1,100 visitors. Activities, which run from noon until 7:30 p.m., include a luncheon (sponsored by MDEIE), tradeshow, seminars and cocktail reception. The Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce has been involved in organizing this event since its inception. Further information can be obtained by visiting the event site directly at www.europe-montreal.org or by contacting the Chamber office (514) 845-0973 or by e-mail: contact@icccmtl.com.

Dine with a General!

The Montreal Commandery of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitallera are sponsoring a dinner to fund their good works. This will take place on Thursday, October 23rd, at 6:00 p.m in the Auberge le Saint-Gabriel, 426 rue St-Gabriel, in Old Montreal. After dinner, General John de Chastelain will discuss "The Good Friday Agreement - Before and After." Tickets \$95.00 (including wine, service & taxes) may be obtained by contacting Dame Mildred Benoit at (514) 849-4134.

Book launch for Elizabeth Johnston

Be sure to drop into Hurley's Irish Pub, Crescent Street, on Wednesday, October 29th, between 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Elizabeth Johnston will be launching her latest book, *No Small Potatoes: A Journey (More than meets the eye)*. For more information, contact www.elizabeth-johnston.com or writer@elizabeth-johnston.com.

SPS Christmas Concert returns to the basilica

Make a note of the Society's 15th Annual Christmas Concert which will be held on Wednesday, December 3rd in St. Patrick's Basilica, René Lévesque Bld. beginning at 7:30 p.m. This year's stellar line-up features Concerto Della Donna, the St. Patrick's Choir, the Welsh Male Choir and the Bernadette Short Celtic Dancers. Tickets for this not-to-be-missed event are \$15.00 and may be reserved by contacting Erin Matheson at (514) 481-1346 or by email at stpatsoctmle@qc.aibn.com.

NUACHT Advertising Rates

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Half Page	\$400.00	\$800.00
Full Page	\$400.00	\$1,300.00

To place an ad. or to get more information, please call Erin Matheson: (514) 481-1346 or email office@spsmtl.com
We would also be pleased to help you with the design of your ad.

Please Note:

If you are receiving *NUACHT* and have not paid your annual subscription or would like to be put on the *NUACHT* mailing list, please remit \$10.00 to Erin Matheson at the Society Office.

2008-2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS / CLÁR IMEACHTAÍ 2008-2009

DATE	EVENTS	FURTHER INFORMATION	
Sep. 25	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:00 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Sep. 27	Tara Golf Tournament and Closing Banquet, Hemmingford Golf Course, QC.	John O'Shea	697-8889
Sep. 27	UIS 80th Anniversary Celebration, Buffet Il Gabbiano, 1550 rue Lapierre, LaSalle, 6:00 p.m., \$75.00	Ken Quinn	247-3296
Sep. 30	SPS General Meeting, McCormick Hall, St. Patrick Square, 6767 Cote St. Luc Rd., 7:00 p.m.	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Oct. 2	ICCC European Pub Quiz, McKibbin's Irish Pub, 1426 Bishop St., 5:30 p.m. (see p.19 for details)	ICCC	845-0973
Oct. 15	Carrefour 2008, Palais des Congrès, Montreal, 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Oct. 17	Innisfail General Meeting & corned beef & cabbage dinner, NDG Legion, 6:30 p.m. \$10.00	Ann Broden	(450) 465-3421
Oct. 26	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, 1:30 p.m.	Marlene Demers	366-3623
Oct. 30	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:00 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Nov. 1	AOH Way of the Cross, Notre Dame des Neiges Cemetery, 1:00 p.m.	Victor Boyle	928-7196
Nov. 27	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:00 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Nov. 30	UIS General Meeting and Christmas Draw, St. John Brebeuf Church, 1:30 p.m.	Elizabeth Quinn	(450) 672-5087
Dec. 3	SPS Christmas Concert, St. Patrick's Basilica, 7:30 p.m., \$15.00	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Dec. 5	Innisfail Members' Christmas Party, NDG Legion, 7:00 p.m. (buffet at 9:30 p.m.), Guests \$10.00	Ann Broden	(450) 465-3421
Dec. 10	St. Patrick's Society Christmas Reception (venue to be determined)	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Dec. 11	ICCC Christmas Reception, 1 Place Ville Marie, 41 st floor, 5:30 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Dec. 20	UIS distribution of Christmas Baskets, Margaret Healy's house, 8:00 a.m.	Elizabeth Quinn	(450) 672-5087
Jan. 18	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, 1:30 p.m.	Marlene Demers	366-3623
Jan. 24	UIS Queen's Selection Evening, Buffet Sorrento, 1250 Dollard, LaSalle, 7:00 p.m.	Colleen Murphy	426-4588
Jan. 29	ICCC <i>Craic agus Comhrá</i> , The Irish Embassy Pub & Grill, 1234 Bishop St., 5:00 p.m.	ICCC	845-0973
Feb. 8	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, 1:30 p.m.	Marlene Demers	366-3623
Mar. 6	St. Patrick's Society Ball, Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 8	UIS Mass of Anticipation, St. Gabriel's Church, 11:30 a.m.	Ken Quinn	247-3296
Mar. 15	185 th St. Patrick's Parade, noon, Fort & St. Catherine Street	UIS	366-3623
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Society Luncheon, Hilton Bonaventure Hotel	Erin Matheson	481-1346
Mar. 28	UIS Awards Banquet & Dinner Dance, Buffet Sorrento, 1250 Dollard, LaSalle, 5:00 p.m.	Mike Kennedy	368-2066
Apr. 19	UIS General Meeting, St. John Brebeuf Church, 1:30 p.m.	Marlene Demers	366-3623
Apr. 20	UIS Mass for Deceased Members, St. John Brebeuf Church, 7:30 p.m.	Ken Quinn	247-3296



Andrea T. Bobkowicz
Investment Advisor

1 Place Ville Marie
Suite 1805
Montreal, Quebec H3B 4A9
Telephone: (514) 871-4339
1-800-361-8838
Fax: (514) 871-5031
E-Mail: andrea.bobkowicz@nbf.ca

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